



Friday 14th November 2025

MARIA'S NOTES :

We did a fire drill on Friday 14 November: in 3'06" all students and staff were on the football pitch which is our meeting point. Well done everybody!

PRIMARY NEWS

John-Mark Hanrahan

Once again, it's been a busy start back to school after the holidays, which sets the tone for this half-term! It's going to be a busy one of all of us, so hold onto your seats!

G6 Orchestra Visit

Last Wednesday morning, Grades 5 & 6 were taken by bus to watch the orchestra of Pau rehearse. When they arrived, they expected to see lots of other schools there, but ISB was the only one. After the rehearsal, the conductor thanked the children for being a great audience, and told Miss Clara that he hadn't even noticed ISB sneak in because they were so quiet. He told her that their behaviour and concentration was the best he'd ever seen from a school! What a proud moment for ISB! #InspiringSelfBelief! We'd like to say a huge THANK YOU to Miss Clara for organizing this special enrichment!



Busy Lunch-Times

On Thursday, Mr Hanrahan made a tour of the school during lunch-time, whilst looking for someone, and ended up reflecting on how lucky we are at ISB because there is so much team-work, kindness and volunteering and enthusiasm, by both children and staff.

As he walked around the school, he came across Miss Heather's lunch-time karaoke club – which has proven to be a huge hit with the children who like to sing and perform, just like with her Monday lunch-time Robotics club for Grade 5 & 6!

Outside there was an inter-house football match going on, kindly organised by Miss Suzanne.

The student council were emptying the recycle bins for all of the classrooms and children who weren't already busy were skipping nicely with the skipping ropes and taking it in turns to turn the rope or playing various games around the playground and on the sports-pitch. It really is a pleasure to walk around the school and see all of the wholesome things going on! Well done Team ISB!





An Assembly for Secondary

On Friday, the Primary Student Council, delivered an important assembly to Grades 7-9 about keeping our school clean and tidy. It was a nerve-wracking affair, but our brave student councilors took it all in their stride and delivered their message to the assembly. The secondary school students were an excellent audience and listened carefully, before giving the primary students a well-deserved applause.



As well as delivering this assembly, they have also continued to make their own efforts to improve our school environment, during their lunch-times, and have even managed to recruit a few friends to help them!



Remembrance Assembly

This week we had a beautiful assembly, all about why we were having the day off on Tuesday (November 11th). Throughout the day each class had learnt about what started the day of remembrance and linked it to our lives. Although originally to remember all those who died during the first world war, at ISB, we tried to think about everyone around the world who has been affected by war; those who are still being affected by war; those throughout the years that have made sacrifices for our freedom and those who make a difference to our lives now.



Instead of starting our assembly with our usual chime, we closed our eyes and Mr Hanrahan played a bugle solo (not actually him – a recording!) of a fanfare called, The Last Post. Whilst it played we tried to think about all the good things in our lives that we are grateful for. Some of the older children tried to take a moment to think of people affected by war too.

Once it had finished, each class came to the front to talk a bit and show us what they had been doing in class. Lots of the children were wearing Poppies (an English Remembrance Day tradition), and lots were wearing Beuets (a French Remembrance Day tradition).

The children showed us crafts they had made; poppies decorated with qualities that we need to encourage peace (e.g. teamwork, kindness, honesty etc; acrostic poems about war; art work that they'd made, some children spoke about their hopes for a peaceful future and famous poems were recited in English and French.

It really was a moving assembly, which really paid respects to importance of Remembrance Day and made us all think about Tuesday not just being a day off school, but a day to remember and reflect.





Poppy Art

Miss Sara also worked with all of the classes who had art this week, on different poppy inspired art work. Some of this beautiful art has been displayed around the school, and the rest can be seen on your child's class art channel, on their class Team.

Reception Class



Grade 2



Grade 4



Grade 6



Certificates of Merit

Throughout the last two weeks, lots more children have received their bronze certificates of merit for earning their first 25 merits of the year! Well done everyone! For those who haven't received theirs yet, keep going - we're sure you'll achieve it during the next 4 and a half weeks!





House Points Trophy

Right at the end of the assembly, we had time to award the third house points trophy of the year, and, although incredibly close between the three top teams, once again, for the third time this year, Yellow Team topped the tables!! Incroyable!

Well done, once again, to Margaux, the House Captain, and the yellows!

