



Friday 28th November 2025

MARIA'S NOTES :

Photos should arrive next week. I will let you know.

We received free tickets, from Pau Mayor, for the big wheel (LA GRANDE ROUE) in Pau centre. If you want any, please tell me.



PRIMARY NEWS

John-Mark Hanrahan

Since the last newsletter, Winter has well and truly hit; the mountains are blanketed in snow, the festive season is popping up around us, and, in true seasonal fashion, a round of winter flu is making its way through our school community.

Awesome Assemblies

In a break to our usual schedule, we have had the honour of Miss Heather hosting our last two assemblies.

In the first one, Miss Heather showed us a photograph of a pearl, and a few children explained how pearls are formed – a pearl is made when a tiny piece of grit settles inside an oyster. This is very annoying to the oyster (a bit like when we get a pip stuck in our teeth) so it makes a liquid (a bit like saliva in our mouths) to cover the grit and make it more comfortable. Over time, this builds up around the piece of grit and it becomes coated in a strong, shiny coat and turns into a pearl.

We then read a story about a girl called Pearl, who sometimes found it hard to make the right behaviour choices, and because of that the other children started to leave her out of games and be a bit mean to her. This made Pearl really sad.

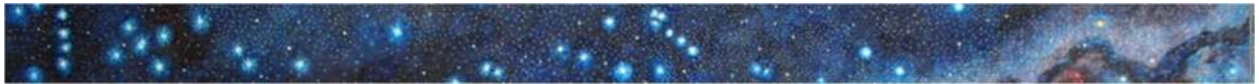
The class teacher had an idea and the whole class agreed that if someone was making a bad choice, instead of getting annoyed with them, they would encourage them to think again and make the right choice. They also agreed to congratulate each other when a good behaviour choice had been made. Very



quickly, Pearl realized that she loved to receive compliments and started to try harder to make the correct choices. As Pearl's class were trying their best to congratulate positive behaviour choices, the whole class started to feel more positive, and the playground games became much more inclusive. Pearl was so happy, and although she still sometimes made mistakes, like we all do, she began to love school again!

We realized at the end, that Pearl in the story was a little bit like a piece of grit and hadn't found her potential, but through kind words and actions she changed, just like a real pearl changes from grit into a precious object in the ocean.

For the following week, we decided to try especially hard to think about the feelings of others and be kind to each other, even if it's difficult sometimes. Perhaps then we could all be pearls?



As if that exciting moral-adventure wasn't enough, this week, Grade 5 treated us to a magical retelling of the Inca myth ***Birth of the Stars***. In Science, the students have been learning about how we get day and night, and this myth is one of the stories ancient peoples told to explain this daily mystery.

They brought to life the tale of a powerful wizard who draws a great black curtain across the sky each night. The performance followed a group of artists who used this curtain for their shadow shows...until a curious little moth nibbled a tiny hole in the darkness and created the very first star.



Grade 5 worked beautifully together to show how wonder, creativity, and curiosity might have shaped the night sky we know today.

It was a confident, imaginative performance. Well done to all involved! ✨

Certificates

Lots more children have been working hard to secure their certificates of merit this past two weeks, not only do we have bronze certificates, but even the first silver certificate of the year!! Ooh la la!





There was also a very special **Head Teacher's Award**, awarded to Eliza in Reception Class for *"constant kindness and good choices, beautiful listening in class, following instructions, and always being ready to help with a smile on her face! an absolute dream to have in class."* – Ooh la la!!! What an inspiration!



Staff Change

Although Reception Class parents are already aware, we would like to share some news with you regarding our Reception Class team. At the end of this term, Miss Keswani will be leaving ISB as she will be relocating to England. She has been a wonderful teacher and a valued member of our school community. Her kindness, enthusiasm, and dedication to the children have made a truly positive impact, and she will be greatly missed by us all. We know you will join us in wishing her every happiness as she begins this new chapter.



D.I.S.C.O

The Student Council did a fantastic job of selling disco tickets every morning this week, and had to use their sharp maths skills to make sure that they gave the correct change – not an easy feat at 0830 in the morning!

