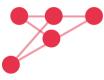
# Welcome Guide 2025-2026



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### Welcome ISU families

Dear parents and caregivers,

The purpose of this Welcome Guide is to give you all the information you will need regarding the first weeks of school, as well as guiding you towards the essential information you will need throughout the year.

Please enjoy reading the welcome information.

With warm regards,

Marieke Folkers Head of School



### **School website**

The <u>school website</u> is a very important resource for parents, and we encourage you to become familiar with it. It contains a wealth of information including the annual calendar and holidays, information on day-to-day life and learning, along with links to all school policies, news articles, social media and videos.

In the 'For Parents' section of the website, you will find PYP, MYP and DP documents, along with information about Youth Healthcare, The Participation Council and the library. Further information about how to login will be sent after the summer.

Please read this Welcome Guide together with the School Guide which is to be found in the documents section of the website. It provides a very useful reference guide and a complete overview of the school.

## School holidays

#### Holidays 2025-2026

First day of school: Wednesday 03 Sep

Autumn Break: Sat 18 Oct - Sun 26 Oct 2025

Winter Break: From 13:00 on Thu 18 Dec 2025 - Mon 5 Jan 2026

Spring Break: Sat 14 Feb - Sun 22 Feb 2026

Easter: Mon 06 Apr 2026

May Break: Sat 18 Apr - Tue 5 May 2026 Ascension: Thu 14 May & Fri 15 May 2026

Whitsun: Mon 25 May 2026

Summer Holiday: Fri 17 Jul - Tue 1 Sep 2026

#### Professional development days staff

On these days there is no school for students:

Wed 15 Oct 2025

Fri 21 Nov 2025

Wed 10 Dec 2025: PYP Early finish 12:00 (Report writing)

Mon 05 Jan 2026 Tue 24 Mar 2026

Wed 10 Jun 2026: PYP Early finish 12:00 (Report writing)

Thu 11 Jun 2026

Thu 17 Jul 2026: All students Early finish 11:30



## Calendar and Important dates

The school calendar is published on the ISU App and will be updated throughout the year.

Wednesday 03 September: first full day of school.

Wednesday 03 September: introduction meeting at 8.45 for all **NEW** parents.

Tuesday 09 September:

- PYP: Primary Information Afternoon (15:00 16:00)
- MYP & DP: Meet the mentor + Trip Info (17:00 18:00)

Wednesday 10 September: PYP: Get to Know You Meetings (15:00 – 16:00)

Thursday 11 September: PYP: Get to Know You Meetings (12:00 – 16:30)

Friday 19 September: Whole School Coffee Morning (08:30)

Please find more information in this presentation: Parent Information 2025-2026 Academic Year



### Staff 2025-2026

Please find a complete overview of our staff on our school website. There you will find <u>Leadership</u>, <u>secondary staff</u>, <u>primary staff</u> and <u>support staff</u>.

We warmly welcome our new staff and know that they will be supported by the whole ISU community. New staff members will be uploaded onto the website until end of August.



## Starting dates for new students

The first day of the 2025-2026 school year is Wednesday 3 September.

For families arriving at different stages during the year, we have fixed dates for the 2025-26 school year. Please note that you cannot start at any other date than the dates listed below.

17 September

1 October (Not for students joining grades 8 and 10 due to Excursions

5 November

3 December (Not for students joining grades 9 and 10 due to Assessment Week)

7 January

4 February

4 March

1 April

6 May

3 June (KG student only)



## **School hours**

School opens at 08:00 for all students. Primary students are supervised in the Aula before going to their classrooms at 08:20. Secondary students are welcome to wait in the Secondary Library.

**Primary** student lessons start at 08:30 and finish at 14:30 every day. It is very important to be on time for school, **learning starts promptly at 08:30.** 

**Secondary** students have their lessons according to a timetable. We strive to finish most secondary classes at 14:30, however older students might occasionally finish at 15:30 or 16:45.

## Primary - First day

School starts on Wednesday 03 September 2025.

We expect all **new** Primary students at 08:15, in the main hall of our school.

School starts on Wednesday 03 September at 08.30 for all students.

While the children start their first day of the new school year, we invite **new parents** to an introduction meeting at 08.45 in the main hall.

School finishes at 14:30 for all Primary students.

## Primary - What to bring to school

Every day students must bring a healthy packed snack, a packed healthy lunch and water bottle. Please label these items with your child's name. You could choose to use a <u>labelling product</u> for this.

