



St. Anne's School
ALDERNEY

School News

Christmas 2023



Attendance this term

Little Owls- 93.9%
Reception

Hedgehogs - 92.8%
Yrs. 1 & 2

Puffins - 91.7%
Yrs. 3 & 4

Gannets - 94.5%
Yr. 5&6

Arch- 91.5%

Braye- 94%

Corblets- 85.7%

Year 11 - 93.6%

Whole school - 92%

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

Welcome to the Christmas 2023 edition of our newsletter for St. Anne's School.

Dear Parents and Carers, as the long autumn term draws to a close, we hope you have all taken the opportunity to enjoy some of our annual Christmas events in recent weeks. Our fabulous children have worked so hard and have developed lots of confidence to entertain you in the school nativity play, to fundraise for the PTA and to provide Christmas cheer through their art work in Victoria Street. We are very grateful for the support of our school partners in ensuring that we have the opportunity to showcase our talents beyond the school community this Christmas and in particular we would like to thank all active members of the Parent Teacher Association, our Pupil Council, The Chamber of Commerce and The Alderney Theatre Group.

This year has brought a lot of change to both our small island and the wider UK and Commonwealth communities. King Charles III was crowned in May 2023 and this occasion provided many opportunities to commemorate. I vividly remember, as a young child, celebrating the late Queen's Silver Jubilee and I hope that the memories of the King's Coronation stay with our pupils throughout their lives and help to mark a seminal chapter in their school days.

Other celebrations for this term centred on our annual Prize Giving evening. This took place in October and it was combined again this year with an exhibition of the wonderful art work that was produced by our former Year 11, for the GCSE exam portfolios. Frankie Jenkins and Matthew Burke were appointed as Head Pupils and all Prizegiving trophies for 2022/23 have been engraved and are on proud display in the school foyer.

We also had our long-awaited Ofsted inspection this term. The findings of this were overwhelmingly positive and firmly places St Anne's School on a par with many of our sister schools in Guernsey. Outcomes for St Anne's pupils at all stages continue to improve and I am very proud of the hard work and ambition of all pupils, staff and parents who continuously strive to ensure that we can provide a good standard of education here. The Ofsted report can be found on our website and I want to assure parents that we are acting on all of the advice given, to make further improvements across our school.

However, on a worrying note, we have seen the term-time Holiday absence figures rise to 35% this term. This is equivalent to over a third of our pupils being off school at some point since September. We know that regular attendance is directly linked to raising achievement and develops skills for life and work. Therefore, you should not expect St Anne's School to agree to your child going on holiday during term time - this will be marked as an unauthorised absence as per the States of Guernsey Attendance Policy. We appreciate the challenges that some parents face when booking holidays, particularly during the school holidays. However, regular attendance at school is vital in helping children and young people to achieve their full potential and get the best possible start in life.

On a final note, we will need to say a fond farewell to some staff at the end of this term. Mrs Gilyead returns to the UK to spend time with her family; Mr Singh has finished his term of supply and is returning to work in the UK and Miss Cameron has also finished her contract with us as a Learning Support Assistant.

We will be joined in January by Mr Gardner as our new IT and Computer Science Teacher; Miss Mark who will teach Music and Food Technology and I am pleased to inform you that Miss Jerram joins us as a permanent teacher in January, as our Yr 3& 4 teacher. Our new teacher for Year 5, Mr Smith is also appointed and will join us in February.

It now remains for me to wish you all a magical & wonderful Christmas and we will look forward to welcoming children back to the spring term on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

With love and Merry Christmas wishes from

Mrs Wilson





Library News

There has been loads of book-related fun happening in the library this term.

In October we celebrated International Schools Library Month with this year's theme, 'my happy place'. Highlights include: delving into Banned Books Week, enjoying a visit from a gothic author and participating in a competition to describe our happy place. Winners were treated to lunch in the library and inclusion on the Wow Wall.

