



Friday 29th January 2026

MARIA'S NOTES :

PRIMARY NEWS

John-Mark Hanrahan

Assembly

Another busy two weeks have flown by and during that time, the primary student council have launched their most recent charity project.

Mr Hanrahan introduced us to the project in the first of our weekly assemblies. We learnt about a country in Africa, called Rwanda. Rwanda faces significant challenges in eye care access, with only about thirty eye doctors available for over 13 million people, leaving many children undiagnosed and without screenings. With the help of various charities, Rwanda has developed a **nationwide eye care system** with trained nurses, mobile clinics, and school screenings, ensuring that vision care reaches even the most remote communities. However, one of the things that people are missing once they have had their eyes tested, are the correct eye-glasses – and this is where we come in!

Miss Corine's son Antoine, is travelling to Rwanda with his university in Bayonne, to carry out some charity work there. If we have old prescription glasses at home and we collect them all, Antoine has offered to take them to Rwanda for us, so that they can be distributed to those that need them. That means that our tiny school in Pau, France, can directly help children and adults all the way in Rwanda!

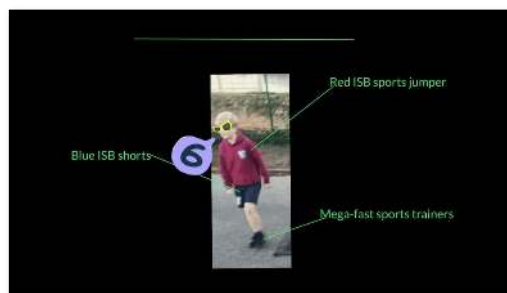
Needless to say, as usual everybody agreed that this is a good idea and so since then, the student council have been receiving glasses donations!



If you have any old glasses at home that you don't want, we would love to have them!

Ultra-Inspiring Uniforms

As predicted, during the week, Mr Hanrahan received a notification from the secret uniform scanner, to say that some more impeccably dressed students had been spotted around the primary school!



Cassandre (G1), Evo (G5), Paula (G6) and Monty (G2) were all awarded 10 house points each for their impeccable, and ultra-inspiring uniforms!

House Points Trophy

The house-points trophy was also awarded in the assembly, and for the fifth time this year, it was the yellow team who came out on top! As the yellow house captain, Mathis was absent, his grade 6 team-mate Anne-Marie came to collect the all-important trophy.



Grade 4 Assembly

This week's assembly, was led by Grade 4, who treated us to the re-telling of a traditional story, "The Stone-Cutter", which they have been studying in English. They then shared their new years' resolutions with us, before explaining the water cycle to us, and finally finished off with an amazing song all about the Ancient Romans. It was non-stop and gave us an exciting glimpse into some of the things that they have been learning about in class. **Well done to all of the Grade 4 team!**



Certificates

We've had lots of certificates of merit to give out this past two weeks, including the first gold certificate of the year! Check them out below!



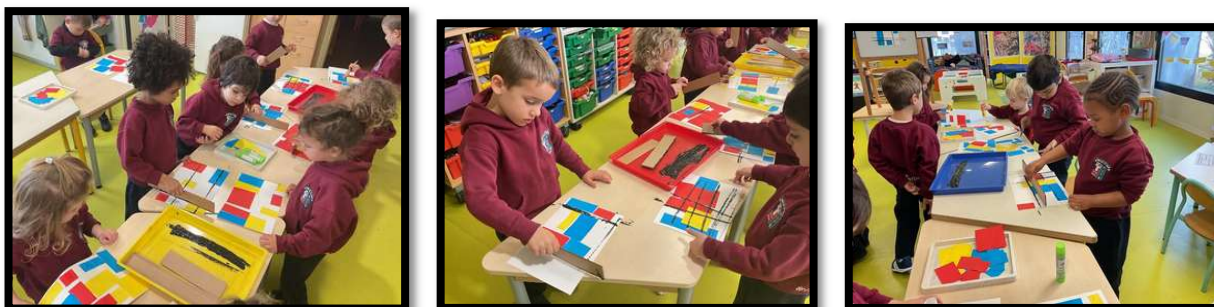
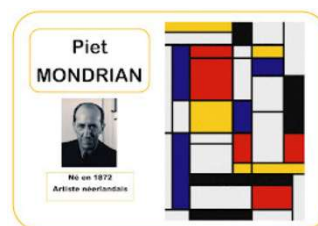


