

THE ISO *Gazette*

#1

OCTOBER 2018



INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF
ORADEA





Dear ISO Family,

We are happy to welcome you to the first newsletter for our school. You will receive the newsletter at the end of each half term, including the highlights of the recent events, key dates in the next half term and information about how you can further support your child's learning.

Going through the highlights of our events, you will read about the youngest members of our school. Butterflies have achieved an important milestone in their life by accommodating to their new environment. The other group in our EYFS department is Busy Bees who are living up to their name and have been very busy with a variety of activities, which I hope you will read with a smile on your face. In the Primary department of the school, the Evergreens have been exploring many new things and getting to work together as a team. Ms. Cathy's group have been enjoying the time they spent at their corner shop when practicing numbers and currencies and in their Science lessons they have made their first observations.

In this first issue of our newsletter, I strongly recommend you read the article which Ms. Cathy has kindly written for us regarding an important topic; "Spelling Can Be Fun".

In the final section of the newsletter, you will see a list of key dates in the second half term. Our calendar is filled with important events which starts with Autumn Festival, a Safeguarding workshop for our parents, Family Bingo Evening, the launch of Friends of ISO, celebrating 100 years of Romania, Winter Performance...

I would like to thank all of the team for making these events possible and I am looking forward to seeing your presence so that we can provide our students with a positive environment just before the New Year.

Enjoy your reading!

Ahmet Dündar

EYFS

Early Years Foundation Stage



Nursery: Butterflies

Butterflies is ISO's Nursery class. From the very beginning we tried to be friends, to share the toys, to walk in line nicely and to behave kindly.

We are happy to play and to have fun together every day. We enjoy singing, dancing, telling rhymes, finger-painting, listening to stories and playing funny games. We created some very nice autumn crafts and we enjoyed our outdoor activities.

We are looking forward for new adventures to step in!



EYFS

Early Years Foundation Stage



FS: Busy Bees

Busy Bees is ISO's Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) class. The children know each other, know all of their teachers, have set the class' rules and work very nicely together. They are happy children and a very creative class.

Busy Bees have been involved in many autumn crafts that they created with pleasure. Children love English and even when playing they speak in English! Busy Bees have started Phase 1 phonics, where they have enjoyed playing listening games and trying to guess the sounds they hear. The range of sounds include environmental and instrumental sounds and discovering rhythm and rhyme in speech and rhyming stories and clapping out syllables.

We have also introduced alliteration, which focuses on initial sounds of words, playing activities including I-Spy and matching objects which begin with the same sound. Playing these games at home will help to reinforce your child's learning.



EYFS

Early Years Foundation Stage



As well as this the children are starting to produce their own sounds and are developing their speaking and listening skills, forming the basis of their English phonic, reading and writing progression.



The Busy Bees celebrated The Modern Foreign Languages Day and The World Teachers' Day and enjoyed learning and playing with the whole school at the Beach Day.

Our EYFS students like number games, love to count different objects and to write. They are truly the class of the Busy Bees!

We love technology!

Scarecrow craft



Spelling can be FUN



How do you help your child learn to spell new words? How do you get them to remember the spelling, use it in their writing and remember what the word means?

There are many ways to help children improve their spelling. The key is to not only help them learn strategies to remember the spelling, but to also use the word in a sentence. Reading plays a huge role in learning to spell as it helps reinforce the spelling of words without the child even realizing. It is one of the best ways to help your child learn new vocabulary.

Reading allows children to come across words they wouldn't usually hear or use. Children will often try and figure out what the new vocabulary means by reading around the word or guessing what the word means. They may also try and use the new words they have learnt from reading in their writing. The more often a child uses a new word in their writing, the more likely they are to learn to spell the word and remember how to spell it.



How do children learn to spell?



- Children can learn to spell words in different ways:
- by sounding out the word;
 - breaking the word up into syllables (No-vem-ber);
 - learning to spell the word by sight.



How do children learn to spell?