Non-Fiction November was soon upon us. This month is a great way to introduce the wonders of non-fiction books. Pupils learn how to search for, locate and use information books, with fun facts and challenges along the way. This dedicated month equips and empowers pupils to seek out knowledge wherever they are. Of course, this month has been all about festive stories! Merry Christmas from the Library! - Mrs Odoli



St. Anne's School Hall, brimmed with festive cheer and community spirit, as the Parent Teacher Association hosted an especially successful Christmas Fayre, on Sunday, the 10th of December. The event, which brought together dedicated parents, delighted students and enthusiastic teachers, proved to be a resounding triumph! From beautifully decorated stalls to the cornucopia of handmade crafts and delectable edibles, each contribution added a sprinkle of Christmas magic to the merriment. Gathered families and friends, immersed themselves in a plethora of activities, including, face-painting and festive games. While René (Year 9) commented that his, "favourites were the beautifully detailed and decorated cupcakes!", Fraser (Year 9), enthusiastically stated, "the best part of today has been seeing my baby brother's big smile! Today was fun and exciting; it's our first Alderney Christmas Fayre." Undoubtedly, as stated by Mrs Beth Chapman (Chair of the PTA), "the laughter of children, and the infectious smiles on their faces, were a testament to the joyous and inclusive environment, created by the collaborative efforts of both teachers and parents." Without contest, the highlight of the afternoon was the musical interlude, where Mrs Mark and Ms Smith, merged the School Choir and Sign Language Club together, to form the, 'Sing and Sign Club'. Future euphonious collaborations are promised in the New Year! Mrs Beth Chapman shared the incredible outcomes of our 2023 Christmas Fayre: "the success of this event, with over £1,500 raised, not only signifies a joyful start to the holiday season but also highlights the strength of the St. Anne's School Community." - Miss Smith



Puffin Class update

Puffin Class have had an extremely busy term, which has been full of exciting learning opportunities. Within our English unit, we had lots of fun taking part in a range of drama activities.

Puffin Class hot seated the main character, Lila, in our class novel and asked open-ended questions.

Within our geography unit, we have been learning about natural disasters. For one of our learning opportunities, we used our geographical skills to locate volcanoes around the world. We then made our own volcanoes and erupted them! We had lots of fun being scientists and geographers. - Miss Jerram



Year 1 & 2 Trip to St Anne's Church



This half term, the Yr. 1s and 2s have been learning about the Great Fire of London in History.

Test your knowledge and see if you can answer the following questions.



True or false?

- 1) The Great Fire of London started in a shoe shop.
- 2) Samuel Pepys kept a diary detailing what happened during the fire.
- 3) The fire started on Sunday 2nd September 1666.
- 4) The houses burnt because they were built of brick and stone.
- 5) The fire kept burning for 3 weeks.
- 6) King Charles II ordered that houses were to be pulled down to stop the fire from spreading.
- 7) St. Andrew's Cathedral was destroyed in the fire and had to be rebuilt.

Come Dine With Me St Anne's school Alderney

St Anne's School Gannet class did cooking in DT and it was called Come Dine with Me.

We all found our recipes on Google and wrote them on paper with the ingredients and the method. The criteria was to make it healthy using 3 different coloured vegetables.

We all made dishes with our friends. We made our pasta and it was too thin, so Mrs Gilyead went and got cornflour which we added— then it was too thick!

We went around the school with a sheet for teachers to rate our presentation and taste of our food.

Me and my friends Isla and Saoirse, made garlic and parmesan pasta and we came second place. In first place was the Mini Chefs

At St Anne's School in Year 5 and 6 class we have been researching recipes with healthy vegetables in.

In DT we have been looking at recipes and vegetable meals. The main title was called 'Come Dine with Me'.

Our class got into groups of two or three people and wrote out a plan of what we were going to make and what ingredients we would need.

My partner was Pearl and we made 'crunchy noodle salad' and once all of our meals were done we went around the school to different teachers with our score sheets.

