



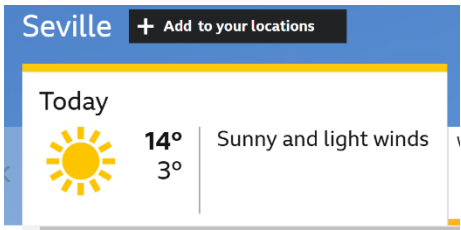
SPANISH NEWSLETTER

Hola, hola! I cannot believe another half term has gone by! Time flies when you are having fun! And as each half-term, here I am to tell you more things about me and Spain.



I came to Northern Ireland in 2012 as you all probably know by now. The last 7 years I have spent Christmas here, but this year I am so excited I will be going to Spain. Not too sure though if Mrs Sánchez is so happy to have me back after spending all summer there with her! I was not planning on going until I saw this picture a few weeks ago... my first thought was... Where is her coat? Where is her scarf? Where is the grey sky? So instantly without thinking I bought a flight!

That opens a debate really about the weather in Spain, do we get nice warm sunny weather all year around? The answer is **IT DEPENDS ON THE REGION!!** Andalucía (South of Spain) is 7 times bigger than Northern Ireland, so If here I leave the house in Belfast in a nice and sunny day and I arrive to Glengormley, and it is grey covered in snow...What do you think it happens in Spain? The same, weather changes from region to region



Now exams are out of our way and with the festive spirit we will be enjoying some Christmas activities within the Spanish department. Our students will learn some **Spanish traditions** that I will kindly share with you all.

There is no Santa Claus in Spain, instead, the presents are usually delivered to children on 6th January by **Los Reyes Magos**, the Three Wise Men.



Almost every person in Spain takes part in the Christmas lottery, usually buying a fraction of a ticket and choosing the same numbers as their friends or colleagues. This unique Christmas lottery is known as '**El Gordo**,' which means 'the fat one.' The winning numbers are usually revealed on live TV throughout the morning of December 22nd. Additionally, local school children sing the winning numbers and the jackpot amounts!

Spaniards eat grapes to celebrate New Year: In Spain, the tradition of eating 12 grapes on New Year's Eve (Nochevieja) is a ritual to bring good luck for each month of the upcoming year and it is called "**Las campanadas**". At midnight on December 31st, Spaniards eat one grape with each chime of the clock, symbolising prosperity, and success.



El portal de Belén: As Spain is traditionally a Catholic country, many believers choose to remember the original meaning of Christmas and display these models of Bethlehem, scenes which use small models and figures to represent the Nativity Scene of the birth of Jesus.

April Fools' Day in December: Here and in many other cultures, we are used to having April Fools' Day on 1st April. Spain is different and they do it on 28th December with the **Día de los Santos Inocentes**. Watch your back if you're in Spain on this day because you might be in for a surprise.



¿QUÉ HEMOS ESTADO APRENDIENDO? WHAT HAVE WE BEEN LEARNING?

YEAR 8

We have been busy revising some of the vocabulary learnt prior to Halloween and learning new content for our first ever Spanish exams! We have focused on the skill of reading in our assessments. Year 8 has really smashed it this term! BIEN HECHO!

Students have been learning about **Mi Vida** (My Life), mastering, and expanding on previous knowledge from last year. This term we have focused on the skill of reading in our assessments. In the New Year we will prioritise developing our skills in writing and speaking Spanish....exciting times ahead!!

YEAR 9

Students have been learning about **Spanish Speaking countries**. Our pupils have learnt not only vocabulary and grammar but facts about other Spanish Speaking countries. This term we have focused on Reading and Writing skills and we will soon start preparing for our Speaking exam 😊.

YEAR 10

We have welcomed our second GCSE class this year! In year 11 this term we have focused on one of the GCSE topics from content 1: freetime, leisure and daily routines. Pupils have been tested on Listening, Reading and Writing this term which was new to them, so really well done to all of pupils!

YEAR 11

YEAR 12

At the start of November, Year 12 completed a self-evaluation to highlight the topics they were confident in, and the areas where they would like most support. Following this, lessons focused on 'My Studies and School Life' and 'Home and Local Area'. Pupils completed winter assessments in reading, listening, and writing. In term 2, they will complete a speaking exam.

Hope you all have a lovely Christmas surrounded by all your loves ones. I cannot wait to hear all about it. If you do not hear about me in January is because I won “El Gordo” and decided not to come back lol.



Head of Spanish

The serious stuff...

¡Hola! I'm Mrs Stanfield, your new Head of Spanish. I'm excited to be a part of the ICG family and I've really enjoyed getting to know students and staff over the last 6 weeks. Although new to our school community, I am not new to this role. I've been Head of Modern Languages for over a decade in another non-selective post-primary school. Before my career in post-primary, I taught languages in nursery, primary and further education. My youngest pupils were 3 years' old and my most 'mature' was 89!

I am a GCSE Examiner with CCEA, a PGCE Tutor with Queen's University Belfast and I recently delivered a webinar for the Education Authority as part of their Teacher Professional Learning series 'Language Landscape'.



Fun facts...

- My forename was made up by my mum and dad! It's a combination of their names.
- I'm a mum of three – to two humans and one fur baby!
- I have lived in Germany and Spain.
- This time last year, I could not run at all... and a few months ago I ran the Laganside 10K! I also completed the Air Ambulance 5K recently – it was an amazing experience to run along the runway at Belfast City Airport in the dark!