



St. Anne's School
ALDERNEY

School News



Welcome to the Christmas 2024 edition of our newsletter for St. Anne's School.

Christmas Newsletter 2024



Attendance this term

Little Owls— 94%
Reception

Hedgehogs— 93%
Yrs. 1 & 2

Puffins — 95%
Yr. 3

Seagulls—92%
Yr.4

Gannets— 89%
Yr. 5&6

Arch—91%

Braye—92%

Corblets— 93%

Year 11—72%

Whole school—93%

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



Hello and a very Merry Christmas to one and all. As we approach the end of a very busy and successful autumn term, I would like to share some highlights and school developments with you.

The term started with an extended training schedule for staff and as all teachers travelled to Guernsey to join our counterparts from sister schools, we welcomed the introduction of the new Bailiwick ALN Code of Practice. This includes adopting several new innovative approaches to teaching and learning designed to be wholly inclusive and enable all learners, whatever their starting points, to be successful. We also received some training on using the new IT resources in school and we will look forward to the arrival of many new, one to one, devices early in the spring term which includes lots of Chromebooks and I-pads to support our learners.

When pupils returned, Mr O'Leary Leeson joined the team as our supply Art teacher, and we welcomed two wonderful new classes- our Reception Year and our new Little Acorns Pre-School class. Miss Chandler, one of our Pre-school keyworkers, began her maternity leave at the beginning of October and we were joined by Miss Corral to cover this period.

Our school's Interim Governance team recruited a new Community Governor, Beth Chapman this term and we hope that the team will continue to grow with the election of both a Parent and a Staff Governor early in the New Year.

In early October we held our first Primary Parent's evenings and of course our Harvest Assembly. This was swiftly followed by a PTA wine and cheese event to support the school's new promotional video, produced by Cameron Cairnduff, and designed to attract more young families to our wonderful island. The launch date for the finished 'masterpiece' is the 9th of January 2025 and it is hoped that a strong presence on social media will help to put St Anne's School on the map.

In late October we held our annual Awards Evening, and it was an absolute pleasure to celebrate the successes of both past and present pupils. All cups and trophies have now been engraved and are on proud display in our foyer. A hugely exciting development on this topic also emerged this term when a sponsor approached St Anne's school with an extremely generous offer to support a new prize in STEM (Science/ Technology/Engineering/ Maths) subjects from 2025 and more news on this will be shared in the New Year.

Early November saw our Year 11 studiously undertaking their mock GCSE exams and as December approached, the PTA Christmas fayre was held and was a resounding success! A HUGE thank you to everyone who contributed, time, prizes, cakes and attended this event. We are discussing the purchase of a Bike Shed and the possibility of Cycling/ Bikeability classes with the PTA from the proceeds of this. The D of E team held their very first Bingo night and Miss Brooke is pleased to report that this was also a very successful fundraiser.

We finish the school term with the splendid and sparkly Nativity performances (thank you to Mr Smith as Director and Producer), visits from Santa, Christmas parties and Christmas jumper day. Following our **Great to be Green** rewards days we end the term with our traditional Celebration assembly and Class Hamper Raffle.

It now just remains for me to say that I hope that all of our families have a restful and joyful Christmas, and we will look forward to welcoming our children back to school on Tuesday January 7th for the start of the spring term.

With festive felicitations

Mrs Wilson

Library news.....

Autumn is a wonderful season in the library, it is a time to get cosy and read a good book. It is also packed with activities and reading promotion.

Each year we celebrate Banned Books Week, and in doing so, recognise our freedom to read and express ourselves. It throws up lots of questions and opportunities for discussion. The pupils are always surprised to learn how many 'banned books' they have read!

As part of International Schools Library Month in October, Year 7, 8 and 9 delved into the world of graphic novels. After learning about the many methods used by illustrators, they had a go at producing their own, which are currently being entered into a national competition. Reception, Year 1 and 2 created a real book buzz when they brought in their favourite books to share. The library was alive with lots of excited book chatter as the children enjoyed each other's choices.