Please bring a pair of indoor shoes to wear in class - these shoes will stay at school for the remainder of the year

#### Kindergarten

A complete set of clearly marked clothes, including: a shirt, trousers, underwear and socks, to allow for accidents. Please bring these packed in a labelled ziploc bag. For kindergarten, please have easy fastening velcro shoes, with a proper sole.

#### Early years- Kindergarten and Grade 1

To encourage independence, please dress your child in clothing and shoes they can change themselves. We also ask that you dress your child appropriately for the weather, as we will play outside no matter rain, sun, snow or wind.

On Physical Education days (PE): students are encouraged to wear sports clothing; T-shirt, shorts, sweatpants, or sweatshirt. Please avoid open shoes for safety and comfort reason.

#### **Rainbow class**

A complete set of clearly marked clothes, including: a shirt, trousers, underwear and socks, to allow for accidents. Please bring these packed in a labelled ziploc bag. For some students, <u>please have easy fastening velcro shoes</u> with a proper sole.



## Primary - What to bring to school

#### Grade 2

As part of Physical Health Education Personal (PHE), Grade 2 students attend swimming lessons. On this day, please send a bag with a towel and swimming costume.

#### Grade 2-5

On Physical Health Education (PHE) days, please send a set of sports clothes, including: a T-shirt, shorts or tracksuit trousers, socks and indoor gym shoes (non-marking soles). The students will need to be able to change into their own PHE clothes.

## Primary – Protective gear

#### **Outside play**

Primary students go outside during playtime every single day. Unless it is pouring with rain or there is a thunderstorm (safety), students go outside. It is important for students to get some fresh air, run around and burn off some energy enabling them to self-regulate for learning in the classroom.

Our primary playground gets muddy in the autumn, winter and early spring. That is why all primary students need to bring protective, waterproof gear (waterproof trousers/jacket/wellington boots). You can buy this at shops, such as Scapino, Decathlon, C&A or Hema. Parents need to clearly label items with their child's name. We will store protective gear in school and parents can take the waterproof suits home every Friday to clean.

#### KG-Grade 2

Teachers (KG-Grade 2) will ensure every student puts on their protective gear before going outside to play.

#### Grade 3-5

Teachers from Grades 3-5 will remind students that if they don't put on protective gear, they cannot play in the mud.



## Primary – Teacher welcome

To help you get to know our wonderful team of teachers we have made these 'first impression' short video clips:

#### Welcome videos for the 2025-26 academic year

□KGI https://www.youtube.com/shorts/c-5i SLpXwQ

□KG2 https://youtu.be/ib2BYI9aNms

□Rainbow Class https://youtu.be/tCOER\_NpEfo

Grade 1 https://www.voutube.com/shorts/m0eLpV4jajY

Grade 2 https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Xayxz7tHkas

Grade 3 https://www.youtube.com/shorts/fMr3a9IU1Mo

Grade 4 https://voutu.be/ghKlt6vM8YI

Grade 5 https://youtu.be/q15iBMDt2zw

#### Primary specialists

□Primary Arts <a href="https://youtu.be/t1Z3CXGbDjo">https://youtu.be/t1Z3CXGbDjo</a>
□Computational Thinking <a href="https://www.youtube.com/shorts/BajnoVIY3is">https://www.youtube.com/shorts/BajnoVIY3is</a>
□ELA team <a href="https://www.youtube.com/shorts/6gdXwMDkG1">https://www.youtube.com/shorts/6gdXwMDkG1</a>

□Library team <a href="https://www.youtube.com/shorts/d2DuDCPMvL4">https://www.youtube.com/shorts/d2DuDCPMvL4</a>



## Secondary - Timetable

Secondary students (MYP and DP) will receive their personal timetable on the portal, Zermelo. This will be given out and explained on the first day of school.

School mostly finishes at 14.30 for secondary students however there are some days that classes will finish at 15:30 or 16:45. All questions regarding the new timetable will be answered during mentor time during the first days at school.



## Secondary – First day

School starts on Wednesday 03 September.

We expect all **new** Secondary students (including grade 6 who attended grade 5 at ISU) at 08.30, in the main hall of our school.

We invite **new** ISU parents to an introduction meeting at 08.45 in the main hall.

We expect all existing students (excluding grade 6 who attended grade 5 at ISU) at 09.30.

