



Friday 10th September 2026

MARIA'S NOTES :



Welcome to all children, parents and teachers. We wish you all a fantastic year 2026-2027. A very warm welcome and we hope you have an enjoyable and rewarding time at ISB.

PAYMENTS by bank transfer: please write your child's name and the invoice number or the reason of the payment (school trip, lunch,...). Thank you

On Monday, in your child's bag, you will find the **subscription form** from the famous French publisher **ECOLE DES LOISIRS**. Choose the 'abonnement groupé' as it is less expensive and will be given to your child at school, **from Early to Grade 9**. It's very useful to be able to read French books if you want to improve your French skills.

L'école des loisirs



Traffic rules to be followed at school / on school premises :

The morning and afternoon **drop-off area** is used exclusively for its intended purpose. So please do not park there!!!

If you wish to stay for a few minutes, use the car park and leave this area free.

I would like to remind you that the parking spaces alongside the school buildings are strictly reserved for school staff.

PRIMARY SCHOOL PICK-UP TIME

Please could we ask parents picking up their children, at the end of the day, to come closer to the double doors or the gates, depending on where you collect your child from.

This will make it easier for your child, or their class teacher, to spot you before they send your child to you.

Thank you for your cooperation!

PRIMARY NEWS

John-Mark Hanrahan

Welcome to all children, parents and teachers. We wish you all a fantastic year 2026-2027. A very warm welcome and we hope you have an enjoyable and rewarding time at ISB.



It's been a busy start to the year in the Primary School, with students and teachers alike returning to school with great enthusiasm. The students that are new to the school, have been welcomed by their classmates and already seem to be very settled in their classes.

We'd like to give a special mention to the new Early Years children who have all been so brave throughout this first week and a half, especially as, for some of them, it's the first time that they have been left by their parents.

After just one week, there are already signs of inspiring work being produced all around the school and we'd like to invite you all to the **Primary Open Evening on Thursday 17th October**, during which you will be able to see some of this work, and have an informal chat with your children's teachers. It is a great opportunity also for your children to show you their new classrooms.

All parents are welcome to visit the school, with their children, **between 15.30 and 17.15** on this day. This is not a time to talk to the teachers about your individual child's progress, however, as always, if you do feel that you need a meeting, you can arrange another time for this with the teacher.



On Monday, we had our first whole school assembly, and even the brilliantly behaved Reception class joined us. It was encouraging to see that the children remembered the behaviour expectations during the assembly, as they all sat beautifully and were quick to contribute when asked - What a great start!

The theme of the assembly was '**Helping Others Feel Welcome**'. We discussed different ways in which we can be made to feel welcome e.g. physical gestures (smiles, nods, thumbs up etc); welcoming words (Nice to meet you, welcome, good morning etc); bright colourful classrooms (Like we like to see at ISB); inviting others to play; and lots of other ideas that the children came up with.

We then read a story about a girl who was starting at a new school where she didn't speak the same language as everybody else. She was very nervous, but her teachers and her classmates found different ways in which to make her feel welcome. We agreed that being made to feel welcome, makes people feel like they belong, and so during the next week, we are all going to try to make everyone feel welcome at ISB, whether we are a student that's been here for a long time, or if we are a new student.



Mr Hanrahan is looking forward to next week's assembly where he will be looking out for some impeccably dressed children to come to the front and show case what a **perfect school uniform** should look like. We are really proud of our uniform as ISB, and so it is important that we wear all of it, and not just some of it. This includes school shoes, that should be ALL black, ALL brown, or white sandals.



Can we also remind parents that we have a strict **NO JEWELLERY**. Please understand that for many reasons, including health and safety, that we do not allow any jewellery **apart from small stud earrings**. You have chosen to send your children to ISB, where we have a school uniform, and so we ask you to please adhere to our uniform rules.

Over the next few weeks, the famous 'uniform scanner' will be out and about, and if it spots perfect uniforms, the children in question will be awarded 10 house points in the following week's assembly!

Classes across the school are currently voting for this term's **Student Councillors and House Captains**. We will find out next week, who they are, when they will then begin their extra responsibilities around the school, including having very important 'school business' meetings with Mr Hanrahan, once a week.