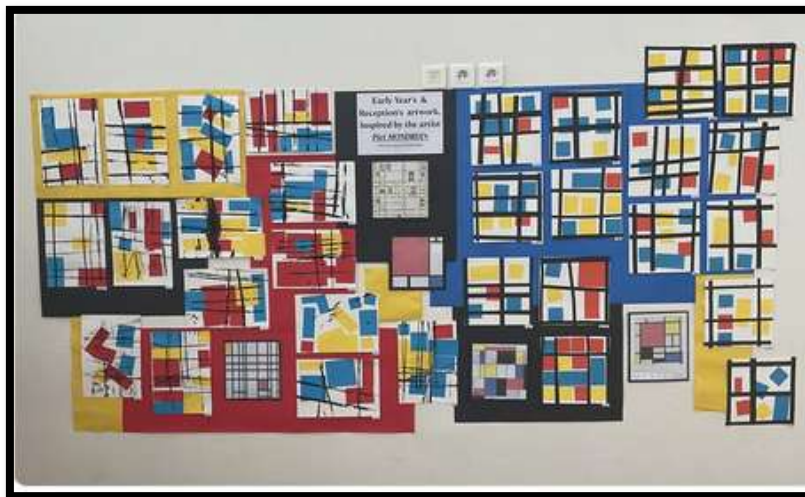
EYFS Whoop Wednesday

Last Wednesday, led by Miss Sara, and the EYFS team, all of the Early Years and Reception children got together and learnt about the artist 'Piet MONDRIAN' and his style of art. They talked about the colours, shapes and lines that we recognise in his artwork.

The students had lots of fun exploring and creating their own pieces of art either through collage (which included working on their maths 'fractions') or collage and printing. Also the students explored transient art using blocks and bricks and also some colour by number activity sheets.

Well done to everyone, such great enthusiasm and engagement and what fabulous masterpieces!





Parent/Teacher Meetings

Thank you to everyone who came to the parent/teacher meetings over the last two weeks. Please remember that our door is always open, and if you would like to see your child's class teacher at any time, you can either email them directly, or make an appointment through Miss Marjorie, in the office.

See Better, Be Better Week (2nd-6th March)

Following the idea of the glasses collection for Rwanda, the student council came up even more excellent ideas, for how we could turn the idea into a project.

Starting on 2nd March, as a school, we will be exploring the theme of “**Seeing the World**” - thinking about how we see ourselves, how we want to be seen by others (our character and values), and how the world can look very different for different people. A particular focus will be on understanding visual impairment and developing empathy, reflection, and global awareness. There will be all sorts of activities going on throughout the week for your children on this theme, which I'm sure that they will tell you about afterwards (and you will be able to follow on Teams). Below though, are three very important dates for your diaries, so that you can help your children prepare:

Monday 2nd March – One Change, One Me! (Anti-Bullying Day)

Children and staff are invited to **change one item of their uniform** to celebrate individuality and remind us that being different is something to be proud of.

Wednesday 4th March– ISB Book Day

Children and staff are encouraged to **dress up as their favourite book character**. During the day, pupils will also create audio stories and poems for children with visual impairments.



Thursday 5th March

On Thursday, after school, we will celebrate who we are, with one of our much-loved school discos, including treats, music, and of course, a raffle to win a VIP disco experience (more info to come!)