One of my favourite events is Non-Fiction November. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and explore the fact-filled world we live in; it is also a great way to showcase many of our innovative books. Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 are now experts in using the Dewey Decimal System to find information books and can confidently navigate their way through the texts. All helped by scavenger hunts, book bingo, and shelving games.

This term also marked the recruitment of my amazing Library Leaders; Maisie, Cheyenne, Imogen, Nyla, Maia, Aoife, Sandy, Benjamin, and William, who all work extremely hard to keep the library running efficiently. Thank you, gang.

We now look forward to our cosy Christmas story time around the fire which will lead us to the end of term – Merry Christmas!

P. S – It was bound to happen with all these shelves.... someone let an elf into the library! - Mrs Odoli



Aspirational Assemblies-Miss Smith (English Teacher and Form A Tutor)

On the 21st October 2024, when the prestigious Alderney filmmaker, Cam Cairnduff, presented our innovative filming project to the whole school, St. Anne's Hall was electric-charged! With the steadfast support of both pupils and staff, Cam (over a period of 5 months), filmed a bespoke promotional video, showcasing St. Anne's School as being, at the heart, of our beautiful island.

The purpose of this video (to inspire island recruitment, ensure retention and promote Alderney to existing and aspiring families- as well as highlighting our island, as a visitor's 'dream' escape) was fully realised! We would especially like to thank Lilian (Year 10) and Evelyn (Year 9) for their memorable roles as narrators of the film as well as René and Tom (Year 10) for their contribution.

Following the excitement of Cam's Assembly, Tom Roberts visited our Seniors, on the 5th of November. Tom (a.k.a. 'Tomfoolery') is a spoken-word poet and filmmaker who shot to global fame on social media (also appearing- to great acclaim, on 'Good Morning Britain') during Covid. St. Anne's School pupils were enraptured by Tom's interactive presentation on: 'Global Citizenship and the Power of Storytelling'.

After introducing himself and sharing his journey as a writer and storyteller, Tom offered examples of global issues (such as: climate change, inequality, and kindness to others) to demonstrate how interconnected our lives are. The highlight of Tom's assembly was his performance of his poem, 'The Great Realisation'. He explained how the poem reflects themes of hope, resilience, and looking at the world with fresh eyes.

Tom's final words of encouragement to our pupils were: "Each of your stories-matters! Every voice contributes to a better world. I encourage you to use creativity to dream up the future you want to live in and to be brave in sharing your ideas!"

Tom gifted our school library with a signed copy of his beautifully illustrated book, containing his poem, 'Alive With Poppies'. This poem tells, through verse, the history and symbolic importance of the poppy. This poem was first performed at the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance, in the Royal Albert Hall, in 2021 and was read again, on Remembrance Sunday, in Alderney.

Year Four Autumn 2024

In Autumn term during science we were learning about the three types of rock: these rock types are called sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic.

In Humanities we were learning about the stone age and we drew some pictures of the tools they used, such as a spear. A spear was useful for small animals like wild boars but huge animals like mammoths were chased off cliffs or into tar pits and were killed slowly.

In Guided Reading we were focusing on a book called Stig of the Dump. Stig is a caveman who lives in a chalk pit and meets a boy who helps him do/build things like a chimney or windows.

In PSHE, we were learning about anti-bullying. The four types of bullying are; verbal, indirect, physical and cyber bullying.

This year for the school nativity we have been practicing our play called C H R I S T M A S spells Christmas. There are three kings, their names are Oliver Max and Teddy.

By Teddy



Year 1 and 2 news...

In Y1&2 this half term, we have been learning how to make healthy, fresh fruit smoothies.

We've been practicing cutting, slicing, dicing and juicing fruits and we agreed that our smoothies were delicious!

- Miss Varley



Year 3 news...

One of Year 3's highlights this term has been performing and presenting in our class assemblies. Our first-class assembly showcased all of our knowledge about the Vikings. In our second-class assembly we spoke about our hopes and dreams for the future.

Another highlight this term has been taking part in our inter-generational project. We made Christmas cards for all of the residents at Connaught Care Home. In class, we have been learning what a care home is and the importance of closing the generation gap.—Miss Jerram



PE news...