*** Don't forget to label all items of clothes, bags, etc. with your child's name. Please ask Miss Marjorie for a special felt tip pen!**

LIBRARY HELPERS

As usual, **we are looking for parent volunteers**, to help us collect and allocate reading books in the lower primary library each morning from 0845 – 0915. If you have time and are interested in helping, please **drop an email to john-mark.hanrahan@isbearn.com**



HEALTHY SNACKS



For Foundation and Primary: Can we please remind parents that it is a school policy that children only bring in fresh fruit or vegetables for snack time. This rule applies to all children from Early Years to Grade 6. Chocolates, biscuits, compotes and other snacks are not permitted (only after school, before clubs / garderie). Thank you for your support with this healthy initiative!

GREEN TRIP RESIDENTIALS

Thank you to those parents who came to the information meetings regarding our upcoming residential to Aldudes (G1-3) and Arette (G4-6).

You can find the presentations from the meetings on Team ISB, by logging into your child's Microsoft Teams account. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher; or you can email Mr Hanrahan.

We have extended registrations for the trips, and so you can register using the links below, until Monday 14th September.

ALDUDES (G1-3) - <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/YHrcJdfK8m>

ARETTE (G4-6) - <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/SCfzGCmtDd>

IMPORTANT DATES:

Friday 11th September ISB x PTA welcome drinks 1700-1930 All families welcome

Thursday 17th September (15.30 -17.15) - EYFS & Primary school Open Evening

Friday 25th September – Primary school French Day (more info to come)

Thursday 1st October to Friday 2nd October – Grades 1-3 residential to Aldudes

Wednesday 30th September to Friday 2nd October – Grade 4-6 residential to Arette

Friday 20th October – LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - MUFTI DAY (Non-uniform)

It has been wonderful to see **Early Years** children settling in so beautifully, becoming familiar with their new environment, and making new friends. They have been busy learning daily routines and enjoying lots of fun activities, including painting, water play, and story time. Well done, everyone, on such a fantastic start!





We are so proud of **Reception** children who have settled well into their new school routine. They are enjoying learning and playing together while exploring what makes each of them unique and understanding the importance of being part of a community.







After a first day photo, **Grade 1** spent a week of working and playing hard. We did so many activities but here are some photos of our holiday recount paintings and some Maths work revising numbers to 20. Please log into Teams and go to Photographs to see more images of your lovely children!





Grade 2 have been settling into their new class with some fun team building games in PE. We have also been enjoying eating our lunch outside with Grade 3. In Geography we have been talking about mountains and exploring the village of Aldudes in the Basque Country ready for our school trip in a few weeks tome. We enjoyed using Google Earth to spot human and physical geography features in the village. We have also been learning about living and non living things in science.







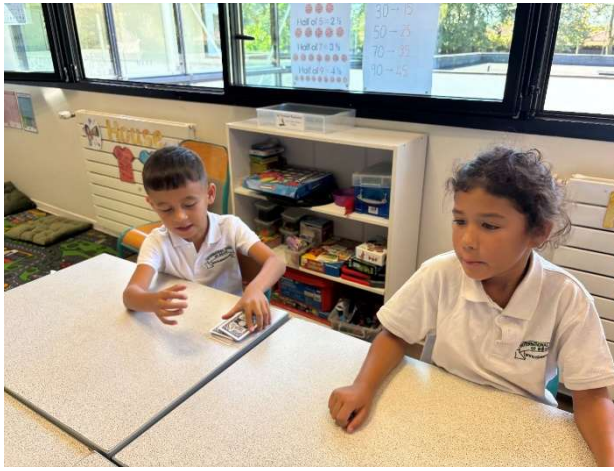
Thinking about healthy eating and balanced diets in **Grade 3** science.





Lots of fun and games during the first few days of grade 3!





Here is a little sneak peek into **Grade 4**. Painting the earth (inside and out), team work, and astronaut advert planning! Well done to you all 🙌.