Important Dates

Thursday 29th January – Les Trois Chardons, theatre company visiting ISB (EY-G2)

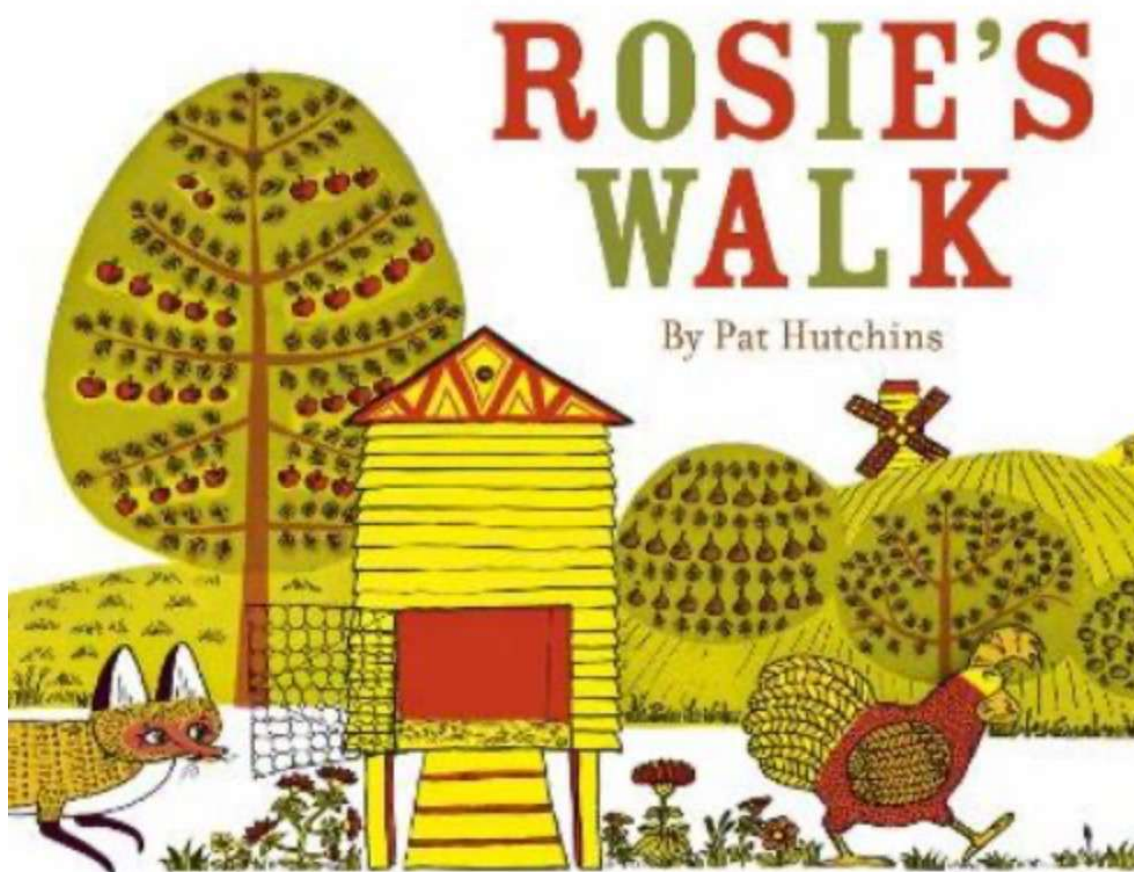
Wednesday 4th February 09:00 – PTA MEETING (Primary art room – ALL parents welcome!)

Friday 6th February – School closes for holidays (after clubs) NON-UNIFORM!!

Early Years had a wonderful time celebrating Burns's Night, a Scottish traditional festival celebrated every year on 25th of January. A huge thank you to Katherine's Mummy and Jessie's Mummy for coming to Early Years class and kindly preparing and sharing delicious Scottish treats with us. Thank you!