Your child might learn their spellings better if it is turned into a game. Teaching your child to spell in a fun way will encourage them to learn the words and remember them.

I remember my parents teaching us spellings; they were keen that their six children should excel at spelling, as they did in their school days.

A day at the nearby beach was often used to practise words. We would find a stick each and wander down to the hard wet sand and carve the words mum and dad suggested.

In our younger days we would write our names, we would see who could write the **biggest** letters possible across the sand!



How do children learn to spell?



Other times we pretended to be stranded and carve HELP in large letters.

As we grew and spellings were an established homework, we would write the same word several times, and then we'd compete against the clock and each other; the sibling with the most correctly spelt words in the time given was the winner!

We were lucky to have huge empty sandy beaches!

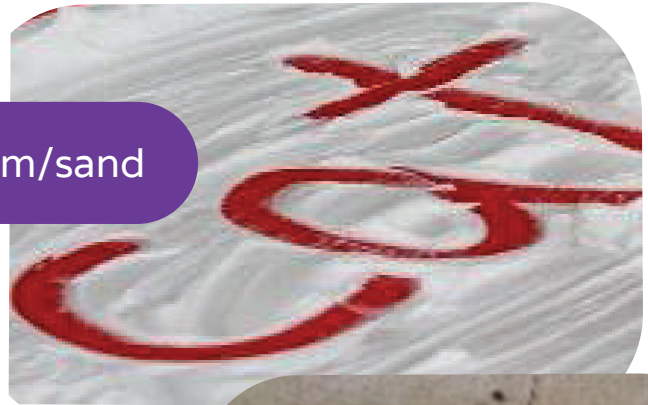


How do children learn to spell?



So, here are some quick fun games you can play to teach your child to spell. Take care to choose games that are relevant to your child's age and needs, for example using a dictionary and the stairstep activity would be suitable for children in year two, three and four.

Write the words in shaving foam/sand



Spell each word using scrabble letters, magnetic letters or cut out letters from magazines



Write the words in rainbow colours



Challenge your child to find each word in a dictionary, you could even set a time limit and see who finishes first

How do children learn to spell?



Stairsteps: Write the words as if they are stairs, adding one letter at a time

S
Sp
Spe
Spel
Spell

Pairs using spelling flashcards.
Write the words your child needs to learn onto cards. Each word will need to be written out twice i.e. 2 cards for each word. Mix the cards and place them face down on a table. Take it in turns to turn cards over. Read the words on the cards. If they match, you keep them, if they don't match turn them face down again. The person with the most pairs of words is the winner.

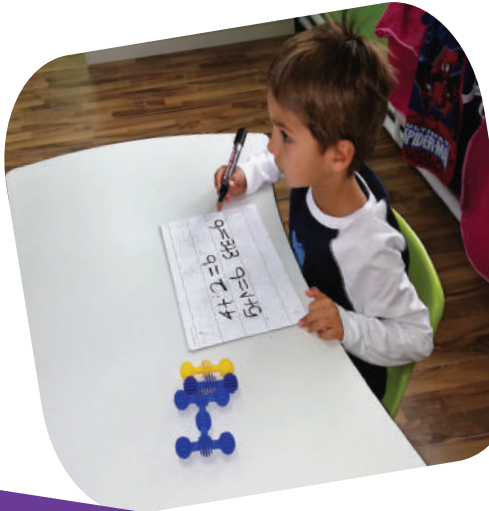
Water painting; Use water and a paintbrush to water paint the spelling words. On a hot, sunny day, words disappear quickly—so spellers have to move fast!

Learn spellings by clapping them.
You can clap each syllable
e.g. app - le, break - fast, diff - er - ence

How do children learn to spell?



Spell and Eat: While making breakfast, lunch, or dinner, have your child spell a word, and after each word is spelled correctly, reward her with a small, healthy “treat” from your meal prep.



Examine the Word: Really look at the words, talking about the tough parts and analysing patterns. Make up ways of remembering the ‘tough’ parts: ‘friend’ has an ‘l’ in the middle because I can be a friend!, OR big elephants can always understand small elephants is a good way to remember the word because.

