



St. Anne's School
ALDERNEY

School News

Christmas 2022



Attendance this term

Caterpillars - 92%
Reception

Hedgehogs - 91%
Yrs. 1 & 2

Puffins - 87%
Yrs. 3 & 4

Gannets - 90%
Yr. 5
Falcons - 88%
Yr.6

Arch - 92%

Braye - 89%

Corblets - 87%

Year 11 - 95%

Whole school - 90%

Our whole school attendance target is 95%. Our attendance figures have been impacted by holidays within term time, Covid, other viral illnesses and children on roll who have left St. Anne's and are awaiting start dates at schools.

Wishing all of our pupils, parents and staff a very Happy Christmas!!

Welcome to the Christmas 2022 edition of our newsletter for St. Anne's School.

Dear Parents, as we approach the end of a busy autumn term, I would like to thank you all for your continued support for our endeavours here at St. Anne's School. We do not underestimate how much your involvement and support of enrichment opportunities such as Awards Evening, The Nativity, a wide range of fundraisers, community events for the choir, Alderney Wildlife, to name but a few, enables us at St. Anne's to deliver a broad and balanced educational experience for your children. I am pleased and proud to be part of this partnership with you, as the Headteacher here at St Anne's School. We can without doubt confidently state that in these endeavours, we are all working hard to 'meet the needs of our community' as outlined in the Guernsey Education Strategy.

As you will know, we have a few staffing changes for next term. Mrs Martel is retiring from teaching after many years and will be sorely missed by many here at St Anne's. We also say goodbye to Mr Mufiri and Mrs Collier, both of whom have built strong relationships within our school community in recent years. We wish them the very best in their future ventures. We will welcome new staff to the team in January and I will look forward to introducing them on their arrival.

The final week of the autumn term brings lots of exciting events such as our class Christmas parties, visits from Santa (with presents kindly donated by the PTA) under the Christmas tree (kindly donated again this year by Marie Claire Jean) and The Christmas Hamper raffle. We break for the holidays at **12.25pm on Wednesday 21st December** and we hope that you all have a magical Christmas. We will look forward to welcoming the children back to school in 2023 on **Wednesday 4th January**.

Exciting Sporting Opportunities in 2023!

A significant development that I am pleased to share with you has emerged in recent weeks. Guernsey Sports Commission, with the backing of Alderney Sports Foundation have been working with me at school to provide a wide range of specialist sports coaching opportunities for our pupils. Over 30 full day visits from coaches in the fields of Cricket, Boxing, Sailing, Table Tennis, Cycling and Athletics have been timetabled for the next two terms.

Importantly, the exciting news is that pupils in Year 5 & 6 will for the very first time be invited to participate the **Youth Games** in Guernsey! Our visiting coaches will not only offer specialist sports coaching to pupils across school, they will also provide games preparation for pupils in after school clubs. They are collaborating with Sports clubs on our island, in an aim to ensure that this provision becomes embedded in what we can offer for our young people here in Alderney. We will keep you updated with the progress of this throughout the year.

Attendance

I am sorry to report that a worrying trend has been emerging recent months with parents taking children out of school for term time holidays. Our attendance figures across both Primary and Secondary are well below our target of 95% and all evidence support the correlation between attendance and attainment. UK Department for Education studies found that in primary 'in general the higher the percentage of sessions missed across the key stage, the lower the likely level of attainment at the end of KS2. 'In secondary the higher the percentage of sessions missed across the key stage, the lower the likely level of attainment at the end of KS4. Specifically, pupils with no absence are 1.5 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs A*-C or equivalent.'

Please be reminded that our school attendance policy which can be found on our website cannot authorise term time holiday absence and any request requires parents to complete a holiday form which is kept on pupil files. Please avoid taking children out of school for holidays in term time.

WANTED- Supply Teachers

The States of Guernsey currently have an open advert to encourage applications for Supply teachers across the islands. If you are a teacher/ former teacher and would like to be added to the supply register please search Supply Teacher on the following link. We would love to increase the bank of Supply teacher here on our island of Alderney. <https://career012.successfactors.eu/career?company=C0001230059>

Mrs W Wilson





Year 1 & 2 News..

Yrs. 1 and 2 have had a busy half term learning all about Florence Nightingale for their History topic. Thank you to everyone who came to our class assembly.

Can you answer these questions?

- Who was Florence Nightingale?
- Where did Florence go to help the soldiers?
- What nickname did the soldiers give to Florence?
- What did Florence get when she came back?
- When was Florence born?
- How old was Florence when she died?
- How many of these questions can you get correct?



Good luck!

Milk Money for Infants...

Due to the cost of milk increasing Milk will be increasing to **£12** per term from January 2023

Homecoming Day...

World War 2 ended 77 years ago. Four pupils from Year 6 went to St Anne's Church and read out a poem written by E. Parry. At the end of the service Evie K and Theo laid a wreath with Mr Tate at the Courthouse.—Evie King Year 6



A busy few weeks for the School Choir...