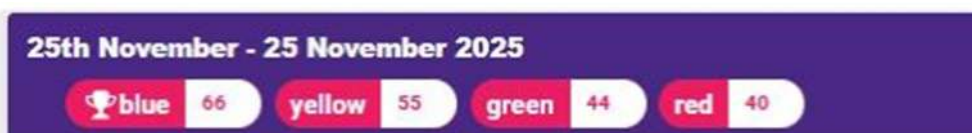


It was worth the pain and suffering, because on Thursday afternoon, not one, not two, but three epic discos went down! (Check out more photo on Team ISB!). Not only this, but ticket sales raised further 236 euros for OGFA!! Thanks to EVERYBODY for the support!!



Lunchtime Tuesday Times Tables Rockstars

On Tuesday lunch-times at the moment, Miss Nairac is opening up her classroom, to invite students to come and compete in online multiplication battles, in their house teams. It's been incredibly popular, and its no surprise, with the amount of house points that can be won (even Mis Heather turned up to compete this week!). All four teams won lots of house-points, but it was Blue Team, who came out as the overall winners!



Interhouse Football

The exciting inter-house football has been continuing on Thursday and Friday lunchtimes. The participation has been excellent, as has the ever-growing number of cheerleaders, supporting the different teams. Stay tuned to Team ISB for any updates to the table standings!



Lunch-Time Karaoke Club

On Thursday afternoon, Mr Hanrahan rushed to save some trapped cats, but it turned out to be this week's karaoke club, who had taken on a Christmas vibe! To hear whether they did your favourite Christmas classics justice, check out the videos on Team ISB.



IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 9th December (09:30) – Grade 1 & 2 Christmas Show (Espace 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 – Whole school non-uniform (festive dress-code!)

School closes at 12:00 for Christmas Holidays

All the **Early Years** children worked together to make banana bread.



Early Years enjoyed exploring printing by using everyday objects- such as a potato masher, a key, and a block - to create their own pattern artwork.





Reception visited the **Musée des Beaux Arts** in Pau last week. The children behaved beautifully, both on the bus down, walking down roads sensibly and being careful, curious and quiet in the museum. The children enjoyed discovering the artwork, looking carefully at the similarities and differences and being amazed by the sheer size of some of the artwork.





Lots of super mathematical vocabulary in Reception this week- using scales, rulers, pouring and measuring to compare length, weight and capacity. Well done!





Alicia talked to **Grade 1** about her time spent with Marvin. Bravo for sharing and taking care of him so carefully!!



Thank you to Diego for sharing with Grade 1 his poetry book.



We have been describing play dough with our senses to help with our poetry writing. Also, in English, we started a new unit about fairytales. Miss Coco was Snow White and came to Grade 1 to answer questions that the pupils had prepared.



En classe de Français FR avec Miss Didi, les enfants de **Grade 1** ont exploré un poème sur le thème de l'hiver. En reconstituant les images dans l'ordre de l'histoire, ils ont pu mémoriser plus facilement les paroles de la chanson et approfondir leur compréhension du texte. Une belle façon d'apprendre en s'amusant !



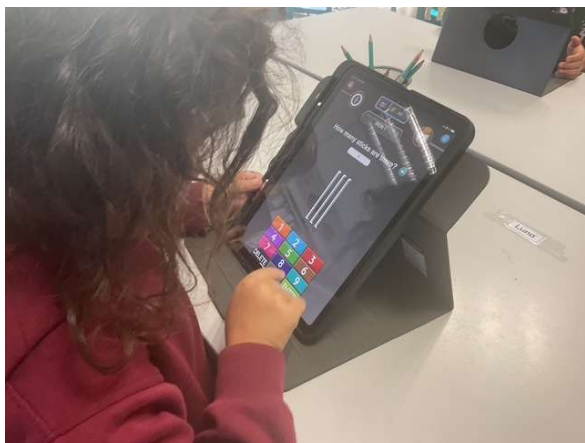
In French class FR with Miss Didi, Grade 1 children explored a poem on the theme of winter. By putting the images back in the correct order of the story, they were able to memorise the lyrics of the song more easily and deepen their understanding of the text. A wonderful way to learn while having fun!



Anton with his certificate as he missed assembly.

We have been testing the NumBots app in maths which is not only great fun but has helped us practise our number bonds to 20. We also started making our own rainforest using recycled materials. We have learnt about the different layers of the rainforest and next week we will be adding the animals! In construction club we worked together to make the egg boxes balance. Which shapes and arrangements were strong enough to hold the orangutan?