We have been reading *"Rosie's Walk"* by Pat Hutchins, a story about a little hen walking through the countryside. Early Years have enjoyed creating paintings and collages using the same colour palette as the story and also explored texture by adding a variety of materials including feathers, tissue paper, corrugated paper, straw and wheat grains to their art work.





Reception carried on working on their number knowledge. They made numbers, compared and ordered them and practised writing them too. They also investigated numbers to find out if you could share a given quantity equally in two. They learned the words: half, double, equally, even and odd.



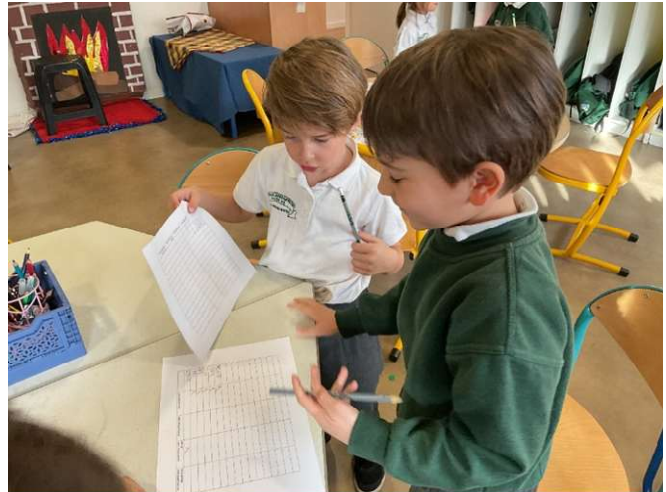
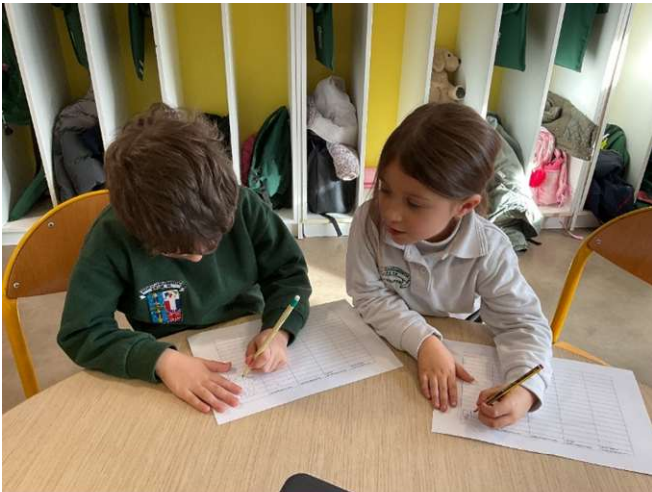


In Maths, **Grade 1** learnt how to count in tens and to add units to tens using a bead string.

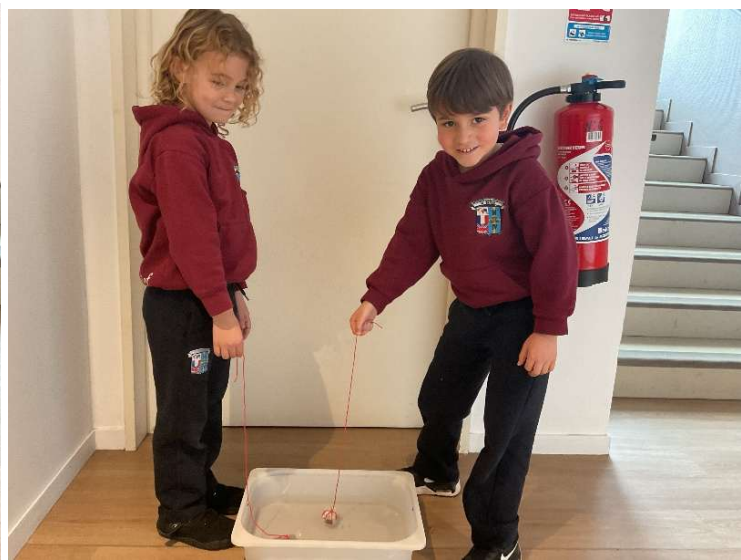


Alicia is our new student councilor!!!
She is already doing a great job
! Well done Alicia !!