Turn the words your child needs to learn into an anagram, can they rearrange the letters to spell the words e.g. rednfi = friend



Ask your child to create a word search using the spelling words they need to learn.

How do children learn to spell?



With a computer and other electronics:



Spell on Tape: Have your child spell the words into a tape recorder or using the voice recorder on your phone or computer.

Type it Out: Open up a Word document and have your child type the spelling words on the screen as you call them out. Enlarge the font, colour it, and he'll have a ball.



Video Record: Take a video of your child spelling the words. Have him put on a funny hat, dress-up, or use a silly prop to add to the fun.



How Do You Remember Spelling Words?



LOOK, SAY, COVER, WRITE, CHECK

This is a method commonly used to help children learn and remember how to spell words.

Look: Look at how the word is spelt.

Say: Look at the word and say it. Break the word into smaller chunks, e.g. 'she' to sh / e.

Cover: Look at the word and say it. Cover the word, try and see it in your mind.

Write: Look at the word, say it, cover it and say it. Write the word without looking.

Check: Cover the word and see if you can write it.

How Do You Remember Spelling Words?



You can test your child on the spellings they have learnt. You can check to see if your child understands the meaning of a word by asking them to make a sentence (verbally or written) using the word, or by writing a sentence.

Finally, learn a few words each evening, leaving it to the night before the test is not a good idea! Spellings learned like this are often put into “short term memory” therefore are easily forgotten.

Learning how to spell words is one of the most useful lifelong skills and it builds the basic foundation that all children will need throughout their education and life in general.

I hope you find this article useful. You will find many of these activities and other suggestions on the following sites:

- childdevelopmentinfo.com/learning/tips-for-helping-kids-and-teens-with-homework-and-study-habits/spelling/#.W775PmgzaUk
- teachmama.com/fun-ways-to-learn-spelling-words/
- www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/help-with-spelling/



How you can help: ISO family advice



As this is the first edition this section has been compiled by the ISO staff. Thank you for your contributions.

- remember to sign your child's reading record book after reading together
- encourage the school rules
- play together with your children
- encourage your child to complete and return their homework on time

If you have any ideas to share with the ISO community related to school, please email Ms Ebony at ebony.ellis@isor.ro and we will include them in the next edition. Please include if you would like your suggestions published named or anonymously.



Primary

Years 1-4



Year 1

The start to Year 1 has been a busy one, learning phonemes, numbers, about ourselves, countries and colour mixing, just to name a few things. Alongside all of this we have had the time and energy to sing, dance and act! Our favourite activities have been:

- learning sounds;
- learning to use finger spaces;
- running.

Counting forwards and backwards to 10 with our fingers, a song and a dance!



Writing and drawing in corn flour, to help our fine motor skills.



Primary

Years 1-4



Working independently



Working together



Presenting our homework



Primary Years 1-4



In our Topic about My Family and I, we have been learning about the world around us and starting with our school and our favourite places around our school. We then started to think about the city, country and continent that we live in, as well as we have previously lived and where our families are from.

Evergreens: Is it topic time?

Ms.: Yes

Evergreens: Yeaayy!



Primary

Years 1-4



In this short time, we have had a lot of fun.

The Evergreen children now know the seven continents, of which they know that Europe is where we live.

We had fun times understanding the difference between a county and a country, but have mostly been successful in this difficult task.

We know that:

- we live in Oradea, which is a city in Romania;
- Romania is a country in the continent of Europe;
- Europe is one of the seven continents.

Furthermore, we have also learned about the five oceans! (Although Evergreens find it more exciting to call them “the big waters”.)

To sum up, Asia, Africa, North and South America, Antarctica, Europe, and finally, Oceania. 🎵🎵...