#### First Day Schedule:

08:30 New students' arrival (including grade 6 who attended grade 5 at ISU)

09:30 Existing ISU students' arrival **(excluding** grade 6 who attended grade 5 at ISU). Doors open at 09:20 for existing students, all students go to their mentor rooms for lessons. Students will have a detailed programme with their mentor.

11:45 (Period 04) onwards normal Timetable.

14:30 or 15.30 school finishes (depending on the timetable)

Thursday 04 September 2025: Grade 8, Grade 9 and Grade 10 new students only 13:30 (Period 05): Grade 8 English assessments & Grade 9, 10 Maths assessments (more details to be provided on the day)



## Secondary - Supplies

#### MYP/DP classes (grades 6-12)

Students should have:

- pencil case containing black and blue pens, hb pencils, set of colour pencils/pens, 4 x different colour highlighters, pencil sharpener, eraser and glue stick
- ruler, protractor and compass
- 2 notebooks
- A squared paper notebook
- A music notebook (A4 format 50 pages)
- · Folder for class handouts

#### **Maths**

- grades 6-9: scientific calculator (suggested Casio fx-82EX, CASIO fx-991EX)
- grades 11-12: graphing calculator the brand and model must be TI 84 plus

#### PHE (grades 6-10)

- 1-pair of indoor sport shoes (only to be used for indoor activities)
- 1-pair of outdoor sports shoes
- t-shirt, pair of shorts/jogging trousers



## Secondary - Laptops

At ISU, both students and teachers use Apple and the MacBook Air. It has proven to be a very durable, stable, efficient and versatile device, which has the benefit of being compatible with all software and devices we use at ISU. With proper care, this device should serve you well for more than 5 years. As everyone at ISU uses MacBooks, in combination with the extensive experience of our IT department, it is easy to find someone who can help at school, should there ever be any problems. As an added bonus, it also comes with easy to use, built-in parental controls called Screen Time so you can monitor (and if needed, prevent) any inappropriate use of the laptop together with your child.

#### MacBooks & insurance through ISU webshop

All students in secondary require their own personal Apple MacBook for school. The MacBook needs to be directly arranged by parents, and we recommend you use the ISU web shop. (https://isutrecht.dustin.business/login). We further recommend you also purchase 36 months of comprehensive insurance and repairs with your MacBook, which guarantees worldwide coverage. The insurance entitles you to an unlimited number of claims. QSX insurances helps you with all repairs and damage and you can contact them: info@qsx-insurance.com, +31 88 0071007. Please note that if you do not purchase the insurance, you will have to arrange everything regarding repairs yourself.

## Secondary – Laptops repairs

#### Repairs

For repairs we recommend the following two repair centres:

Within the warranty, our advice is: Card IT Support: https://www.carditsupport.nl (This is an Apple Certified Repair centre).

**Outside the warranty** there is another, cheaper option: AWB Computing, + 30 233 4061, address: Amsterdamsestraatweg 75, Utrecht. If you say you are from International School Utrecht, you will receive a 10% discount. However, please note this is not an Apple Certified Repair centre, so any remaining warranty will be broken if you go here.

## **Attendance and Absenteeism**

Every child in the Netherlands has both a right to education and the obligation to attend school. International School Utrecht (ISU) provides a welcoming, safe and supportive learning environment. The Dutch Compulsory Education Act (leerplichtwet) applies to everyone living in the Netherlands, and compulsory education starts on the first day of the new month after a child turns 5 until the end of the school year in which a child turns 18 at ISU.

#### Our expectations:

We expect that all students will	We expect that all parents will
Attend school every day in accordance with the school calendar and timetable.	<ul> <li>Encourage punctual attendance.</li> <li>Notify school of absenteeism via the school app by 07:30</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Arrive to school on time thereby avoiding disruption to their learning and the learning of others.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Inform the school of any home circumstances that might affect the behaviour and learning of their child.</li> </ul>

For more information, please read our <u>Attendance Protocol</u>, which can be found on <u>the school documents page</u> on the website.



## Reporting absence

#### **Reporting sick**

When a student is absent due to sickness or another legitimate reason, parents are requested to inform the school before 07:30 each day the child is absent. This must be done via the school App.

#### **Reporting appointments**

When a student has an appointment that cannot be booked outside school hours, please notify the school before 07:30 via the school App. Please always try to book appointments (doctor, dentist, or municipal) outside of school hours to ensure your child does not miss school unnecessarily. Students are expected to attend school before and/or after all appointments.

#### Sick during the day

When a student feels sick at school, the Welcome Desk will contact the parent(s) and the student must sign out at the desk.