Grade 2 in Art have been creating these stunning textured owl collages from various papers. Selecting their chosen colour, tearing and layering the pieces to create feathers.





In **Grade 3** science this week we have been investigating light and shadows. We did an experiment to find out what happens to the length of a shadow when we move an object away from the light source 📖



In maths, we had a splashing time investigating capacity!



Grade 4 have been working super hard this week, measuring g and kg and ml and l. Here they are working brilliantly in their teams 😊



En classe de français avec Miss Didi FR, les **Grade 4** ont travaillé avec enthousiasme sur les prépositions en français. Nous avons créé des phrases amusantes comme « *Le cheval est sur la chaise* », « *Le chien est dans la baignoire* » ou « *Le chat est sous le canapé* ». Ensuite, les élèves se sont corrigés entre eux et ont placé chaque animal au bon endroit. Nous avons passé un très bon moment à apprendre tout en nous amusant.

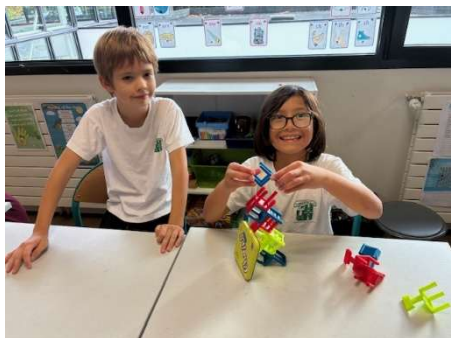


In French class with Miss Didi FR, Grade 4 students worked enthusiastically on French prepositions. We created funny sentences such as “*The horse is on the chair*”, “*The dog is in the bathtub*”, “*The cat is under the sofa*”. Then the students corrected one another and placed each animal in its proper place. We had a wonderful time learning while having fun.

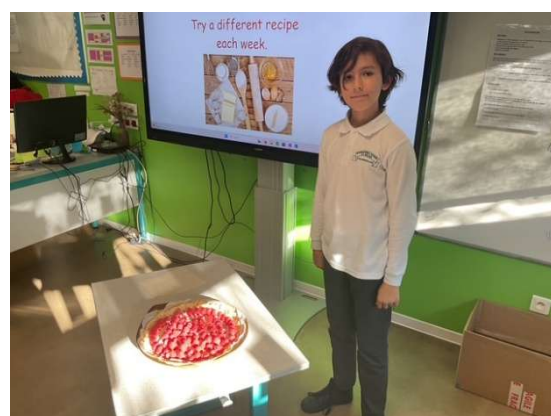
Grades 5 and 6 learnt all about using and creating flowcharts in computing on Tuesday. They created flowcharts to help the user to navigate some of life’s biggest challenges such as “Should I wear my sports kit to school today?” and “Should I ask the teacher to go the the toilet?”



Fun and games at Miss Heather's Friday board games and colouring club!



Grade 6 had their final i-Time lesson of this term before they will present their work. Today we were lucky enough to have two bakers bring in their culinary delights. A chocolate cake from Sarah and a raspberry tart from Noah. What a treat! Thank you guys, they were greatly appreciated!



Sent from my iPad

***** SEC SEC SEC ***** SEC SEC SEC *****

KS3 (**Grades 7,8,9**) enjoyed to go at the **Circus School** in PE. The group made human pyramids!



On Sunday Duke of Edinburgh International Award Bronze and Gold Teams did their first Day Hike in the Saint Colome area. Fully prepared for a day of wind and rain we were pleasantly surprised by the dry conditions and even a hint of sun. The teams got to grips with navigation skills hiking in muddy conditions! Well done to them all!



Grade 12 psychology class: Miss Goigou made them a revision board game to get ready for the Mocks examinations. They were so excited about this activity that they came early in class!!



Outstanding Learner Awards

We are delighted to announce that three of our leavers in the Summer achieved 'Outstanding Pearson Learner Awards' for their exceptional GCSE and A Level grades.

Every year Pearson Edexcel celebrates the achievement of learners around the world who have demonstrated academic excellence at the very highest levels in their exam performance. Their Outstanding Pearson Learner Awards (OPLAs) are presented to those learners in each exam series who have achieved the highest subject mark in their country, in the region, and around the world.



