



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025

## MARIA'S NOTES :

You have received the order form for the school photos. Please don't forget to order them.

### PRIMARY NEWS

John-Mark Hanrahan

Ooh la la what an action packed 7 weeks it has been in the Primary school! As the children have been sitting down for end of half-term assessment tests this week, it's almost hard to fathom how much learning has taken place in so many different ways, both in and out of the classroom, since the beginning of September.

We have settled into new classes; had residential to the coast; taken part in science workshops; had trips around the local area; celebrated French Day and *La Semaine du Goût*; raised money for a great cause through *Octobre Rose*; started collecting gifts for OGFA, elected an already very active student council; won house points trophies and this week have even had our first class assembly of the year!

As we wrap up this incredibly full and rewarding half-term, it's clear the children (and staff!) have truly earned a well-deserved break. Now, with assessments behind us and so many memorable moments to look back on, it's time to recharge, relax, and enjoy the holiday -ready to return refreshed for the next exciting chapter ahead! Before that though, have a read about what the last two weeks in the primary school have entailed!

Last week, it was the Student Council who presented the Monday assembly to the rest of the children. They started by showing us some photos of what can happen when humans stop making an effort to look after the world. It was truly shocking!



They weren't the only shocking photos they showed us though...Unfortunately, they had taken a trip around our school with an IPAD and taken photos of litter that they'd found – it made us feel embarrassed to see.

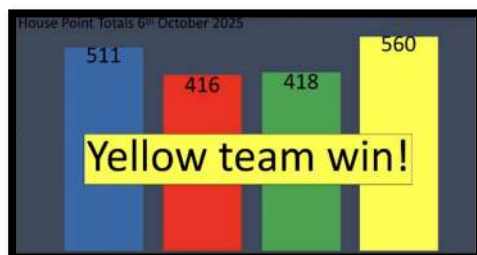
They then showed us some photos of the toilets looking less than inviting. They talked to us about the importance of working together to keep our school nice, and to show respect for each other and our environment.

They then read us the story of Michael Recycle, who just loved to recycle and helped a whole town to change their attitudes in order to make a big difference to their town.



It was such an important message and as we are not the only ones who use our school grounds, the student council have arranged to present the same assembly to the secondary school, so that they can work with us too!

After a rapturous applause, Mr Hanrahan awarded the second house points trophy of the year, and once again, it was **Yellow Team** who were triumphant! **Margaux**, the House Captain, proudly came to the front to collect the big trophy, and the all-important mini trophy for the school tracker. What a fantastic start to the year the yellow team have made!



On Wednesday last week, we turned the school pink for Octobre Rose x ISB and on Monday, the Primary Student Council counted all of the money collected by the primary and secondary schools. Then, on Wednesday, Mr Hanrahan took a visit to La Ligue Contre Le Cancer, in Pau, to proudly hand over **384.92€**, to this important charity.

It's truly amazing to think that our little school has helped make a big difference to people in our local community that have been affected by cancer! To find out more about what your money has been used for, check out the charity's website:

<https://www.ligue-cancer.net/64-pyreneesatlantiques/adresses/pau-espace-ligue>



#InspiringSelfBelief

On Monday this week, it was **Grade 6** who presented the first class assembly of the year. The theme was "Everybody's Different" and the assembly was full of lessons about the perseverance and resilience often needed to fulfill our goals – especially when it's something that we find difficult.

Grade 6 also shared with us some of the work that they had done this term, including using mnemonics to spell tricky words, and "cheats codes" to remembering tricky multiplication facts. They then tested the audience on what they had learnt, before ending the assembly with a fine (and incredibly high-pitched) rendition of Golden by K-Pop Demon Hunters. Well done to Grade 6, Miss Walters and Miss Suzanne for keeping us all thoroughly entertained!





### La Semaine du Goût

All this week, the French department have been celebrating *La Semaine du Goût* with the children, during the French lessons. Each Grade was given a colour, and used fruit and vegetables of their given colour only, to create recipes and cook and bake various dishes. The school has smelt delicious all week, and Grade 6, despite being worried about being given the colour brown, were pleasantly surprised by the taste of their stuffed mushrooms and chocolate cake (two separate creations!!). A big THANK YOU again to our fantastic French team!