Primary

Years 1-4



Year 2: Oaks

The children are all well settled into year two, and have begun their learning journeys. In maths we have been focussing on place value, addition and subtraction and money. We have (at your children's) request set up a Corner Shop to help with counting coins and giving change. So learning our number bonds to 10 and 20 is most important!

Our reading and writing has been based on Fables and Traditional Tales. Phonics are taught each day and a weekly spelling list has been successfully introduced. Our topic is Me and my Family and through this we have explored family roots and traditions, family members, where we live, and how we feel.

We have studied a local map and tried to create a simple map from our classroom to the multi - purpose room! The language of direction is so important.

In art we have worked with powder paints and are slowly building up a self -portrait, we have enjoyed clapping and counting rhythms in music and are trying to work together to play a simple tune. A busy half term!

I wish you all a happy half term holiday!

Primary

Years 1-4



Shared work



Pricing items for our shop



Money video game

Primary

Years 1-4



At the beach



Library time



Counting money

Primary

Years 1-4



Year 3/4: Tigers

Tigers are the oldest year group at ISO. So far they have got to know each other and their teachers. They decided on their class rules and in one of our PSHE lessons, they commented on some of the rules at home, coming to the conclusion that rules are important to have in any society so that everyone can feel safe, respected and heard.

During the topic lessons, they have found out about different countries in Europe, about the neighbouring countries to Romania and also their own countries. They have drawn a map of the way from their home to the school.

In science we have been discussing regarding the dark and light theme since the beginning of the year. Knowing what the darkness is, playing with shadows and also starting to make some scientific observations.



Parent Teacher Association: "Friends of I.S.O"



We would like to bring to your attention our plan to form a Parent Teacher Association (PTA), called "Friends of I.S.O".

The main purpose of a PTA in school is to develop effective relationships and communications between the staff, parents and others associated with the school, with the outcome of creating the best learning environment for the children which will help their development both academically, socially and personally. This is mostly achieved through engaging in fund-raising activities.

For this school year we have in mind different projects, such as: new and interactive activities for the students, organizing field trips, sustaining a charitable foundation, etc.

We hope you will become involved in helping us making them a reality.

The first step is to start the "Friends of I.S.O", so we kindly invite the interested parents, on 16th Nov at 2:30pm for a discussion about forming the PTA. Please sign up on MyEducare if you are interested in this.

Upcoming Dates



31st October: school photographs

31st October: Autumn Festival

2nd November: Safeguarding workshop for parents - 14.30

5th November: Return orders for Scholastic Book Club

9th November: Family Bingo evening - 18.00 (further details to follow)

16th November: Friends of ISO meeting - 14.30

29th November: 100 days of school & 100 years of Romania event - 10.30 (further details to follow)

30th November: School closed

5th December: Term 1 reports sent home

10th December: Optional Parent Consultation to discuss reports

18th December: Winter Performance (details to follow)

21st December: EYFS and Primary Assembly - 11.15

21st December: last day of school, 12.00 finish

Let's Celebrate!



In our assemblies we enjoy learning new information and thanking and celebrating each other's' achievements.

This half term we have said thank you to:

- Pastor: for having the correct uniform in the first 2 weeks, great work during the lessons;
- Mihai: for putting in an effort and starting to use some English;
- Pastor: for perfect attendance and never being late;
- Wyatt: for helping to set up the shop and helping other children to calculate change;
- Alexia: for showing kindness to others and inviting children to play;
- Blake: always trying hard and completing tasks;
- Max: for being helpful to others;
- Elijah: for being brave and coming into class more independently;
- Xavier: for improved listening and following of instructions;
- Nimet Eda: for always being happy and welcoming.

In our celebration assembly, on 16th October, we celebrated the work of:

- Alexandru: for always being engaged in busy fingers activities when he comes into the classroom in the morning;
- Gaia: for trying her best in class and with her homework;
- Alexia: always doing her best and producing lovely work;
- Wyatt: starting to show signs of development with his communication skills;
- Ana: being very engaged at all times of the science lessons.



Thank you for all of your
support this half term.

Best wishes,
The ISO Team