An Enormous Thank YOU!

On Friday, Marlène from OGFA returned to collect the gifts that our entire school has been gathering for children who aren't as fortunate as we are. She was delighted (and a little shocked) when Miss Heather rang to suggest she bring a van because of the incredible number of donations! Even with the warning, she was still amazed when she saw the sheer volume of thoughtful, generous gifts contributed by everyone.

Thank you to every family who donated to this important cause. It has been a joy for us to receive the gifts from children who were so excited to show what they had brought in.

Once again, our small school with a big heart has made a meaningful difference in the lives of others. **Thank you!**



Digital Safety

Are you confident that your child's online activity is as safe and wholesome as you think it is? Are you fully aware of the content that is accessible to your children on popular online games and apps?

We would like to invite **all Grade 1-6 parents** to join us in **Grade 5**, on **Friday, 28th November at 1430**, for an important **meeting about online safety**, led by our primary school Deputy Head and Computing Coordinator, Miss Heather.



We cannot stress enough the importance of your active participation, which is vital in fostering a collaborative community that prioritises the well-being of our young learners.

Let's work together to create a secure and enriching online experience for our children.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 17th November – Grade 6 visit to Pau FC (Don't forget coats!)

Tuesday 18th November - Reception Class visit to La Musée des beaux Arts (more info to come)

Tuesday 18th November – Grade 1 visit to the médiathèque (Don't forget coats!)

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

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)

Thursday 27th November – Whole School Disco (More info to come)

Friday 28th November – Online Safety meeting for parents (1430 in Grade 5)

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 had lots of fun exploring the playground with magnifying glasses in hand. Using snapshots of different objects and plants from around the playground, they worked together to find where each picture came from.





They also enjoyed exploring 2D shapes and making shape collages.