### 🎁 Christmas Gift Drive for OGFA 🎁

As in previous years, we are supporting the local OGFA charity this Christmas, who help families experiencing homelessness. Some of the children they work with may not otherwise have a present to open on Christmas morning.

- Primary pupils: Please bring a toy suitable for ages 0-11.
- Secondary pupils: Please bring a gift for a child of your own age - something you would like to receive yourself.

All gifts should be new, unwrapped, and in school **by Wednesday 12th November**. Your generosity will help bring joy to children who need it most this Christmas. Thank you!

To find out more about OGFA, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.ogfa.net/qui-sommes-nous/>



### IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday 17th Oct** – School closes for holidays after clubs/garderie

**Monday 3rd November** – School reopens (0830)

**Wednesday 5th November** – Grades 5 & 6 visit to Pau Orchestra

**Wednesday 12th November** - Last day for OGFA donations

**Tuesday 18th November** - Reception Class visit Le Musée des Beaux Arts (more info to come)

**Monday 24th Nov (14:45)** – **Grade 5** assembly (All G5 Parents welcome)

**Tuesday 9th December (09:30)** – **Grade 1 & 2** Christmas Show (Esapace Dantza, Pau)

**Wednesday 10th December (09:15)** – **EYFS** Christmas Extravaganza (All EYFS Parents welcome)

**Wednesday 17th December (09:15)** – **G 3-6** Musical Breakfast (All G3-6 parents welcome)

**Wednesday 17th December** – School closes at 12:00 for Christmas Holidays

**Early Years:** Last week, Early years had lots of fun exploring activities inspired by pumpkins!

In art, they had a go at observational drawings of pumpkins and they also enjoyed working together on a giant pumpkin collage.



We also made some “magical pumpkin potions” - it was fascinating to observe the colourful, fizzy bubbles that formed when we added vinegar to baking soda.



In Mathematics, Early Years have been practising subitising using autumn leaves and conkers.



This week, Early Years celebrated the French “ Semaine du Goût “ ( “ Week of Taste”). We read “Oliver’s Vegetables” by Vivian French and talked about the importance of eating different fruits and vegetables. On Friday, we enjoyed tasting a variety of them and voted for our favourites- the winners were mango and carrots!



**Reception** have enjoyed learning about lots of different fruit and vegetables this week! Inspired by the art of Archimboldo, the children made their own faces using a variety of materials.



We then worked together to wash cut and chop all the vegetables to make a delicious stone soup together. Can you guess what the magic ingredient is?





**Grade 1** went on a ramble to gather different autumn objects. They found various leaves, slugs, snails, acorns, feathers and branches.



Grade 1 went on a sensory walk to try and listen to various sounds and noises. They heard a helicopter, cars, a dog, birds, people talking, a clock ticking and a keyboard clicking.



This week, **Grade 1** were using their senses to do a sound walk throughout the whole school. We also started to create word webs to help us to catch our tricky words. We made a pretty spidery working wall!



This week, we used our senses to describe popcorn, finished our autumn diaries and did a little show and tell!



**Grade 1** in Art this week have been working on an Autumn project.

First, they created a painted background in a previous lesson. This week they tore newspaper to create the tree trunks and out lining them with a marker and then finishing with autumn coloured fingerprints for leaves. They look stunning...well done!



La semaine du Goût in Grade 1





**Grade 2** have been researching ocean habitats and the animals that live there. Unfortunately we also learnt about plastic pollution in our oceans and we made posters on the iPads to raise awareness . We created some beautiful ocean collages using ripped paper too. In computing we have been learning how to send emails using purple mash. We had lots of fun sending messages to our friends and teacher. In sport we have been perfecting our tennis skills! So busy! We are ready for the holidays!