In English, Grade 1 did a survey to find out which was the classes favourite story.



In Science, Grade 1 did an experiment. Their challenge was to keep the Gingerbread Man dry as he crossed the river. They observed and tested which materials were waterproof.



Grade 1 brought their favourite toys to school. In history, we are learning about past and present toys. Today, we were looking at present toys.



Grade 1 made Gingerbread Men! It was so much fun!





Grade 2 have been busy asking questions and organising information in computing. We made our own binary trees to sort different animals. In PE we have been learning about the benefits of yoga! We have been practising holding different poses and concentrating on our breathing. We made our own safari themed yoga flow. Everybody left the hall feeling very zen and chilled out! 🧘 🌿



In Art this week **Grade 2** finished their 'It's A Small World' project. They learnt the word 'Architecture' and then we talked about the different buildings around the world including our school and homes. We then had a big painting party working with hot and cold colours and painting a lot of different pieces of cardboard of our choice and adding patterns.

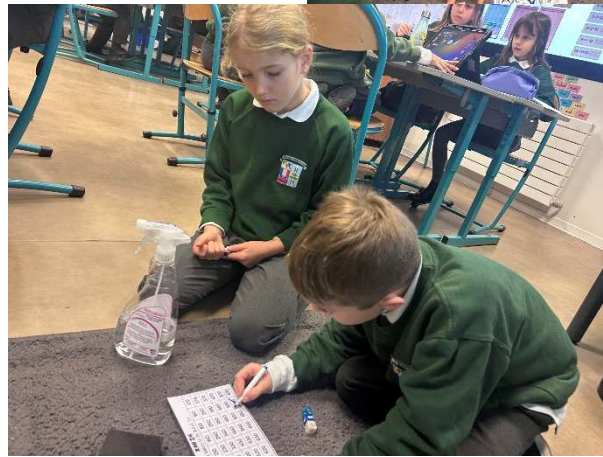
Then having fun arranging the pieces, then rearranging for their chosen layout, adding, cutting, gluing, drawing, and printing. Loads of ideas and creations from the students and what absolutely beautiful results.

Check out more photos on teams and also a video of all their work.





In **Grade 3** this week we have been looking at rounding in maths. We put our skills to the test by playing a four-in-a-row rounding game! 🎲

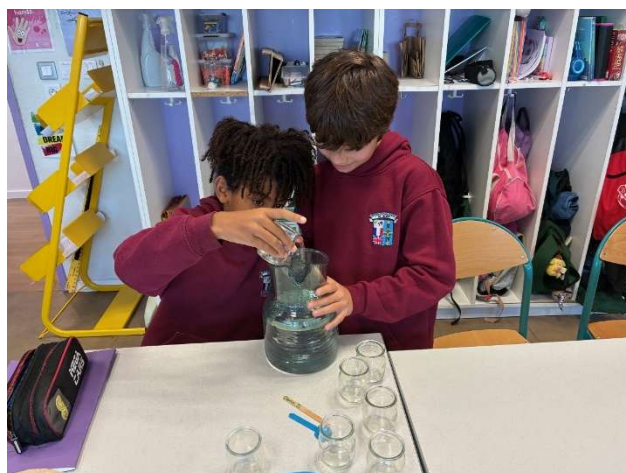


Grade 4 worked super duper hard on their assembly this week, well done to you all. In our History lessons on the Romans we made very smart emperor wreaths and learnt a catchy song! Here is the link if you'd like to sing it at home: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAD8LBY6edo>





Observing, measuring, recording and ensuring we kept all but one of our variables constant.
Grade 5 worked so hard during their investigation about solubility in science.