Congratulations to the following students!

Student Name	Award	Qualification title	Exam Series
Agata Maria Grandi	Highest Mark in Europe	Advanced Level in Biology	June 2025
Agata Maria Grandi	Highest Mark in France	Advanced Level in Chemistry	June 2025
Anabella Braccini	Highest Mark in the World	Advanced Level in French	June 2025
Venice Bishnoi	Highest Mark in France	GCSE in Mathematics	June 2025
Venice Bishnoi	Highest Mark in France	International GCSE in Biology	June 2025

Prom Fundraising



The Prom Committee bake sale last week raised almost 300€. Thank you to everyone in Grades 12 and 13 who organized the sale and of course to all of the students who bought cakes.

We would also like to thank the PTA who are donating 300€ to the Prom fundraising.

Mock Exams

All students should attend school as normal during mock exams. Students will follow their regular timetable when they are not in exams, and it will be the subject teacher's choice whether the students spend their time revising independently, have a structured revision lesson, or continue with subject content. This is essential because for some subjects there are external in January.

Students should always be in school throughout the mock exams (28 November – 12 December) unless we have an email from parents to request time out of school for a specific RDV.

And to remind you of the general exam rules; these have been shared with students:

- No talking at any time in the exam room (even before or after your exam)
- No phones or smart watches
- No cases on calculators

- No notes or revision material
- Pens/pencils in clear/see through plastic bag or pencil case
- Only clear water bottles with any labels removed

Anyone who is suspected of cheating or communicating with another student will be given a zero score for the exam.

Parents Evenings – Academic Year 2025 – 26

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

Booking for all Parents Evening is now through the Parent Portal <https://parents.isbearn.com>.

See below for details of how to make your appointment.

Please note the table below has been re-organised by date order.

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

Booking a Parents Evening Appointment

1. Go to the Parent Portal at <https://parents.isbearn.com/> and click on 'Meetings' on the menu bar
2. Next click on 'Make an Appointment' and select the subject and required appointment time.



Beyond Equality

A reminder that we welcome 'Beyond Equality' to ISB, from the UK on 15th/16th December.

Date	Grade	Event
13 January 2026	Grade 7	Parents evening
20 January 2026	Grade 11	Invitation only parents evening following mock exam results
20 January 2026	Grade 12 and G13	Invitation only parents evening following mock exam results
27 January 2026	Grade 8	Parents evening
10 March 2026	Grade 11	Parents evening
17 March 2026	Grade 9	Options and Parents evening
24 March	Grade 12 and G13	Invitation only parents ahead of final exams
05 May 2026	Grade 10	Invitation only parents evening ahead of G10 exams

On the 15th and 16th there will be a series of workshops and activities for boys in Grades 10 to 13. The workshops are not designed to lecture but to give the boys a chance to explore and discuss the following topics in a safe environment:

- Gender stereotypes and masculinities
- Inclusion and ally ship
- Consent and healthy relationships

These two days are compulsory and all students must attend school. The Christmas break starts at 12:00 on Wednesday 17 December.

During these two days the girls in Grades 10 to 13 will also have a series of workshops and activities as well as our guest speaker, Jess Hyland an ISB parent, sharing her experiences of working in a male dominated field. The girls will explore:

- Gender stereotypes and their impact
- Healthy relationships
- Empowerment



We are also hosting a **parent seminar** that is opened to all ISB parents, of both Primary and Secondary students which offers a great opportunity to better understand the pressures that boys are facing, particularly online. The seminar is on Monday 15th December and will start at 16:00, lasting for approximately 1 hour.

If you are interested, please sign up using this link - it would be great to see parents take advantage of this workshop: [Attend Beyond Equality parent seminar – Fill in form](#)

If you would like any further information, please contact Mr Yeung-Pearce directly: thomas.yeung-pearce@isbearn.com

Dates for your Calendar

28 November mock exams start for Grades 11 to 13 (timetable on FireFly)

15 and 16 December 'Beyond Equality' workshops for KS4 and KS5 students.
See letter/ from Mr Yeung-Pearce for details.

15 December 16:00 – 17:00 'Beyond Equality' Parent workshop

17 December **school finishes at 12:00** for Christmas break, returning to school Monday 05 January 2026



*Have a nice week
Très Bonne Semaine
Maria*