Grade 5 got started on their new science topic *Life Cycles* by “planting” some peas in a plastic bag to observe over the next few weeks 🌱🌸🍷🍷

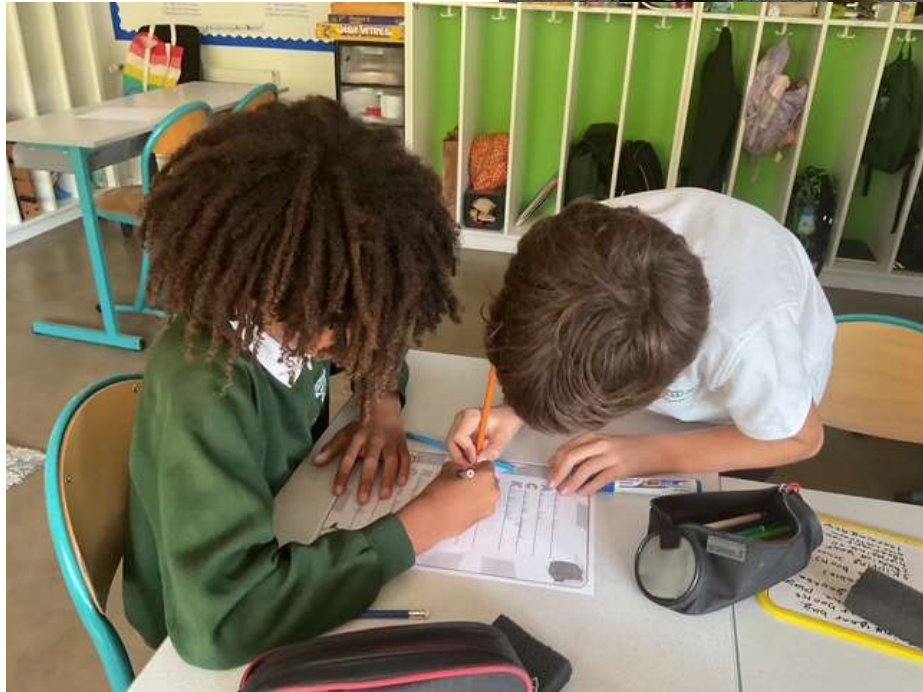


Grade Five worked in their house teams to design a giant marble run!



The first few days in **Grade 6** were spent welcoming new students, getting to know each other again and working together.





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In **Biology** **Grade 12** are off to a great start. Students are doing core practical 1, using a semi-quantitative method to assess the concentration of fruit juice, using colour standards.





In Sports, **Grades 9-11** went to a tree climbing session (Sauvagnon forest)







SECONDARY UPDATE

Ann Byrne

Welcome to all our Secondary parents old and new! It is hard to believe that we are already in the second week of term. This Secondary section of Maria's Newsletter will always contain relevant information for the coming weeks.

Planning Ahead – G10 Work Experience

All G10 students are encouraged to participate in 'Work Experience' or here in France you will hear this referred to as 'un stage'. Ideally students should research and approach local employers to find work experience in a field that interests them, and in which they may wish to pursue a future career; in reality it is often the parent's workplace or 'friend of the family' who offer the work placements. Regardless of how the work placement is found it offers a great experience for students to spend time in a work environment and to learn valuable skills.

Work placements should be:

- 1 – 2 weeks in duration
- **Organised for a time during school holidays**

Students/parents will need to:

- Contact Maria for a 'Convention du Stage' ahead of the work placement
- Email Ms Byrne ann.byrne@isbearn.com after the work experience with details of the dates of the placement and the employers contact details.

Grade 10 is an ideal year for students to undertake work experience and we thoroughly recommend that students take advantage of this being a 'lighter' year before exams take place; however, **it is also possible to complete work experience in the higher grades and the same criteria apply as listed above.**

Parents Evenings, Exams and Report Dates for Term 1

Date	Event
13 October	G10 Parents Evening 16:00 – 17:50
15 October	G7, 8, 9 Progress Reports published
12 November	Update emails sent to G11 parents if concerns ahead of mock exams
17 November	G12 and 13 Parents Evening 16:00 – 17:50
29 Nov – 10 Dec	G11, 12, 13 Mock Exams
15 December	G7, 8, 9, 10 End of Term reports published

Dates for your Calendar

Date(s)	Event
11 September	PTA/ISB's Cocktail get-together 17:00 – 19:30
15 September	Secondary Open Afternoon 15:00 – 17:45
21 – 23 September	KS3 (G7, 8, 9) trip to St Pée
23 – 25 September	KS4 and KS5 (G 10, 11, 12, 13) trip to Chateau Roland



*Have a nice week
Très Bonne Semaine
Maria*