Voici l'équipe médicale de l'ISB ! En classe de français avec Miss Didi, les élèves de Grade 5 ont enfilé la blouse blanche et le stéthoscope pour jouer le rôle de médecins et de patients. À travers des jeux de rôle, ils ont pratiqué le vocabulaire et les expressions nécessaires pour une visite chez le médecin. Un moment à la fois ludique et enrichissant !
 Here is the ISB medical team. In French class with Miss Didi, **Grade 5** students put on white coats and stethoscopes to take on the roles of doctors and patients. Through role play, they practised the vocabulary and expressions needed for a visit to the doctor.
 A fun and engaging learning experience!



Grade 6 enjoyed using salt dough to create their Stone Age jewellery designs. They kneaded, shaped, squeezed and pressed the dough into the shapes they wanted in order to recreate animal teeth, animal bones and shells. They will be left to dry throughout the week before painting and attaching them to make their necklaces or bracelets.

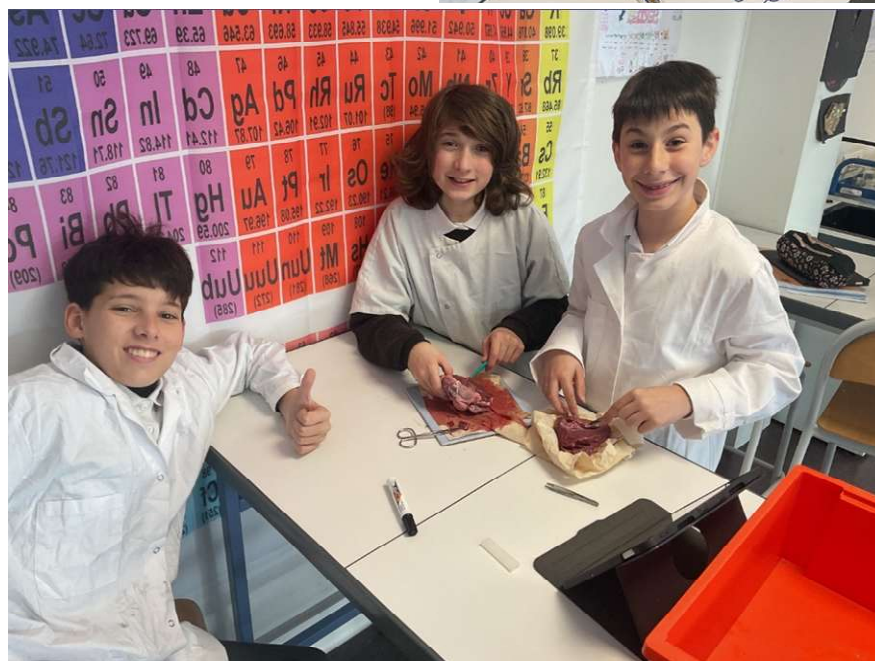




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In Science, **Grade 8** is working the heart.





In **Physical Education**, students are divided in groups. Here are some photos of the gymnastique group:



On Thursday, **Grade 11 Geography** pupils went to the Les Halles area of Pau on an Urban Fieldwork Trip. Pupils focused on assessing the redevelopment of the Les Halles indoor market via a combination of surveys and questionnaires.

The trip provided pupils will valuable experience of interacting with the general public and understanding the complex spread of opinions a redevelopment like Les Halles creates.



On Saturday **Bronze Level Duke of Edinburgh International Award** participants completed their second day hike. The day was much snowier than forecast and pupils coped fantastically with the conditions. Pupils developed their map work and compass skills and enjoyed an amazing genuine Winter day!





Beauty and the Beast

A few tickets for the show are available. Please remember, there is no charge **but entry is strictly by ticket only**. Please support our students who have worked incredibly hard and join us on **Tuesday 03 February** at Espace James Chambaud in Lons. Doors open at 18:30 and the show begins at 19:00.