The St. Anne's School Choir have had a very busy run up to the festive season with six opportunities to share their repertoire and a little Christmas cheer with others. Their first outing was alongside the Alderney Voices when they performed for those who were awaiting the arrival of Father Christmas at the Memorial Gardens for the switching on of the Christmas Lights. They then enjoyed two visits to the Old Barn where they entertained some of the island's older residents at the Rotary Christmas lunches, followed by a visit to the hospital to provide a little Christmas spirit for the residents, where they were also treated to a lovely feast of mince pies and snacks. Their last off-site performance was at the invitation of President Tate at the Vin d'Honneur that was held at the Island Hall on Homecoming Day for the Homecomers and other invited guests and they finished off the term with a brief performance in the School's celebration assembly. Mrs Collier would like to thank the 19 members of the choir for their superb commitment and enthusiastic musicality.



Nativity...

The Nativity took place on Monday and Tuesday last week, we took pictures of us in our costumes and in groups before heading up to the Hall. At 5:30 we started walking to the hall where all our parents were waiting for us. We attempted to spot our parents in the huge crowd. At the end we surprised everyone with a special song of The 12 Days of Christmas! We all had lots of fun.—Nabilla Miah Year 6





The PTA would like to thank you all for your support and help at the Christmas fayre. We raised a total of £1522.98 with money to still come in from sales of the forever bags with your children's pictures on for those who haven't pre paid/ordered.

We would also like to thank Le Cocqs, Cimandis, Blanchards, The chippy and the old Barn for help with donations towards the supplies and everyone who brought cakes etc in. We would also like to thank all of the local businesses who provided wonderful raffle prizes this year. We are all extremely grateful. Good news is that the new playground equipment will be delivered soon so our pre Covid goal has nearly been reached and we hope the children will be able to enjoy the equipment for a long time to come.

With thanks PTA committee



Christmas came early for students at St. Anne's School who have signed up for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. They are seen here wearing their cosy new sweatshirts which were sponsored by The Blonde Hedgehog Hotel. Students following the award are busy completing their volunteering, physical and skills sections at the moment with varied activities such as football, singing, photography, playing guitar, horse riding and volunteering at KFA and youth club. Their expedition training starts in the New Year and they are sure to be grateful for their stylish new sweatshirts. Huge thanks from the students go to Tracey and Julie-Anne at the Blonde Hedgehog for kindly sponsoring the tops and Claudia at Sew Much Fun for the beautiful embroidery.

(Pictured are Tracey Farquhar-Beck from The Blonde Hedgehog, Ingrid Brooke from St. Anne's School and the students who have signed up for Bronze DofE award this year)

Ms Brooke



UK BEBRAS 2022
Computational Thinking Challenge
7TH - 18TH NOVEMBER

We have 3 pupils below who are in the top 10% of the UK for this challenge and they will be participating in the next round in January 2023. I will be coming in to run this in January. Our school have done well again in this year's national competition. In summary:

Aleks – Gold award (finished top 10% in the UK competition and invited to participate in the next round OUCC challenge in mid-January 2023)

Sian – Gold award (finished top 10% in the UK competition and invited to participate in the next round OUCC challenge in mid-January 2023)

Grace – Gold award (finished top 10% in the UK competition and invited to participate in the next round OUCC challenge in mid-January 2023)

'Best in School' Certificates go to: (first in their age group in our school)

Evelyn, Grace and Jas

We have lots of Certificates of Distinction, Certificates of Merit and many Certificate for Participation. I am so very proud of all our students!
- Mrs Martel

Work Experience 2022...

On Sunday 25 September Year 11, Mrs Jenkins, Mr Winnett and Mrs Gentle left Alderney and landed in Guernsey for a week of Work Experience. Due to Covid restrictions, this was the first time in two years that we have been able to do this in Guernsey.

This year we had a variety of different work placements:

- Architecture
- Teaching at a dance academy
- Hotel overview
- Spa and beauty therapist
- Electrical engineering
- Landscape gardening
- Car Salesman
- Florist



The experience was a huge success with all students enjoying their placements. Once again, the students were a credit to St. Anne's School!!

Mrs Jenkins

WEx Coordinator

Year 5 & 6 Tree Planting...

On Friday 2nd December, Years 5 & 6 went to the Woodland bunker to plant different types of trees including oak, sycamore and hazel.

Then we traced our hands and put a message on it, then put it on the wall for the future.

After that we took a picture on top of the bunker and walked back to school.—Logan Lord Year. 6.



The Education Strategy...

Even in a small community like ours, the States-maintained Education System, in Alderney, is both uniquely and, impressively, *broad and diverse*, covering: Early Years, Primary, Secondary and Special Needs, with Post-16 and Adult Learning provision, we have so much to be proud of, here, in Alderney! For the happiness and success of our island, our children and our young people are leading the way!

