



St. Anne's School  
ALDERNEY

# School News

## Easter Newsletter 2025



### Attendance this term

Little Owls— 94%  
Reception

Hedgehogs— 93%  
Yrs. 1 & 2

Puffins — 92%  
Yr. 3

Seagulls—95%  
Yr.4

Gannets— 92%  
Yr. 5&6

Arch—93%

Braye—95%

Corblets— 93%

Year 11—72%

Whole school—92%

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



## *Welcome to the Easter 2025 edition of our newsletter for St. Anne's School.*

Dear Parents and Carers,

After a wonderfully busy and successful spring term, it's time for us all to enjoy the arrival of spring, soak in some sunshine, and take a well-earned break over the Easter holidays.

This term started with the exciting launch of our incredible school promotional video and new Facebook page. I'm thrilled to share that our video has been viewed almost 445,000 times! Who would have thought that so many people would take such an interest in our wonderful little school? Thanks to this buzz, we've had over 20,000 visits to our school website, and we believe it's played a role in the recent 6% increase in our school roll and a rise in the number of quality applications for our advertised positions.

Many of you are already following our Facebook page, which is a fantastic way to stay connected and celebrate the highlights of each term. If you haven't joined us there yet, I warmly encourage you to visit St Anne's School Facebook page. Be sure to check out some of this term's key events!

We're also proud of our recent collaboration with For Your Information (FYI)—Sky News, which resulted in a wonderful showcase of life at our school and what it means to grow up on a small island. We're incredibly proud of all of the pupils who participated in the programme. It was a refreshing antidote to the perception that our island lacks opportunities. Through the Greener Futures, Schools Across the Ocean project, our young learners have become inspiring, hopeful global ambassadors. A special thank you Year 5 & 6 and Mr Smith for his work on this.

As we wrap up this term with some fun, chocolate-filled Easter activities, I'd like to extend a huge thank you to St Anne's PTA for their continued generosity. From sponsoring Easter prizes to providing a wide range of school resources, their support is invaluable. This term's fundraising efforts across the island have been nothing short of phenomenal, and we are deeply grateful to everyone in our community who gives their time, energy, and support to provide the very best opportunities for our young people.

Thank you for being such an integral part of our school's journey.

Finally, on a personal note, many of you will be aware that due to some urgent and pressing family matters, I'll be taking a sabbatical from my role as Headteacher next term. This decision wasn't made lightly, but I am confident that the school will be in excellent hands during my time away.

Our wonderful Deputy Headteacher, Deborah Dix, will step into the role of Acting Headteacher. Deborah has been a highly valued member of St Anne's School for the past three years, and she brings with her a wealth of experience, including over 12 years as a Headteacher at a UK primary school. I'm deeply grateful to Deborah for taking on these additional responsibilities, and I know she'll lead the school with care and expertise. During this period, her current duties will be effectively managed by other members of our Senior Leadership Team, ensuring a seamless continuation of our work.

Although I'll be spending much of my time in the UK during this sabbatical, as Alderney is my home, you may still see me around on the island from time to time.

Thank you for your understanding and support during this time. It means a great deal to me.

Warm regards,

Wendy Wilson

### Library news...

The highlight of this term must be World Book Day.

Our theme was '*great journeys*' and was an extravaganza of intrepid explorers, awesome adventurers and some very curious contraptions from a *Wardrobe to Narnia to Amelia Earhart's aircraft*. All inspired by the wonderful world of fact and fiction.

Our school hall was transformed into an airport departure lounge where our travellers had the opportunity to show case their creative costumes. Pupils paraded to the check-in desks where they were issued with a reading passport and World Book Day book voucher (redeemed in the library later that day). There was even an aeroplane, ready for boarding and a photo opportunity, kindly made by Kate Allison.

Staff got creative by decorating classroom doors to an extremely high standard in the hope of winning some chocolate! Congratulations to Mrs Dix, whose door was chosen as the winner by our Year 8 pupils.

As in previous years, the pupils were invited to enter a variety of competitions, with prizes generously provided by the PTA. And again, the standard of entries was excellent. Well done to our winners:

My Favourite Book – Thea (Year 1), Willow (Year 2)

Best Book Review – Nova (Year 1), Benjamin (Year 3), Eden (Year 4)

Time Traveller Challenge – Sandy (Year 5)

Create a New Mode of Transport – Miles (Year 3), Archie (Year 4), Isla (Year 7).



### Year 9 Calshot 2025...

Year 9 students at St. Anne's experienced the thrill and excitement of outdoor adventure at the Calshot Activity Centre in Southampton. They have taken part in an exciting variety of activities, including skiing and snowboarding, track cycling, climbing, sailing, archery, rifle shooting, and orienteering in the beautiful New Forest. Along with these, they have also enjoyed a range of team-building challenges that have brought out the best in each of them.