Sent from my iPad

### La semaine du Goût in **Grade 2**

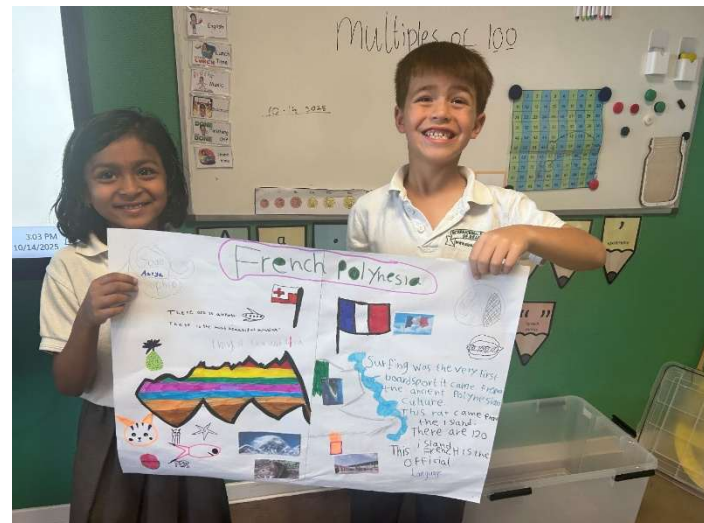
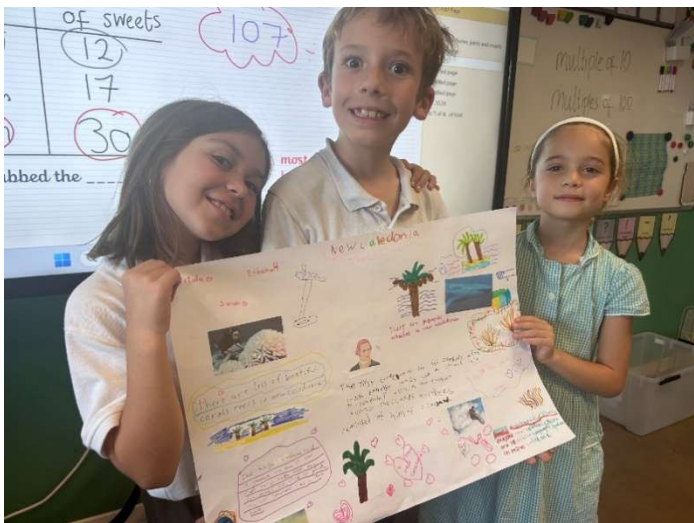


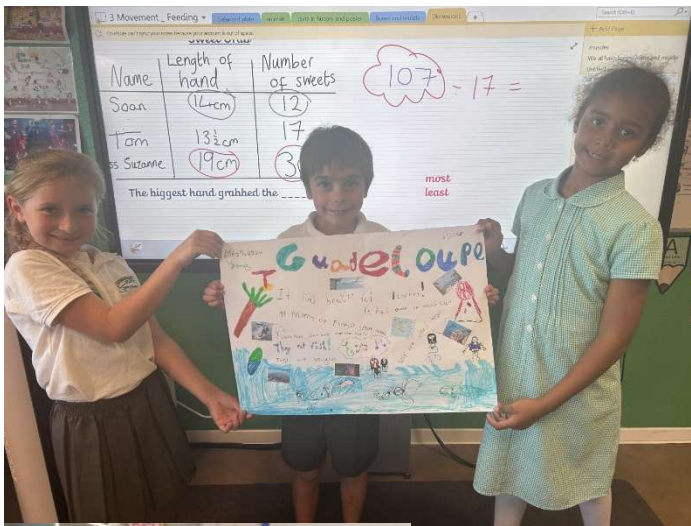
**Grade 2 in Art** finished their 2D fish paintings into a 3D fish sculpture. Focusing on mixing colours to create hot and cold colours. Beautiful work



