



ST. ANNE'S SCHOOL

Winter Term

December, 2011

Dear Parents,

You will recall that I mentioned in the last newsletter that we will be joined by Ms Bobbie Allen in January, and that she is to teach English and Drama. We have been fortunate to have had the excellent services of Rob Goodwin for this term and I thank him for his efforts both in English and to the life of the school generally. Similarly, Mrs Sally Pond will be joining the school to teach French and English and I wish to thank Mrs Catherine Philips for her expertise this last half term.



We have had a very busy term, culminating in wonderful productions by our Primary children; the Nativity 'Born in a Barn', which the Infants performed was simply enchanting and the Juniors' panto was outstanding. A big 'thank you' to all staff and students for making these possible – and of course, a huge 'thank you' to all parents and friends of the school for supporting us throughout.

As you will have seen in the press, our results are good and compare well with other schools, both within the bailiwick and beyond. I am pleased to hear from many pupils that they enjoy learning here at St Anne's. It is great to see that young people enjoy learning and I am keen that the very few who occasionally prevent learning from being productive are not allowed to do so.

We have had many visitors to the school this term and we have received a lovely letter from Keith Warren (who came to 'motivate' our year 10 and 11 students). He was full of praise for them and this sentiment is echoed by many. I think it is wonderful how the school community is praised not only by visitors but also by the people of Alderney. There is an excellent relationship between the school and the community and it is one which benefits all; a great example of this is the way so many worked together recently to plant so many trees. It is a brilliant way to show that we are all investing in our Island.

The obvious development still to come is the change to the school uniform. You will by now have heard that we are displaying the samples of blazers at a 'cheese and wine' evening on the 12th January. I urge you to come, as it will be an opportunity to make sure that you give your view on the colour.

When we return, the 'mock' examinations (and a couple of real ones) are underway in earnest. I would like to take this opportunity to wish our Year 11 students well in these examinations. Similarly, the 11+ examinations continue and we wish those year 6 pupils the best of luck.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year. School opens again on January 4th (for staff) and 5th (for students).

M Gaunt

MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS

We have a lot of missing library books. If any school library books turn up in your house we should be very grateful to have them back.

Thankyou for your help.

D of E News

At the presentation evening earlier this term we were delighted to present our very first Silver Awards. Congratulations and well done to Hazel Brown, Edward Rowe, Abigail Gregg and Ryan Moore for achieving this very prestigious Award. They tell me that they are "Going for Gold" and we wish them every success.

This Year has started just as successfully with another Silver group and two Bronze groups having signed up to take part. Expedition training has begun in earnest, and if you early birds haven't already spied them, you may see them at the weekends sporting head torches in the dark as each group hikes around Alderney at a totally unreasonable hour of pre-dawn!!

We are very grateful to those in the local community who have agreed to take on our participants, guiding them through their physical activities, learning new skills or improving old ones, and volunteering to help with Alderney's charitable organisations. Without you, the D of E Award couldn't run.

We are also very grateful to all who generously donate funds towards travel expenses for the expeditions which have to be off-island in areas previously unknown to our groups. This means their navigation needs to be really good!! We have planned to go to the Lake District, Cumbria for a practice expedition in early May, then to the Brecon Beacons, Wales for our assessed expeditions during activities week, mid-July.

We are organising several fund-raising events – each group has been asked to take charge of at least one event throughout the year. To kick start the New Year a Jumble Sale has been booked for Saturday 14th January so please start collecting your jumble, bric-a-brac, etc. for us. Watch this space for more events.....



Many of you may have seen and even purchased one of the superb calendars produced by our year 11 photography students. All profits will go towards the purchase of more equipment for the photography course.

Visit by Steve Cole

On Tuesday 18th October years 5-8 were treated to sessions with Steve Cole, author of the very popular 'ASTROSAURS' books. It was very entertaining and enjoyable. It was all thanks to Poppy Bristow who as a fan of his books has repeatedly requested that he visited St. Anne's School and her excellent entry into a competition secured this event for us.

Rotary Young Chef Competition



Once again the Rotary Club ran their Young Chef Competition. Seanchan Ollivier came first in the Alderney heat with Harry Wood second. The two then competed in the next round in Guernsey and as a result Seanchan will go onto the Regional Final in February in Hampshire.



Well done to everyone who took part and Good Luck Seanchan!

Infants Nativity play: "Born in a Barn".

On Wednesday 7th December, the Infant Children performed their annual nativity production.

This year the story was told from the viewpoint of the animals who were in the stable in Bethlehem!

The staff worked wonders to create some fantastic animal costumes and the children entered into their roles with enthusiasm!

Despite having to perform the dress rehearsal during a power cut (no lights , no music!) the children soldiered on. On the big night, they sang with gusto, danced with rhythm and remembered their lines!



Thank you to all of you who supported us by coming along to watch, thank you to all the staff involved and an especially big thank you to the Infant children for getting Christmas off to such a glittering start!!!

Merry Christmas to you all from
G. Costello.



Junior Production



This year, the Juniors wanted to keep the Panto tradition alive. On Wednesday 14th December, they performed a dazzling show: Panto Pandemonium. The Juniors did themselves proud, and great fun was had by all. The audience boomed and hissed with gusto. We are eternally grateful to everyone who helped make this show such a success. Well done to you all.



Bronze Medallion Lifesaving Certificate

Year 10 pupils took part, and successfully passed, their Bronze Medallion Lifesaving Certificate. The students were Joe Stanley, Kai Bower, Kaitlin



Donaldson, Aimee Coleman and Rachael Oakman. All students were 14 years old which is the minimum age to take this award. Very well done to you all!





Year 2 Train Ride

As part of Year 2's transport topic we went to visit the train. We had a lovely ride and were taken into the sheds to see all the engines. Thank you very much to all of the train volunteers—the children loved it!

Festive Greetings to all Parents and Teachers from your PTA!

Many thanks to everyone who battled through the stormy weather to support the Christmas Fayre. We hope that you enjoyed your mulled wine, mince pies, tea and cakes, the Christmas songs from the School Choir and all the goodies from the table top stalls. By all accounts, it was a great social occasion. And on top of that, we made around £400 to bolster up PTA funds, which will help to provide those extras that are so much needed in the school to improve our young students' education and help them to get the most out of their school days.

To advertise the Christmas Fayre, we couldn't have hoped for a better response to the Great Poster Competition, with over 40 entries from infants to seniors. It was so difficult to choose between all of the brightly coloured posters, each with their own charm, that we decided to copy them all and post them round the island. We hope that you saw them. We ended up with a winner and a runner up in each of two categories - hand-drawn and computer-aided. The lucky winners (Sam Burnside and Harry Craig) each had their posters framed and received a large tin of festive sweets; the runners up (Amy Wesley and Katie Shaw) each won an enticing selection box. Billy-Ray Boreham was specially commended for his rather dramatic work featuring Father Christmas in an unusual light. All of the original posters were on show at the Fayre.

We hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas and a great New Year.

PS - Don't forget! Thursday 12th January at 7pm, when options for the new school uniform will be on show, together with cheese and wine to fortify you!

We are still collecting Nestle box top tokens. These can be found on the Nestle cereal boxes and can be exchanged for fiction and non-fiction books from Dorling Kindersley. Please collect tokens and put in the collection box in the library.

Many Thanks for your help.



Rotary Shoebox Appeal

This year 252 shoeboxes were packed up and shipped by the Rotary Club for the Shoebox Appeal. These included boxes from St. Anne's School, Ormer House, Age Concern and the Salvation Army.