The Education Strategy is the glue which holds our complex Bailiwick Education System together. It is a beacon for all that we believe is important and lays out our collaborative aspirations for learners, as a whole. It provides a framework to support leadership and staff here at St. Anne's School and across Guernsey to deliver a high-quality education for all learners. It ensures that our education system is ambitious and aspirational and is underpinned by a culture of continuous improvement.

What does this look like in **St. Anne's School**? Here are, just a few, examples:

- Assessment of speech and language needs in infant children.
- On-going assessments of core skills in reading, writing and maths and regular meetings between Mrs Wilson, Mrs Dix and staff to discuss every single child's progress.
- Regular staff meetings with our SENCO and Inclusion Lead, Ms Smith, to discuss how best to support individual children who are not making expected progress.
- Specialist intervention groups, throughout school, for when a child needs extra support with their learning.
- Any child who needs specific targets, to support their additional needs, receives regularly reviewed plans, such as an IEP (Individual Education Plan).
- Well trained, experienced, dynamic Learning Support Assistants use evidence informed strategies to support our learners' development across all stages.
- With support from the Guernsey Sports Commission, the Alderney Sports Foundation has launched an ambitious five year Action Plan for our children and young people titled, 'Giving Alderney a Fighting Chance'. Electric anticipation surrounds the week-long Island Games, in July, where those St. Anne's pupils (past and present- all of whom are 'Duke of Edinburgh Award' success stories), at the pinnacle of their sporting prowess, will represent our community, alongside 3,000 competitors, from 24 islands, taking part in 14 sports!
- Following Covid restrictions, we are reigniting, in March, 2023, in collaboration with the Alderney Literary Trust and the generous sponsorship of Ravenscroft, the 'Young Person Alderney Literary Festival' (which was such a resounding success with the arrival, on island, of crime writer, Anthony Horowitz, who went on to set his 2021, 'Mayflower' murder mystery novel in Alderney!).
- As well as parental and carer voice, the viewpoints of our pupils, at St. Anne's, are paramount to us. Our Year 11 Head Pupils, Anna and Bella, alongside our Pupil Council, form the trusted mouthpiece for the rest of the school community. As inspiring advocates, these pupils are dedicated to collecting the opinions of their peers and galvanising change in order to continue to support St. Anne's School as a successful, supportive and happy **community**.

Miss P. Smith ('Education Strategy Network' Representative for Alderney and St. Anne's School).



Spring Term Dates 2023

Wednesday 4th January- Term Starts (Pupils)

Monday 20th February to Friday 24th February- Half Term

Thursday 6th April- Term Ends

The Wellbeing Hub – Coming soon to St. Anne's...

The Wellbeing Hub is an interactive online portal, designed to give staff, students and parents access to a wealth of resources, and experts, to help guide children as they grow up. More information about how to access the Wellbeing Hub will be sent out in January.



It consists of:

- Monthly webinars
- Complete Parenting Teens Audio & Video Courses
- Weekly Updated Resources - podcasts, blog posts, interviews, tips and articles
- Weekly Live Q&A with a Child & Adolescent Psychotherapist
- Inspiring Futures' Careers Mini-Podcasts
- Ask the Expert Q&A Service
- Q&A Library
- Parents' Forum
- Access to Pastoral Specialists (paid service)

Upcoming webinars, that you will be able to register for, include: Online Safety; Personal Safety (of teenagers); Sibling Relationships; Changing the Way We Talk About Disability; and Managing Anger & Other Difficult Emotions.

We are very grateful to have been gifted membership of this fantastic resource by The Ladies' College in Guernsey as part of their annual subscription. Ms K Smith



Attendance Matters...

Education Services and schools seek to provide high standards and high expectations for all, to enable pupils to realise their full potential. Education Services' expectation is that all students will achieve an attendance of at least 95%. This is also our whole school target at St Anne's.

This term, our attendance figures have been very low. Whole school attendance (as of 9th December 2022) was **90%**. There are many pupils with attendance of below 95%..

While there have been some seasonal illnesses doing the rounds, there has also been an unprecedented number of pupils being taken out of school for holidays.

Although Guernsey law does not preclude term time holidays, they are not a right. Absence for holiday negatively impacts a child's attendance at school and, as such, Education Services does not approve of them. (For example, a child who misses 10 days of school for a holiday can only achieve a maximum attendance figure of 95% for that school year. Additional leave for illness at any time during the year would drop the child below the expected level.)

The greater the attendance, the greater the achievement.

In 2019 UK data, it was found that pupils with higher attainment at KS2 and KS4 had lower levels of absence over the key stage compared to those with lower attainment. Generally, the higher the percentage of sessions missed, the lower the level of attainment at the end of the key stage.

- Among pupils with no missed sessions over KS2 (Year 3 to Year 6), 83.9% achieved the expected standard compared to 40.2% of pupils who were persistently absent.
- Among pupils with no missed sessions in Year 10 and 11, 83.7% achieved grades 9 to 4 in English and Maths compared to 35.6% of pupils who were persistently absent