They marked us on the paper for our presentation and how it tastes. -India



PE Update

This term has seen a record number of pupils from across both Primary and Secondary participate in regular extra-curricular activities. With sporting clubs such as Football, Netball, Gymnastics, Badminton and Touch Rugby attended by so many it is clear to see why there are so many talented athletes at St Anne's School.—Mr Kirkland



Year 9 D of E

Here are Year 9 students wearing their new cosy Duke of Edinburgh Award hoodies which were very kindly sponsored by Tracey and Julie-Anne at the Blonde Hedgehog hotel and embroidered by the fantastic Claudia at Sew Much Fun. They are looking forward to wearing them on expedition next year. In the meantime, they are busy completing a variety of other award sections. This includes volunteering their time at Riduna Radio, helping supervise infants gymnastic club, volunteering at Youth Club, collecting useful data on fish species for Alderney Wildlife Trust, beach cleans and sour fig removal. Along with volunteering they are learning new recipes to cook, mountain biking, playing snooker and attending football training. These young people are really playing an active role in the life of their island.



Music Services update

Two pupils have taken Trinity College of Music graded exams this term. Theo in Year 7 passed with merit Grade 3 on his tuba, and Jas in Year 11, passed Grade 5 with distinction on her clarinet. Both started playing at the beginning of Year 5 and have worked hard with commitment to achieve these excellent results. Currently there are six pupils playing in the lunchtime band known as '8 Bars Rest', who gave a spirited and inspiring performance at the latest awards night before half term. Those who have not been playing as long should be joining the band around February half term. It is important to that those higher up the school should feel that they are, and should be seen to be, mentors to the less experienced players.
- Mr Burton

Lieutenant Governor, Richard Cripwell, visit to the School



AJ West visit to St Anne's School

AJ West held workshops with Years 5 & 6 on how to be a storyteller, showing them how to create stories that capture the imagination and use the magic of words, then tell those stories with fun, confidence, and creativity.

Secondary pupils had a workshop which went through smart plotting and engineering a twist. His workshop helped students prepare for exams by teaching them quick and simple ways to create a structure for a story and then impress examiners with a clever twist.

"I have been blown away by the creativity and capability of the students here," said West afterwards. "They are more than just students, they are already good enough to be authors themselves and the Alderney literary scene is in good hands."

Miss Smith said "It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have A J West visit us – what an inspiration he is."

- Miss Smith



The School Nativity

Year 8 Science

Year 8 have been learning about 'polymer's this term in Chemistry and have made their own slime

- Ms Brooke



Review of Recent Articles from 'The Journal'

Recent articles from 'The Journal' (publication: November 17th, 2023) delve deep into the harrowing history of the German Occupation of Alderney, unearthing the untold stories and shedding light on the unimaginable sufferings, endured by its victims. These articles are a poignant reminder of the immense sacrifices made, by those, who were unjustly persecuted. What struck me the most was Mr Birch's profound ability to convey the immeasurable importance of remembrance and the lessons that we can learn from this dark chapter in our history. The articles' eloquent prose and meticulous attention to detail, truly transports its audience to that time and place, evoking our empathy and kindling a burning desire for us to ensure that such atrocities are never repeated. I wholeheartedly recommend these articles to all but, especially, to fellow pupils at St. Anne's School. In my opinion, these articles not only educate but also ignite a sense of responsibility in us, to: honour the past and work towards a better, kinder and more equitable future.

- Evelyn (Year 8)



A synopsis of what's been happening, in Secondary English, at St. Anne's School:

It has been an epic start to the academic year, in Secondary English, at St. Anne's School. Year 7-9s have been studying, 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas', 'Of Mice and Men' and 'Lord of the Flies', as well as the associated 'Love of Reading' texts, in our Library Sessions, with Mrs Odoli: 'Boy 87', 'Clean Getaway' and 'A Monster Calls'. The pupils have offered character analyses and have been inspired to produce creative pieces (such as monologues in the voices of their favourite protagonists). Similarly, when considering the novels' complex historical contexts, class discussion has been animated, reflective and, especially empathetic. Year 10 pupils have embarked upon their GCSE Studies, immersing themselves in the study of Shakespeare's 'Macbeth', as well as confidently tackling the demanding Assessment Objectives of AQA English Language, Papers 1 and 2. This then brings me, of course, onto the inimitable Year 11s. Their phenomenal successes, during their English Language and Literature Mock Examinations, are testament to their academic acumen and resilience. Of note, Matthew Burke and Jas Syer, achieved close to full marks in several of their examination responses. In February, the class will deliver their AQA English Speaking and Listening Presentations. I am confident that, with the calibre of ambitious repertoire and impressive preparation, already in evidence, the cohort will continue to add to their current achievements. On a personal note, thank you, for all the support I received from pupils, parents, grandparents and staff, when I was off with my broken hip. Returning to school, and to my awesome pupils, was all the motivation I needed to fast forward that 'spring' in my step!

When The Days Return

When the fog clears,
 And the earth has been cleaned,
 Human life may return again,
 But, *when* do we start?
 Life can only begin with one person...
 When, one person can,
 Change,
 The course of history.
 One person,
 Can renew life on earth,
 One person,
 Can save many lives...
 So, that humans can 'live': life,
 Again.
 But...
 When the days return,
 Life will start again, with,
 One,
 Person...
 What if that person...
 Was,
 You? - Janco

Within The Frame

I'm going to make him proud,
 The person, in the mirror...
 I see you.
 I'm proud of you.
 I want to be you.
 I love you!
 For tomorrow, to be a brighter day,
 It needs to start, with me, today.
 I will be happy, in the end,
 I will, make myself, my friend.
 It starts with me: right here! Right now!
 To make life, 'a moment', that's: 'just now!'
 I will not make excuses,
 Or pass the blame,
 As, I need to start,
 'Within The Frame!'
 - Alan

Harvest Festival



Spring Term Dates 2024

Monday 8th January	Term Starts (Staff)
Tuesday 9th January	Term Starts (Pupils)
Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February	Half Term
Friday 22nd March	Term Ends

Christmas Art Competition

This year's Christmas Art Competition was coordinated by the Art Leader, Mr Kemp, of St Anne's School. The competition was set and sponsored by the Alderney Chamber of Commerce with the view of displaying the children's artwork in shop frontage on Victoria Street.

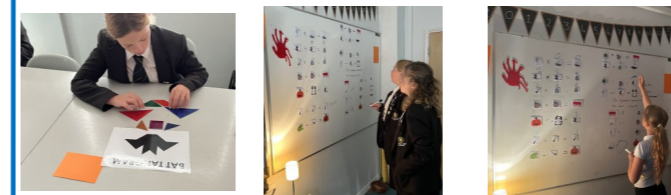
30 winners have been chosen from over 100 entries with an age range from Reception to Year 9. Each chosen entry will receive a cash prize of £5 which will be presented to the students in our final assembly on Friday 22nd December.

Artwork should be on display by the end of this weekend, so please pop along and see the excellent art work produced by the students of St Anne's School.



Halloween Maths Update

This Halloween, learning in secondary maths, took a sinister turn, with the room being decorated and students tried to solve puzzles with a spooky theme. Year 6 even got a chance to experience secondary maths and they rose to the challenge admirably, with two of the year 6's, Grace and Skye working together to solve one of the hardest puzzles.



School Attendance

The Benefits of Regular Attendance at School:

- Having a good education will help give your child the best possible start to life.
- If your child does not attend school regularly, he/she will not be able to keep up with the work.
- Employers will want to ensure that the people they wish to employ are reliable.
- Young people who have not attended school regularly have considerably less choice regarding the type of employment they wish to enter.



Holidays in Term Time

Education Services and schools seek to provide high standards and high expectations for all to enable learners to realise their full potential. Education Services' expectation is that all students will achieve an attendance of at least 95%.

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.)

It is, therefore, the position of Education Services that holidays in term time will not be authorised.

- Ms Smith