#### Lateness

Students are expected to be in class by 08:30. If a student is late, they will report to the Welcome Desk. Primary student's parents will be invited to a meeting in cases of repeated lateness.

Secondary students swipe in using their student card; the attendance coordinator will be involved, and students may have to report early the following day.



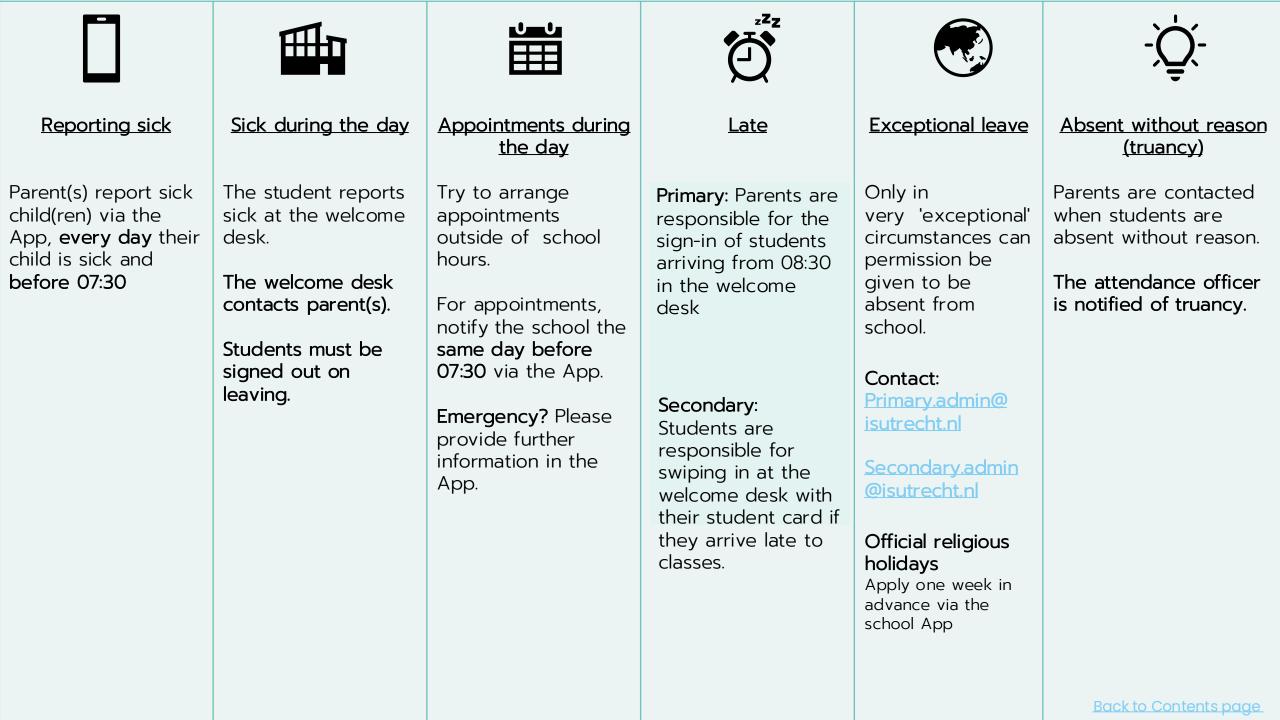
## **Exceptional leave**

In accordance with the Compulsory Education Act, leave outside of the school holidays is **not allowed**. Parents must plan holidays and special events during the official school holidays and in accordance with the school calendar. Exceptional leave can be granted only in very significant circumstances.

The local attendance authority (leerplicht) is responsible for parental compliance with the Dutch Compulsory Education Act and works with ISU in upholding the law. If parents decide to take leave without permission, it can mean parents will be contacted by the attendance authorities (leerplicht). This could also lead to legal proceedings and the imposition of a fine.

Contact <u>secondary.admin@isutrecht.nl</u> or <u>primary.admin@isutrecht.nl</u> should you want to enquire about exceptional leave.





## **School fees**

For details regarding fees and finance please refer to <u>Standard Terms and Conditions 2025–2026</u>.

Any queries regarding finance should be sent to <u>finance@isutrecht.nl</u>.



## School app

The School App is our whole school method of communication, and we ask you to:

#### Please download the ISUtrecht App from the Apple or Google Play stores.

New families will receive an automated email (in Dutch) from 'ParentCom' with a link to set a password on 29 August 2025. In the app click on 'Messages' and then enter the email address on which you received the app password link and the newly created password. Please ensure you leave Notifications on. Please login to the app within 24 hours of receiving the email and check your Junk mailbox if you have not received it by the end of that day.