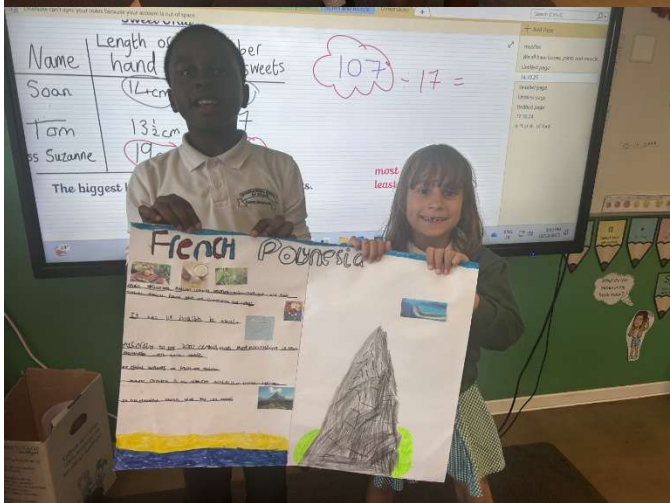
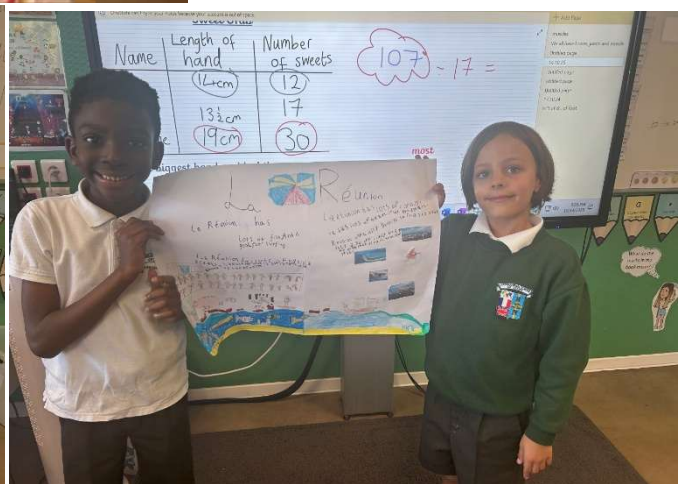
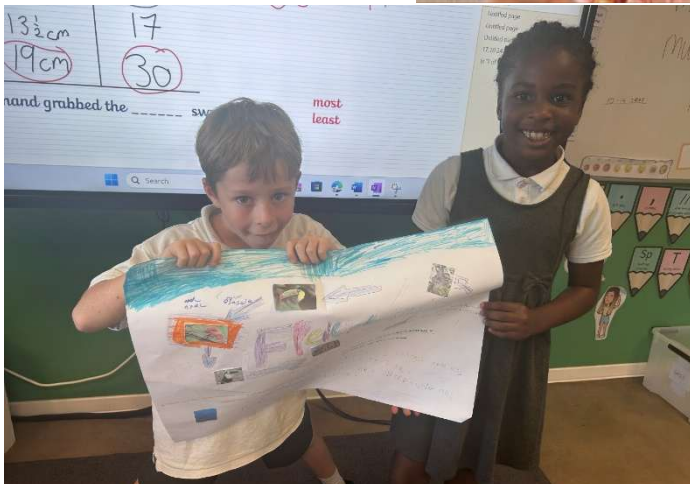


France is not just in Europe! FR In **Grade 3** geography we have been learning about the DOM-TOMs : places all over the world that are part of France! 🌐 In groups, we researched these places and presented the information on some beautiful posters!





In science, **Grade 3** have been investigating body dimensions! Would the person with the largest hand be able to grab the biggest amount of sweets?! 🍬



Need to find a river around the world? 🌐 Just as **Grade 4**, they were naturals at it. They used atlases and team work - well done explorers 🧭



In Art **Grade 4** had fun creating these pumpkin designs. Learning and understanding about Positive and negative Space and how to incorporate this in to their artwork followed by pattern making and adding drawings to set a scene. 🎃





**Grade 5** had an amazing time on their science field trip around the local area. We found lots of evidence of life cycles of plants and animals all just a few minutes' walk from school!



**Grade 5 in Art** have been learning about creating a collagraph printing plate. Then developing several prints from the plate as seen in some examples. Then this week they turned their printing plate into a piece of art by adding colour by blending soft pastels. Super results!