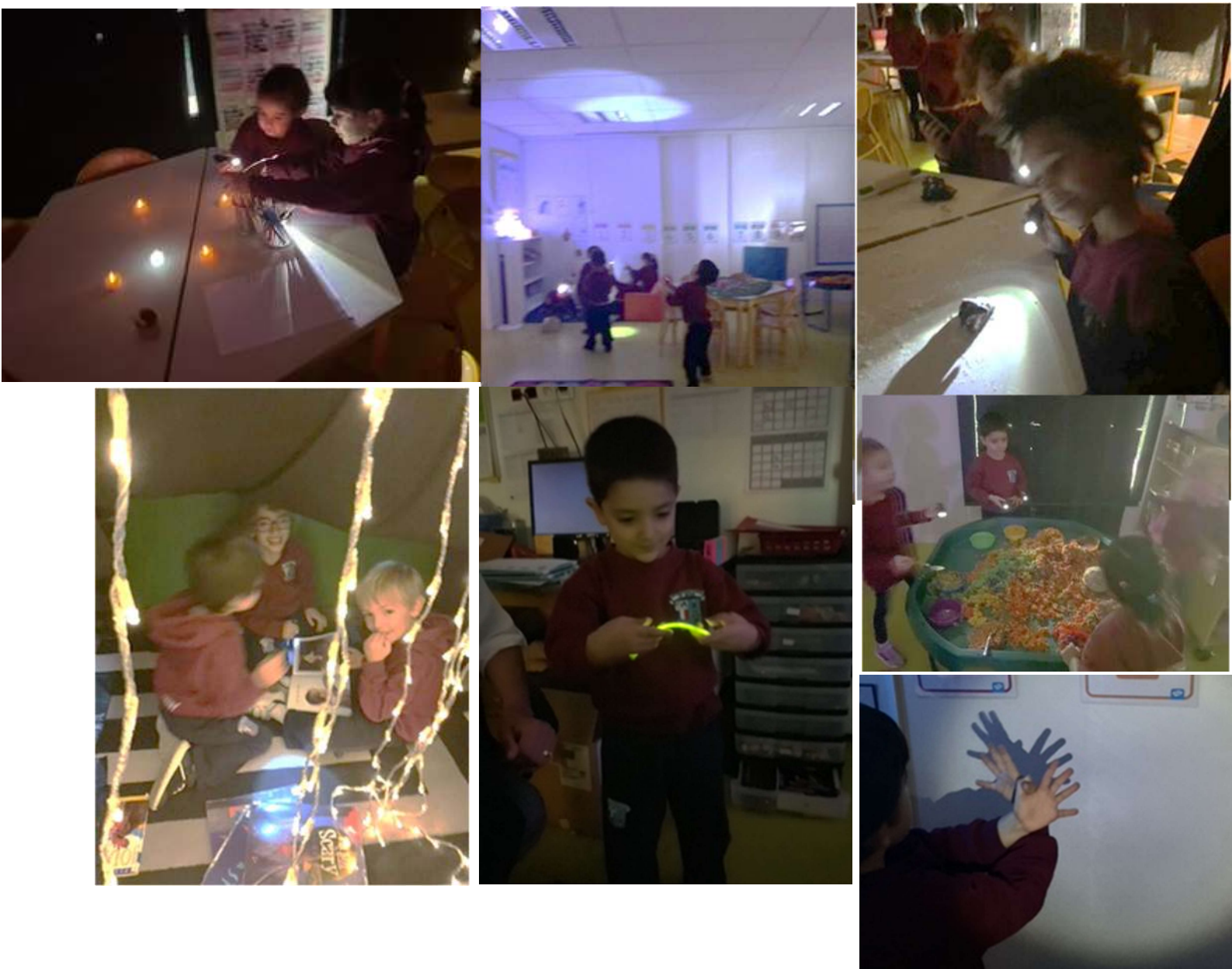


EY and Reception had a wonderful Wednesday united in play this week, inspired by the story 'The Dot' We had a wonderful time mark making in different ways, using our imagination to make a dot into different things, using a compass, making concentric circle transient art... painting, sticking, gluing...





Reception have been exploring and finding out the differences between day and night. That came in one morning to find their classroom submerged in darkness, and enjoyed using torches, candles fairy lights and glowsticks to rediscover it. Dark can be fun!



Reception class in Art created these beautiful Fields of Poppies. Blending and smudging soft pastels for the background and oil pastel lines for the stems. Finishing off with fine motor skills with finger painting and earbud painting. Beautiful work!

To see more visit the Teams Reception class on the art channel.





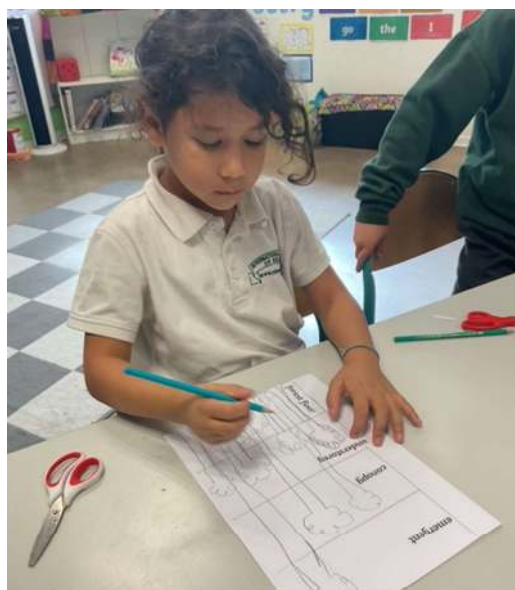
That's it, show practice has started! **Grade 1**, please make sure you know your lines!

Grade 1 have been learning about ordinal numbers. Who's 1st, 2nd, 3rd....Wow what a treat today.