Do check that you have access to all communication and that you have your child/ren linked by clicking on the 'Messages' block. There you should see a welcome message already in the app. At the top click on 'Personal information' where you should see all your children's names.

Should you have problems with the app, contact Liesl Little or Ingrid Schmoutziguer via info@isutrecht.nl.

## Tools and Platforms for communication

#### **Primary**

Seesaw - individual student communication Managebac - reports

#### Secondary

Magister - parent portal access for insight into secondary attendance and teacher notes Managebac - curriculum, student portal and reports Zermelo - secondary timetable



## Change in personal, financial & medical details

#### Importance of continued updating of personal, financial & medical details

The school must have an accurate data base containing personal, financial & medical details.

#### Families new to the Netherlands

Please provide the school with an update of the mobile numbers and home address. This can be sent to info@isutrecht.nl.

#### Changes in information throughout the year

All families are asked to inform the school of any changes to personal details by emailing info@isutrecht.nl.



## School sportswear

ISU partners with MKH Business who produces our line of school sportswear and sweatshirts. All items can be purchased directly from the <a href="ISU webshop">ISU webshop</a>.

#### Fitting session

Once a school year in the Autumn, ISU hosts a fitting session. Parents will receive an invitation via the school app. If you order within 10 days after this fitting session your purchases will be delivered to school at no extra costs. Please note that you will need to fill in the school address.

#### Ordering throughout the school year?

Your purchases will be delivered to your home at a standard delivery rate. If you choose for this option, please of course use your home address. Please note that having a school sports shirt or hoodie is not compulsory.

## Parent support group (PSG)

Welcome to our parent community, welcome to the PSG!

In joining the school, all parents become part of the Parent Support Group (PSG). The PSG is parents supporting parents within ISU, helping each other settle in and having fun.

Within the PSG, there is a PSG Organising Committee that organises events and they collaborate with ISU leadership and staff to assist in the school. The PSG Organising Committee welcomes willing and committed volunteers, so more events can be organised for the benefit of all. If you are interested, please reach out to the PSG via <a href="mailto:psg@parent.isutrecht.nl">psg@parent.isutrecht.nl</a>.

For all other new parent questions or queries, please feel free to contact the npc@parent.isutrecht.nl.

Join the PSG Facebook group: The PSG Facebook group is a <u>closed parent group</u> where parents share information. Be sure to answer the questions as we limit the group to school families.

We also have an <u>Instagram</u> account.

We look forward to meeting you as a member of the ISU parent community!

The PSG



## Travelling to school

We open the school every morning from 08:00 for primary and secondary students. There will be teachers and support staff to welcome students into the Aula. Kindergarten students will be collected from the Aula at 08:20 by the Teaching Assistants; all other primary students can make their own way to their classrooms at 08:20. The secondary students can wait in the secondary library. Our school is easily reached by bike, public transport and car.

#### **Bicycle**

This is the most popular way to travel to school, and we strongly recommend this. Please use the designated parking. Parked bicycles should always be locked.

#### **Public transport**

We are well connected to bus routes. You can use the following app to assist you in planning your route. <a href="https://www.u-ov.info/reizen/reisplanner">https://www.u-ov.info/reizen/reisplanner</a>

#### Car

#### **Park and Ride**

You are encouraged to use the Park and Ride (P+R) should you wish to bring your child into school by car. This is a service you can use free for 45 minutes at the beginning of the day. The Park and Ride facility is called P+R Papendorp. Please use the P+R for all parent events.

#### **Kiss & Ride**

If you wish to bring your child to school by car for a quick drop off, you can use the Kiss & Ride. Kiss & Ride under the strict conditions that parents use this facility for what it is for. This means parents do not leave the car and children make their own way into school.

Families who pick up children from after school activities and/or BSO can park at the school parking.



## After School Childcare BSO – 'Buitenschoolse opvang'

After school childcare (known in Dutch as BSO) is provided at our school campus by childcare organisation Kind & Co Ludens. There is currently no waiting list for after school childcare. Please contact Kind & Co Ludens and they will be happy to explain more about their provision.

#### Registration

To register your child(ren) at the BSO please fill in this online form (in Dutch) and opt for 'Buitenschoolse opvang'. Then select 'plaatsnaam' Utrecht. Please note, for the 'basisschool', you must select 'International School Utrecht'. Further filling in the form and submitting it confirms your registration.