World Book Day

We are joining Primary to support World Book Day on **Wednesday 04 February**. Students and staff can come to school dressed as a character from a book and pay 1 Euro to contribute to the official World Book Day Fundraiser, which provides books and reading resources to needy communities. Please note, this is NOT a non-uniform day and if students wish to participate, they should come dressed as a recognisable character from a book.

Grade 9 Options Information Sessions for Parents

To support the transition from KS3 into KS4 we are offering three different times for Grade 9 parents to attend an information session where we will explain the options process and allow time for individual questions. These times are listed below together with the overall dates for Grade 9 options.

Please note that you only need to attend one of the information sessions.

Event	Date and time	Location
Parent information sessions for Grade 9 option choices	1; Tuesday 24 Feb at 09:00 2; Wednesday 25 Feb 13:00 3; Thursday 26 Feb at 16:00	Hall Hall Lab 3
Grade 9 reports published	Friday 06 March	-
Grade 9 Parents Evening and 'initial choices' form distributed	Tuesday 17 March	-
Completed Initial choices returned to form tutors	Wednesday 25 March	-
'Final option choices' forms distributed in Tutor time	Monday 30 March	-
Completed final choices returned to form tutors	Friday 03 April	-

Grade 11 Options

There will be two parent information session for parents to support G11 into G12 option choices:

09:00 Monday 02 March

13:00 Tuesday 03 March

The Grade 11 Parents Evening is the following week on 10 March between 15:45 and 17:45

Parents Evenings – Academic Year 2025 – 26

All events take place between 15:45 and 17:45

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.

Date	Grade	Event
10 March 2026	Grade 11	Parents evening
17 March 2026	Grade 9	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

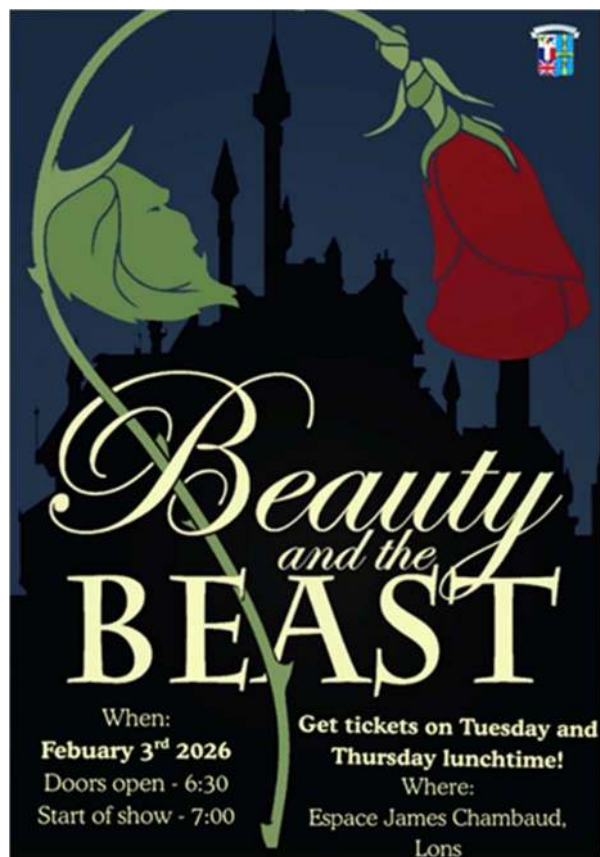
Booking a Parents Evening Appointment

Please note: there is currently a bug in our booking system that will allow one parent to book multiple appointments for the same time – please make sure that you choose different times for each of your appointments.

Also, please be sure to book appointments for ONLY your child's teachers as ALL teachers of a particular grade will appear on the booking options.

To book appointments:

1. Log into 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.



Have a nice week

*Bonne semaine
Maria*