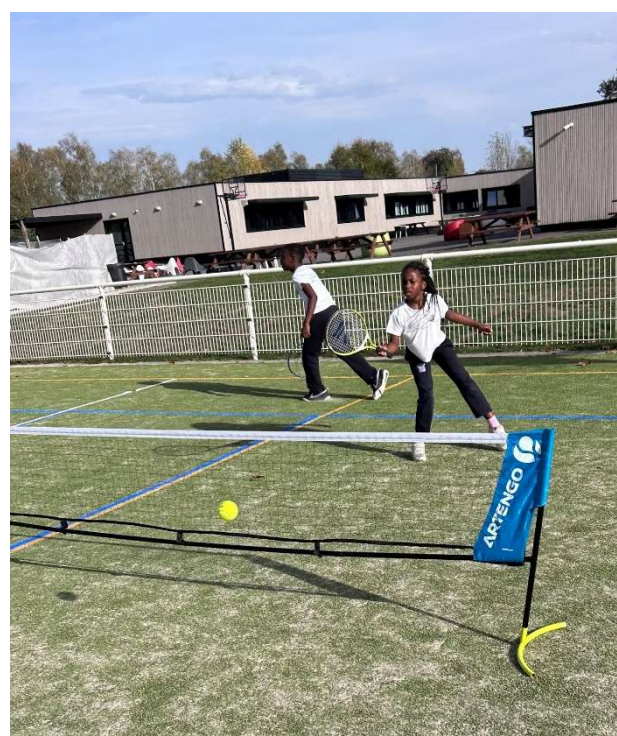


Grade 2 have been busy learning all about the layers of the rainforest in geography. We are in the process of making some information books about the habitat and it's animals. In science we sorted seeds and bulbs and then worked really hard with Ms Corine to prepare for spring by planting the bulbs. Great teamwork grade 2!





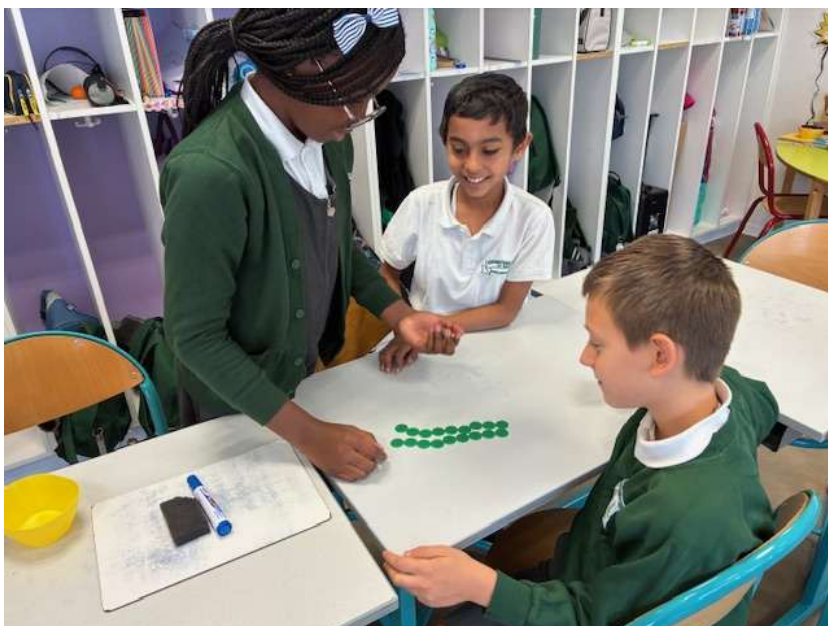
In PE this half term, Grade 3 are playing tennis! 🎾 This week we worked on standing in a ready position, and using our forehand.

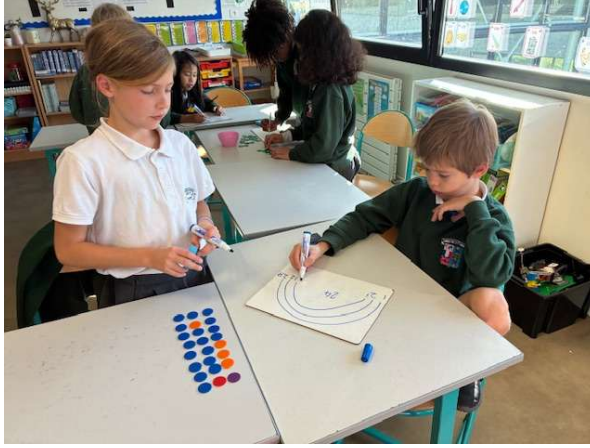


Grade 4 have been learning about different lake formations. They are making volcanic or glacial lakes using salt dough - will they hold the water next week?



Grade 5 have been using counters to make arrays to find the factors of different numbers and Numicon shapes to investigate equivalent fractions in maths.





Grade 5 learnt about Armistice Day during PSHE and made a beautiful poppy wreath together.



Grade 6 dissected hearts today!!! They really enjoyed it and some students said it was their best lesson ever! Thanks to Miss Payne everyone understood and learned a lot.