It has been a busy term in relation to PE. Secondary classes have covered topics such as Netball, Basketball & Touch Rugby while Junior classes have had performed sequences in floor gymnastics and developed their dive rolls and inverted shapes on and over the apparatus. Infants have had a lot of fun exploring and developing their Fundamental Movements & Skills. One of the many highlights has been the enthusiasm that the Secondary girls have shown towards Netball. Starting in curriculum lessons and an after-school club, 16+ girls then requested access to the netball court, bibs and balls at lunchtimes to play in pupil led and organised games against each other. It has been a real privilege to watch so many engage regularly in the sport and it is now firmly embedded on the after school and lunch time timetable.

- Mr Kirkland



Debate Club news...

Mr Holland has started a weekly after school activity, known as 'Debate Club,' for all those in Years 7-11. Although debating is definitely part of the activity, the entire scheme falls under the Model United Nations banner, which is a worldwide activity where young people assume the roles of delegates for different countries and debate a range of global issues. A large part of the time is spent in preparation and research in order to be well-briefed on the assigned country's views on topics. The style of debate is highly structured and that needs to be learned as well. The transferable skills learned during this activity are numerous, including public speaking, debating and research. Experience in MUN debates is highly prized by leading universities as they recognise the skills that are learned and many of them have their own MUN clubs. It is hoped in time that a team of debaters will be sufficiently confident that we will be able to attend a debate in the UK. Mr Holland has been involved in MUN for much of the past 20 years and taken teams of delegates to over 40 conferences across the UK and mainland Europe.—Mr Holland



Children in Need news...

Last Friday, our school council organised a cake sale to raise money for Children in Need, and it was a great success! The table was filled with homemade goodies donated by students and their families. By the end of the day, we raised an incredible £250!

To show their support, students and staff were also encouraged to wear a splash of yellow as it is Children in Need's signature colour.

The school council would like to thank everyone who donated, baked, or purchased treats to make this fundraiser such a success. The money raised will go directly to Children in Need, helping to provide support to children across the UK.—Grace C

Running Club news...

This term, a small group of children have been regularly training hard every week to improve their running. It has been fantastic to run with such a keen bunch and watch them develop their stamina, speed, technique and mental focus. Look out for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics as we aim high! - Mr Smith



Harvest Festival



DofE Bingo

A big thank you to everyone who supported the DofE Bingo evening by attending or buying raffle tickets. In particular, a huge thank you to the dedicated 'Bingo team' who run these monthly events for different charities. Over £900 was raised to help with the costs of getting students 'off island' for their expeditions.



DofE Jumble Sale



PTA news...

A huge thank you to everyone who made our recent Christmas Fayre such a success! From the parent and teacher volunteers who gave up their Sunday mornings to help, to all the families and friends who came along to support and enjoy the event – we couldn't have done it without you. Together, we raised, just over, an incredible £1,700, which will go a long way toward enhancing our school. We're excited to share that we're now exploring the purchase of bike racks, making it easier for children to cycle to school and encouraging sustainable travel. Watch this space for updates, and thank you again for your continued support! - Beth Chapman

Year 9 Science news...

Year 9 students have been studying the digestive system and used wearable aprons to map out the human anatomy—Ms Brooke



Infants Christmas Craft Competition—Mrs Costello

A great big thank you to all the families who took part in this year's competition. We had lots of fantastic entries which showcased a wide range of skills and some vivid imaginations.

The winning entries were:

Reception: Eddie

Year 1: Esmae

Year 2: Rosie

Well done everyone and enjoy hanging your creations on your Christmas trees.

Made by
Eddie



Made by
Esmae



Made by
Rosie



UK Bebras Challenge 2024

In November, 54 of our students from Year 5 to Year 10 took part in the UK Bebras Challenge. This is the nation's largest computing competition, with last year, over 465,000 students from across the UK taking part. The competition is organised by the Raspberry Pi Foundation and delivered in partnership with the University of Oxford. It is designed to spark interest in computational thinking among students by providing engaging and thought-provoking activities with questions designed to give every student the opportunity to showcase their potential, whether they excel in maths or computing, or not, in a 45-minute challenge.

