How does our Home Language help with the learning of English?

- Skills that your child learns in one language can be transferred to another language. For example, reading prediction skills, learning new phonics, or learning to edit their own writing.
- Spending time using your Home Language with your children will reinforce their confidence that they can communicate successfully at a high level, and encourage them to aspire to do the same in English.
- Your child is more likely to build the crucial habit of reading for pleasure if they also read in their Home Language. Regular reading for pleasure has a positive impact on every single school subject— even maths!

“Students learn English more quickly and effectively when they maintain and develop their Home Language.”

Why else is it important to continue to develop Home Language skills?

- Children may return to their home country at some point, so it is important for them to continue to learn their Home Language.

- Language is closely tied to culture. Children who continue to study their Home Language are less likely to feel alienated from their home country, or worry about loss of identity.

- Continuing to learn two or more languages helps your child to be more internationally-minded.

What can I do to help my child continue to learn their Home Language?

- Organise regular lessons with a native-speaking teacher.

- Read stories in Home Language together—the library at ISA is currently developing its collection to support a wider range of languages.

- Talk about their schoolwork at home in your Home Language, so they can learn new academic vocabulary in both languages.

- Search Youtube for fun-but-appropriate music videos and other clips in your Home Language.

- Organise regular Skype chats with friends or family who speak the same Home Language.

- Find a good quality radio/TV station online in your Home Language, and listen/watch regularly together.