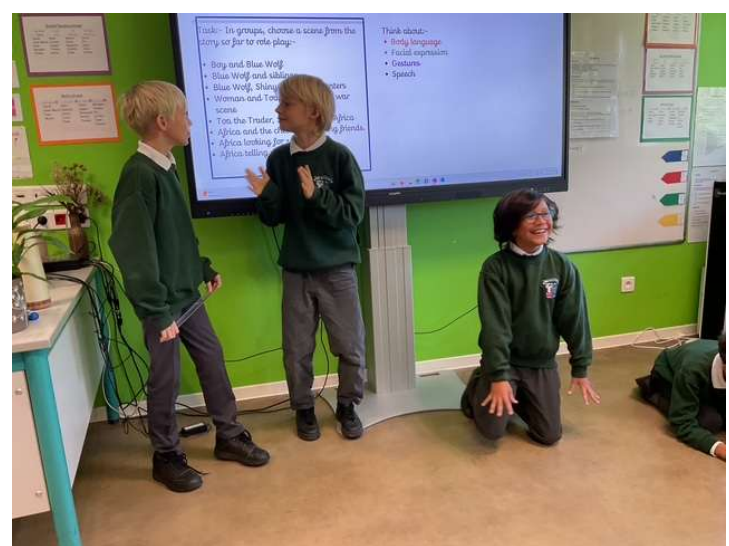


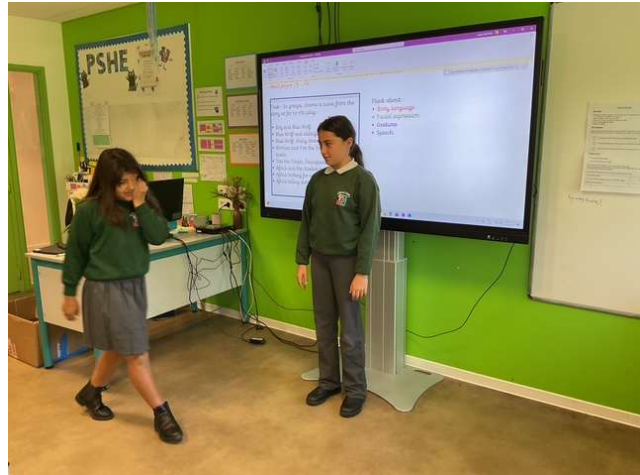
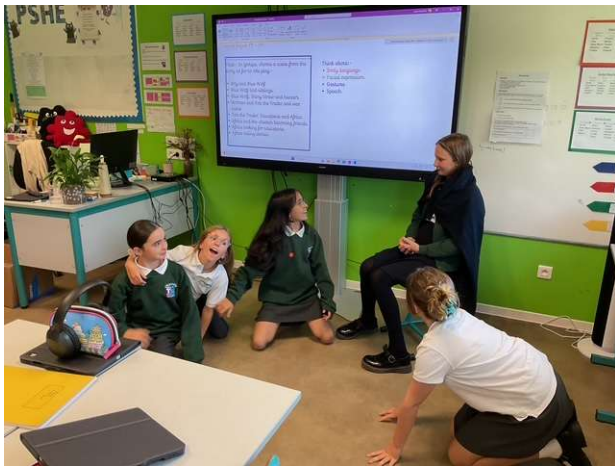
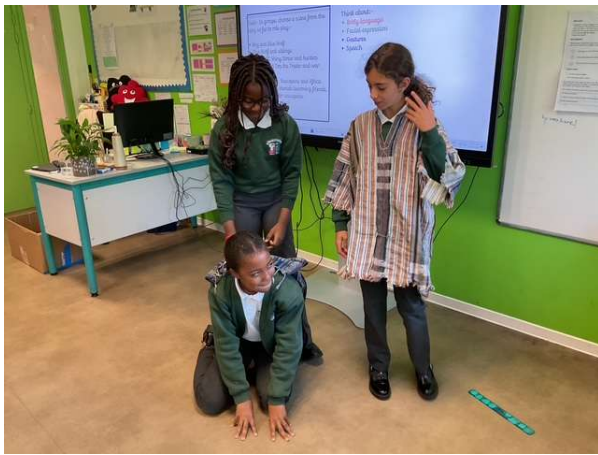






The fabulous **Grade 6** acting out scenes from “The Eye of the Wolf” the book they’re reading in English.