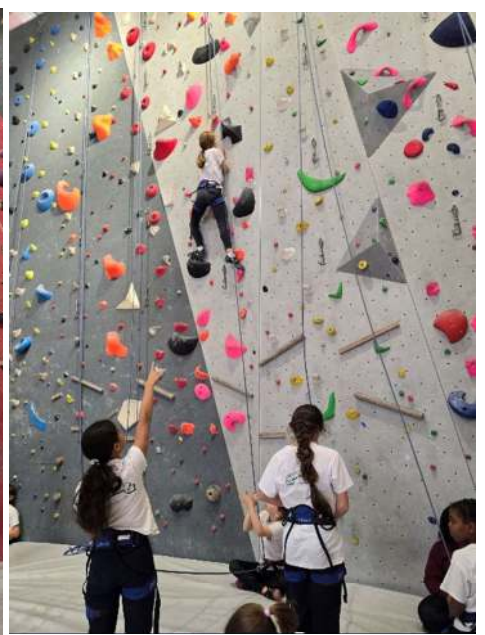


***** SEC SEC SEC *****

Following the recent topics on Symmetry **Grade 7** have been working on their own human kaleidoscope video. Inspired by The Human Kaleidoscope (Kuma Films), they are using their hands to make symmetrical patterns to music. We look forward to seeing the final videos.



In sports, they have been climbing:



And playing tennis:



Grade 10 Art Students Dive Into Textile Art With Local Artist Diane MacGowan

Our Grade 10 Art students recently had the exciting opportunity to step outside the classroom and into the working studio of local textile artist **Diane MacGowan**. As part of their *Landscapes and Cityscapes* theme, students explored how fabric, thread, and stitch can be used to reinterpret their own photographs in creative and expressive ways.

During the workshop, students experimented with textile techniques, including machine stitching, layering fabrics, and creating textured swatches. Working alongside a professional artist allowed them to see how ideas develop in a real studio environment while gaining confidence in a completely new medium.

The experience was both inspiring and hands-on, and we are delighted to share some photos capturing their creativity in action.



Grade 12 were measuring the viscosity of a fluid using Stoke's law this week.



SECONDARY UPDATE

Ann Byrne

Parents Evenings – Academic Year 2025 – 26

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

Reminder: 18th November G12 and G13 Parents Evening

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.

Prom Fundraising



The Prom Committee are fundraising for their Prom which is an event for Grades 10 to 13.

This **Wednesday, 19th November**, there will be a bake sale – please send your children with money that day and support the fundraising. Most items will be 2euros or less.

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-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

Grade	Date	Event
Grade 7	13 January 2026	Parents evening
Grade 8	27 January 2026	Parents evening
Grade 9	17 March 2026	Options and Parents evening
Grade 10	14 Oct 2025	Parents evening
Grade 10	05 May 2026	Invitation only parents evening ahead of G10 exams
Grade 11	Week of 10 November	Update emails sent home for concerns ahead of mock exams
Grade 11	20 January 2026	Invitation only parents evening following mock exam results
Grade 11	10 March 2026	Parents evening
Grade 12 and G13	18 November 2025	Parents evening
Grade 12 and G13	20 January 2026	Invitation only parents evening following mock exam results
Grade 12 and G13	24 March	Invitation only parents ahead of final exams
Grade 7	13 January 2026	Parents evening
Grade 8	27 January 2026	Parents evening
Grade 9	17 March 2026	Options and Parents evening
Grade 10	14 Oct 2025	Parents evening
Grade 10	05 May 2026	Invitation only parents evening ahead of G10 exams
Grade 11	Week of 10 Nov.	Update emails sent home for concerns ahead of mock exams
Grade 11	20 January 2026	Invitation only parents evening following mock exam results
Grade 11	10 March 2026	Parents evening
Grade 12 and G13	18 November 2025	Parents evening
Grade 12 and G13	20 January 2026	Invitation only parents evening following mock exam results
Grade 12 and G13	24 March	Invitation only parents ahead of final exams

Mock Exams

All students of Grades 11-13 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

Lost Property

Our box of lost property is not getting any smaller! We know that the parents of some students are regularly asking them to check the box for lost sweatshirts/PE hoodies etc. However, this is not working. Mr Pearse valiantly goes through the lost uniform and returns named items to students, but they very often end up back in the box.

As per our previous 'Lost Property' reminder, at the start of next week the lost property boxes will be emptied.

Have a nice week
Très Bonne Semaine
Maria

International School of Béarn – Tel.: 0612566867 – E-mail: contact@isbearn.com – Website: www.isbearn.com