Certificates are awarded to all who partake but the top 50% in each age group for their school receive a merit, those in the top 25% receive a distinction and the top in each year group receive a 'Best in School'.

The year groups were as follows:

- Castors – Year 5
- Juniors – Year 6 and 7
- Intermediates – Years 8 and 9
- Seniors – Year 10

Certificates will be awarded at Celebration Assembly on the day we break for Christmas but below I've mentioned the 'Best in School' for their year group

- Castors - Tiyasha
- Juniors - May
- Intermediates - Evie C
- Seniors - Kelan

A huge congratulations for all those who took part in this competition, however, a special mention must go to May who also received a Gold Award for scoring in the top 10% of all schools in the UK and will be invited to take part in the next round which is a Coding Challenge which will happen sometime in January, next year.—Mr Gardner

Diary dates:

- Monday 6th January—Staff start school
- Tuesday 7th January—Pupil start school
- Wednesday 8th January—Parent Governor information evening 7pm at the school
- Thursday 16th January—DofE non uniform fundraiser
- Saturday 18th January—DofE Jumble Sale
- Wednesday 22nd January—Year 9 Parents' Evening
- Wednesday 5th February—Year 8 Parents' Evening
- Thursday 6th February—Guernsey Child Measurement Programme Yr 1 & 5
- Monday 23rd February—Friday 28th February—Half Term
- Wednesday 12th March—Year 7 Parents' Evening
- Wednesday 12th March—Primary Parents' Evening (another day tbc).
- Wednesday 19th March—Year 9 Options Evening
- Sunday 30th March—Friday 4th April—Year 9 Calshot trip
- Thursday 10th April 12.25pm—Easter holidays
- Monday 28th April—Staff start
- Tuesday 29th April—Pupils start

'Great Oaks from Little Acorns Grow'- St Anne's School Awards Evening

On a windy evening in late October, we welcomed back our former Year 11's, all of whom collected their qualification certificates and a range of prizes in our annual Awards Evening.

A vast array of prizes for both Endeavour and Achievement were awarded to learners across the school including pupils from infants, juniors and seniors.

The final cut of our school's promotional video was shown and a rousing Djembe performance by Yr 8 & 9 was also enjoyed. Cameron Cairnduff joined us as our guest speaker

Over 120 invited guests attended to admire some of the outstanding Art work former Yr 11 young people produced for their GCSE's last summer and Mrs Wilson thanked the staff at school, our parents and wider members of the Alderney Community, the School Management Committee, The PTA and The President's Office and the Interim Governing Board for their continued support of our learners' achievements.



Free resources for parents

We now have two sources of online support, free to parents of St Anne's School.

The Wellbeing Hub (<https://teentips.co.uk/wellbeing-hub/>) has been available for a few years; membership is gifted to us by the Ladies College. There are courses for parents (including Autism Awareness) and lots of information for children - all our pupils can also access the resources at an age-appropriate level. If you do not have the link, to access the Hub for free, please contact Kim Smith (ALNCo and Inclusion Manager). In January, the focus is on social media and mental health.

The States of Guernsey and Government of Jersey are jointly funding a multi-user license, enabling all families to access a comprehensive range of online courses at no cost to the family. The Solihull approach is designed to support families at every stage of their journey, from pregnancy to adolescence. Key highlights of online courses include:

- Understanding your child's emotional health and brain development.
- Reading your child's behaviours.
- Developing communication.

Visit <https://inourplace.co.uk/jersey-and-guernsey/> for information on how to access this.

- Ms Kim Smith

January - Social media and mental health

W/c 06.01 Podcast: The impact of social media on children and young people's attention with Elizabeth Milavidov, Lawyer and E-safety Consultant

Tues 14.01 Webinar: The relationship between social media, health 'influencers', and body image with Natasha Devon MBE, Author, Presenter and Activist

W/c 20.01 Podcast: The connection between self-esteem and social media with Tracy Moxley, Executive Director of Schools for New Century Education

W/c 27.01 Podcast: the healthy selfie: how to like yourself in the digital age with Dr Suzie Davies, Author and Founder of PAPAAYA (Parents against phone addiction in young adolescents)