**Grade 6** making a poster about deforestation and photos from *la semaine du goût* making a mushroom starter :)



Cette semaine, le département de français s'est associé à un grand événement culinaire en France :

***la Semaine du Goût 2025.***

À cette occasion, nos élèves ont découvert de nouvelles saveurs, exploré les couleurs et les textures des aliments, et participé à des ateliers de dégustation amusants et éducatifs.

Cette collaboration a permis de relier la langue française à la culture gastronomique, tout en éveillant la curiosité et les papilles de nos jeunes gourmets !

**This week, the French Department teamed up with a major culinary event in France:**

***La Semaine du Goût 2025 (Taste Week 2025).***

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On this occasion, our students discovered new flavors, explored the colors and textures of different foods, and took part in fun and educational tasting workshops. This collaboration connected the French language with French culinary culture, while sparking curiosity and delighting the taste buds of our young food lovers!



The Key Stage 1 and 2 karaoke clubs continue to be a huge success on Thursday lunchtimes. Madame Elias has even agreed to buy more microphones!

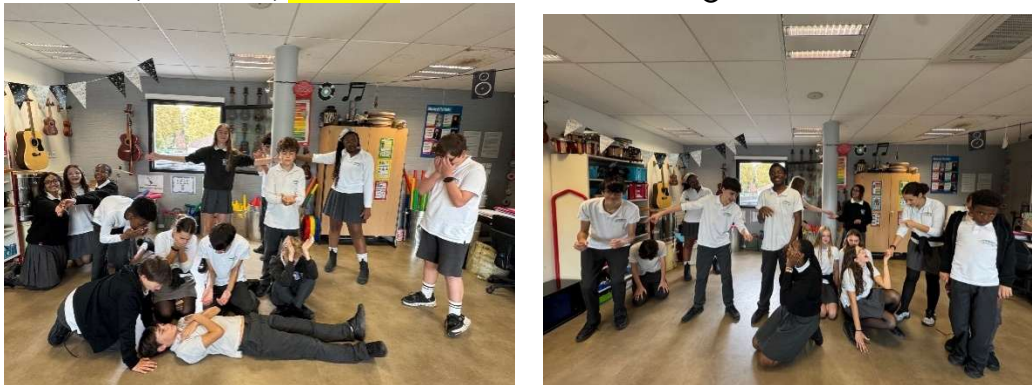


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**Grade 8 Art** students- Observation studies exploring mark making techniques using coffee as a medium and exploring various drawing tools such as dip pen, feathers and twigs to create different marks



This week, in Drama, **Grade 9** have frozen tableaux 🧊



In Biology, **Grade 11** have been studying excretion and on Friday they dissected a kidney.



On Wednesday **Grade 12 Geographers** went on a one-day field trip to The Gave de Lourdios-Ichere. The aim was to study river landforms and processes and attempts at flood management. The weather was beautiful and a great time was had by all!



## SECONDARY UPDATE

Ann Byrne

### Parents Evenings – Academic Year 2025 – 26

*All events take place between 16:00 and 18:00*

This information is on your FireFly Parent Dashboard. Should any dates change you will be notified through this newsletter and on the dashboard page.

### Dates for your Calendar

#### 17 October

Progress reports for grades 11 to 13 will be published on your Parent portal by the end of the day. Please check before then that you can log into the parent portal and email any issues to [office@isbearn.com](mailto:office@isbearn.com) who can direct your enquiry to the correct person.

#### 11 November

School closed for public holiday – Armistice Day commemorating the end of World War I

#### 01 December

mock exams start for Grades 11 to 13

#### 15 and 16 December

‘Beyond Equality’ workshops for KS4 and KS5 students.

See letter from Mr Yeung-Pearse for details.

#### 15 December 16:00 – 17:00

‘Beyond Equality’ **Parent workshop – open to parents of all grades**

#### 17 December

for Christmas break, returning to school Monday 05 January 2026

### Lost Property



This is the current amount of lost property in Secondary, please ask your child to check if they have any missing items, the second week after the holidays the lost property will be emptied.

## Reminder: Gum

Chewing gum is not allowed in school, any student caught chewing will be given a lunch time detention.



Happy half-term! We look forward to seeing all of our students back in school on 03 November.

*Have a nice holiday  
Très Bonnes Vacances  
Maria*