It has been a truly unforgettable experience, and the students have had a fantastic time, making memories with their friends and responding wonderfully to the dedicated instructors.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the entire school community who made this incredible trip possible.

A special thank you goes to Jim Philips and the Tripsfund Alderney, as well as the Rotary Club of Alderney for their generous donations. We also extend our deep appreciation to the many families who went above and beyond to help our Year 9 pupils raise the funds necessary for this adventure. Your support has made a lasting impact on these young people, and we are truly thankful for your kindness and generosity.

Thank you again for making this experience possible. It has been a week filled with joy, growth, and unforgettable memories.



### Rhubarb Theatre visit...

Reception and Year 5 & 6 enjoyed having Kirsty from the Rhubarb Theatre in school.

Reception children focused on *The Gruffalo* and Year 5 & 6 focused on *Around the World in Eighty Days*.



### A Year Full of Stories...

Year 2 had a wonderful visit from Julia Bichard and received a beautiful book '*A Year Full of Stories*'.



### Eat them to defeat them...

St Anne's School, Alderney kicked off the #EatThemToDefeatThem campaign with an assembly from our Eat Well Officer, Cat. At the end of the assembly, children got started right away with their veg chomping, with a selection of veggies available for them to try on the way back to class. What a great idea!



### Staff updates...

We will say a fond farewell to Mr Kemp this Easter as he reluctantly begins his retirement. Cameron leaves behind an amazing legacy of outstanding Art opportunities and outcomes for our learners since 2017 and he will be sadly missed. Also, we say goodbye to Mr Ebdon who leaves us for Gloucester after a term of maths supply teaching. We are very grateful for his work with the children of St Anne's.

On a positive note, I am pleased to inform you that Mr O'Leary Leeson has been appointed to the post of permanent Art Teacher and Mr Hubert joins us at the start of the summer term as our new permanent maths teacher.

### Red Nose Day 2025...

We raised a grand total of £433.15 for Red Nose Day, thank you for all of your support and delicious cake donations.



### de Putron Challenge...

In March, for the first time, St Anne's School were invited to participate in the de Putron Challenge – a competition for Y6 and Y8 pupils from schools across Guernsey and Jersey.

St Anne's were represented, in the Year 6 competition, by Kathy Burden, Imogen Cotton and Maia Gaudion (Team Captain). They were slightly nervous as they sat at the St Anne's School table, on the stage at Beau Sejour, but soon settled down to the challenge. The first round was a STEM challenge – to build a tower of spaghetti and marshmallows, followed by rounds on current affairs, Maths and Art & Music. Although they didn't win the heat, they did well.

Maia said, "Even though we didn't win, it was a really wonderful experience, and we made history by being there."

In the afternoon, it was the Year 8's turn, represented by Evie Crawford (Team Captain), Pixi Thomas-Cox and Molly Johns. They were slightly less nervous, having watched the morning events and having a greater understanding of what it entailed. They also had a STEM round (in which they won a bonus point for teamwork) followed by current affairs, Music and Art, History (based on watching a video), Literature and Science & Geography. Evie said, "We were quite nervous at first but once we warmed up to it, it was actually good fun. I am really pleased that I did it and would recommend it to anyone interested in quizzes."



### Year 1 & 2 news...

This half term we have been making puppets. We had to design them, cut them out and then sew two pieces of felt together before we decorated them. The most important thing was making sure that our hand could fit inside so we can use them!



### Infants Easter Craft Competition...

This year we invited families to decorate a hard boiled egg and lots of you entered the craft competition. Everyone thought of original ideas and many skills were used to produce imaginative items. All the entries were very carefully made and decorated.

A great big thank you to those of you who joined in and a very well done to everyone.

The winners were:

Reception: Ethan

Year 1: Lara and Noelia

Year 2: Thea



### Secret Garden update...

**St Anne's School Jumble Sale on Saturday 10th May** in order to raise money for the rejuvenation of the Secret Garden.

There is a quiet outdoor space at the end of the school field which joins onto Braye Road. Although this has been used as a wildlife area, we are trying to develop this a little more to create an outdoor space to use for Forest School and the John Muir Award.

Sam and Harvey, as part of their John Muir Award, have been working very hard to clear away the overgrowth in the Secret Garden and their next project will be digging and creating a new pond area.

With the financial help and support of the PTA and the expert knowledge of the Alderney Wildlife Trust we are in the process of creating a pond (that doesn't leak) to create a habitat which can be used \ studied to support the Science curriculum.

Looking even further to the future, we are having a jumble sale to raise money for a shed and some equipment to support Forest School activities. If you can help or wish to donate any jumble, please get in touch. Posters will be circulated soon.



Harvey and Sam clearing away the old shed

### The Saffery Rotary Walk 2025...

The Saffery Rotary Walk is proud to support Alderney Duke of Edinburgh Award this year, and we hope to provide funds to purchase 5 lightweight backpacking tents.