On Wednesday 3 September at 08:30-9:30 Kind & Co Ludens will be at school to provide information to all interested parents.

You can also reach the planning team at Kind & Co Ludens by:

Calling +31 (0)307607785

Emailing; planning@kmnkindencoludens.nl

Kind & Co Ludens also has nursery locations for children aged 0-4 yrs, dotted around Utrecht. For more information, please view the Kind & Co Ludens website.



## After school activities (ASA) Primary

#### ASAs offered @ ISU

We offer a variety of after school activities (ASA) primary students can participate in.

#### Registration

- Via the school app in September and February
- Term 1 End September until end February
- Term 2 Early March until early July

Activity	Grade	Registration	Cost
Ballet	KG & Gr 1	Per term	+/- €160
ISU Chess	Gr 1 – 5	Per year	€150
Crochet	Gr 3 – 5	Per term	+/- €160
ISU Drama	Gr 2 – 5	Per year	€160
ISU Football	Gr 1 – 5	Per year	€140
Guruscool Abacus	Gr 1 – 5	Per term	tbc
Photo Club	Gr 3 – 5	Per block	+/- €200

#### ASAs offered @ ISU by Kind & Co Ludens

Several activities for students from kindergarten to grade 5 are organised by childcare organisation Kind & Co Ludens. Activities offered vary from term to term and include for example arts & crafts and takes place at school.

#### Registration

Via the school app in September and February

- Term 1 End September until end February
- Term 2 Early March until early July Payment
- Activities vary between €150 and €300 per term depending on the type of activity.
- Kind & Co Ludens will invoice families after registration.

## After School Activities (ASA) Secondary

Secondary have a range of clubs organized by students and/or staff members:

- STEM
- MUN
- Sports
- Bouldering

Please contact your mentor for more information.

#### Music (Whole School)

Within our private instrumental lesson programme, we offer a wide range of instruments your child may be interested in learning, as a beginner student, or continuing to improve their skills, at an intermediate or advanced level.

The ISU Music Academy is designed to enrich students' musical skills and foster their artistic and creative growth beyond the classroom and the programme are conducted in group settings, fostering a dynamic and enriching learning environment. Within the programme, we offer 7 musical projects divided into different levels where students from kindergarten to Grade 12 can take part in.



## After School Activities (ASA) Whole School

#### **Home Language Clubs**

At ISU we actively encourage reading and writing in all our children's languages. Although we do not offer all the home languages, we have several clubs for primary and secondary students (depending on the secondary student's timetable). Registration is directly with the private language teacher.

Language	Teacher	Email
French	Enora Bremaud	enora.brmd@gmail.com
German	Julia Scherpner	j.scherpner@gmail.com
Hebrew	Naomi Tal	dentonaomi@gmail.com
Hindi	Deepika	deepika.madaan21@gmail.com
Japanese	Mamiko & Hiroko	hirokomatsuda.1981@gmail.com
Italian	Michela	michela@giardino-italiano.com
Portuguese	Susana Mulder	smulder.port@gmail.com
Tamil	Bala Gomathy	b.s.balagomathy@gmail.com

## Daycare Woudrijk in Papendorp

For families looking for daycare for younger brothers and sisters, Kind & Co Ludens has a daycare facility in Papendorp near the school. The group is specifically intended for children whose home language is English, or any language other than Dutch. The group is bilingual. One pedagogical staff member will speak English, while the other will speak Dutch. Woudrijk is located at the Tirionlaan 1 at Utrecht Papendorp, close to the big bridge. Woudrijk is easily accessible by car via the A2 and A12.

#### What does Woudrijk daycare centre offer?

We offer childcare to 0-4-year-olds, divided over a number of different groups. The use of natural materials and colours in our spaces creates a sense of calm. A variety of developmental toys and materials are available for the children to discover and play with. We have an outdoor play area with a playpen for the babies, a sandpit, a play frame, and a vegetable garden so that the children can play and discover both indoors and outside.

The staff offer a safe environment, both physically and socially-emotionally, and they track the children's development. We follow a regular daily schedule of theme-based activities such as story-reading, singing, playing, and crafting. We also regularly offer workshops such as music.

For current placement opportunities please contact Cynthia Baars, <u>c.baars@kindencoludens.nl</u>. Please be aware there maybe a waiting list.



#### ISU - Arriving at school by bus, bicycle & car