Alderney Duke of Edinburgh Award enables young people to achieve their bronze and silver qualifications, providing the opportunity to go off island to explore Guernsey and the UK.

To support all 25 local charities this year, please sign up for the Walk today: [www.safferyrotarywalk.org.gg](http://www.safferyrotarywalk.org.gg)



### Sky News visited Alderney to film a special feature from St Anne's School

You can find the videos below:

First News: <https://videos.firstnews.co.uk/growing-up-on-a-tiny-island/>

YouTube: [https://youtu.be/B\\_R5yXt-7Vs?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/B_R5yXt-7Vs?feature=shared)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DHwJQVXutSE/?igsh=MTV4MjZndzB1cGNsOA==>

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@skynews/video/7486921114288000278?>

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Inter-House Senior 300- Word 'Journey' Writing Competition 2025

**All entries were judged by a panel of 5 St. Anne's staff members**

**Congratulations in third place to...**

- Yr 7 Coean (Casquets),
- Yr 8 Pixi (Casquets),
- Yr 9 Filip (Burhou)
- Yr 10 Poppy (Burhou)

**Congratulations in second place to...**

- Yr 7 George (Ortac)
- Yr 8 Evie C. (Ortac)
- Yr 9 George (Burhou)
- Yr 10 Lilian (Ortac)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST PLACE CHAMPION INNOVATIVE WRITERS:**

- Yr 7 Lucas (Casquets)
- Yr 8 Nabila (Casquets)
- Yr 9 Hollie (Ortac)
- Yr 10 Fraser (Ortac)

**OVERALL SENIOR HOUSE WINNERS:**

- First place> Ortac: 97 MERITS
- Second place> Casquets: 81 MERITS
- Third place> Burhou: 57 MERITS

The Broken Soul by Lucas in Year 7

I wake up in a sack.  
I feel the bodies of my siblings and my mother surround me. I can't move.  
This is the unfairness of life.  
I panic and start to whine. About an hour later, I hear a voice.  
The voice of a human.  
I immediately stop whining and keep... as quiet as possible. The voice brings a beacon of hope to my little destroyed soul; however, once more, I start to whine...  
... The next thing I know, I am taken to an animal shelter.  
I will never feel my family's bodies again.  
A year passes.  
After what feels like an aeon, I am terrified to leave my home in Romania. Inside the shelter is the first time I feel happy.. since... that incident.  
In a black truck, one night, I am taken to a harbour, near the coast of an ocean. In a cage, I am taken to a cargo boat. A day passes; I feel like I'm going to be sick. The cage is cramped; I haven't seen the sun since the day before. Suddenly, I figure out how to unlock the cage...  
I escape!  
Looking around the room, I see a poster of the ocean. There is a pin in the middle of the English Channel; I wonder why? I make it to the deck of the ship.  
The sun brings a sense of relief, of warmth.  
In an instant, a tall man comes from behind me and swoops me up in his hands. My first reaction is violence. I feel bad. I am back in that hellscape of a cage, and I can't feel my leg.  
We finally make it... to the pin in the map.  
The place is called, 'Alderney'.  
This is where I will start...  
My new life.  
(This is a short story based on a true story- the story of my dog, Rusty)

Mars Colony Mission by George in Year 7

Nick was the next on a Mars Colony Mission, as were Dan, Martin, and Helen. The other crew members had completed a year of long and torturous training to be able to brave the years on the Martian landscape. Nick was told that Mars would be kinder. He was sceptical but thought that they must be right.  
When the day came, the rocket carrying the old colonists arrived. They were withered and pale and seemed blinded by the sunlight. They looked like the walking dead! Nick wondered (at the end of the long, hard journey that awaited them), whether he and the other crew would be... like them.  
As the rocket entered deep space, Nick and the others entered cryostorage.  
Nick felt a rush of cold, more frigid than Antarctica, then...  
Nothing!  
One year later, the crew all awoke at once.  
From Nick's absolute zero state, the temperature of the room felt hotter than the sun. As Nick looked around, he saw a sign that he could walk to the colony in.  
He saw a sign that said,  
*"if the surface dust gets to you, it WILL kill you!"*  
This alarmed Nick. However, to be safe, he just had to get to the underground colony...  
Four years later, when Nick ventured out to fix the drone again, he discovered (from his time on the planet) that Mars was Hell; he often got cancer, but he *could* cure minor cases.  
The others were not so lucky.  
After finally fixing the drone, Nick journeyed to the colony, but... when he arrived, he saw a speck of red dust on the ground.  
Nick ran for his life!  
If he inhaled (even one tiny bit), that would be his end.  
Hiding in the food room, Nick would spend five more years...  
Until his end.

Year 3 news...

Year 3 have had many highlights this term, one of which was when *Art for Guernsey* visited us. We learnt about the artist Pierre-Auguste Renoir and explored different paints and painting techniques. Another highlight this term, was writing our narratives and creating our own fantasy maps.

