



St. Anne's School
ALDERNEY

School News

Summer Newsletter 2025



Attendance this term

Little Owls— 97%
Reception

Hedgehogs— 95%
Yrs. 1 & 2

Puffins — 98%
Yr. 3

Seagulls—95%
Yr.4

Gannets— 95%
Yr. 5&6

Arch—92%

Braye—95%

Corblets— 92%

Whole school—95%

2024 - 2025
Whole school = 94%.

Best Primary Class =
Little Owls (96%).

Best Secondary Form =
Braye (95%)

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



Welcome to the Summer 2025 edition of our newsletter for St. Anne's School.

Dear parents and carers, it has been another successful year at St Anne's School and as we approach the summer holidays, it is worth noting some of the successes we have experienced this academic year. We are currently undergoing a digital transformation and have the very good fortune to have a ViewSonic interactive board in every classroom and many of our pupils, from the Juniors upwards, have their own 1-2-1 device to work with in school. We are proud to announce that our outcomes for our pupils are very positive this year and compare favourably to our those of our neighbouring schools in Guernsey and against UK averages. This is due to the continued hard work of our staff and pupils. We have continued to implement and refine our Behaviour Curriculum, which has shown improving trends in the fewer numbers of red and yellow cards issued as the year has progressed.

We have again had lots of exciting events this term at school.

Extra-curricular clubs continue to be offered to all children at St Anne's this term including: Duke of Edinburgh route planning training, National Life Saving Academy, Primary Swimming club, Amphitheatre library club, Football club, Dance club, Debating club, Netball club, Dungeons and Dragons club, Primary & Secondary Striking & Fielding Games clubs, Secondary Art Club, Homework club & GCSE Catch up classes. Infants have also had opportunities to join Art and Cheerleading clubs this term. Residential/ off island school trips this term include: Yrs 9 & 10 pupils undertaking D of E practice and real expeditions to Guernsey, Sark and the UK for Bronze and Silver awards. The Y6 pupils also had their residential trip to Guernsey (23-27 June). Y5&6 pupils attended the Youth Games in Guernsey in June & basketball, netball & softball coaches from Guernsey have visited school. On 12 & 16 May secondary pupils visited HMS Medusa & the reenactment & parade in Connaught Square (Operation Merit) celebrating 80 years since the German surrender.

Other opportunities for learning beyond the classroom this term, include: Oral Health Team PSHE visitors for primary and secondary pupils; Science Dome in the hall; a cultural visit from pupils from Lycée La Hague; Guernsey Police educational visit; Youth Commission lunchtime stall on Mental Health & Well-being; Sports Days on 7,8 & 10 July; Various activity days for the whole school (including Y7 sailing lessons) during the last week of term.

During this academic year, we said goodbye to Cameron Kemp, our Art teacher, who retired at Easter. We all wish Cameron the very best for the future. We also say goodbye to Gill Costello, our Reception class teacher and another beloved teacher in our school community, who will be retiring at the end of this term. Again, we all wish Gill the very best in the future and we wish both Gill and Cameron a very long, happy and well-earned retirement. Our new Reception class teacher will be Keely Mark from September and we wish Keely all the best in her new role. We are also saying goodbye to Kirsty O'Leary-Leeson, our LSA, who will be splitting her time between Alderney and England and to Ayelen Corral, our former LSA and now Cover Supervisor, who is seeking new job opportunities in Europe and we also say goodbye to Neil Burton, our long-term peripatetic Music teacher who is also retiring this summer. We wish them all the very best for the future. We will be welcoming Poppy Matimong as a new LSA from September and Rebecca Hockey, who also joins us as a part-time primary PPA Cover teacher and, as you know, Julian Holland will continue at St Anne's as our permanent Humanities teacher. I'm sure you will join me in extending a warm welcome to them as they become part of our school community.

Attendance at our school continues to improve and I am very pleased to report that, at the time of writing this, we have had 94 % attendance at school this year. We are grateful that you, as families, continue to work with us to support your children's good attendance at school and ensure that term-time holidays are kept to a minimum.

I am pleased to announce that our numbers are rising and we have welcomed some new families to our school this year. We also have 18 new Reception pupils joining us in September. This means that our numbers on roll will be a healthy 151 pupils (including pre-school) from September. We have recently said goodbye to our lovely Year 11 students, who had their Leavers' Assembly on 26 June. We are proud of their dedication and focus and look forward to the GCSE exam results day on Thursday 21 August. Many of our Year 11 students have exciting plans for post-16 destinations and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

At the time of writing, Wendy Wilson, our Head teacher, will be shortly returning from her sabbatical leave. We are looking forward to warmly welcoming Wendy back to St Anne's. In the time that I have been Acting Head teacher, I have received lots of support from the staff and school community, and I want to thank you all for your warmth and kindness. Finally, I would like to wish you all a great summer, I hope you find some sunshine and some well-earned rest and I look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Deborah Dix

OUR ST. ANNE'S YEAR 6 SCHOOL TRIP - MY FAVOURITE DAY!

Thursday

In the morning, we woke up! Ready to go! After enjoying a filling breakfast, we headed to experience: 'Go-Karting'!

All suited up, our tutor explained what all the lights meant and when to 'slow down'! We were all given a number; I got number: '23'! In our karts... off we zoomed; we had the best time ever! When we finished, we found out that Mr. Smith had paid extra so that we could all have half an hour longer! Thank you, Mr. Smith!

Later, we jumped on the bus to the Herm boat. When we arrived, Mr. Smith had to park... Because we were 1 mile away, he had six minutes to run...: 1 mile! However, in the end, Mr. Smith made it!

Excitedly, we all sat down on the boat to Herm! When we arrived, we visited the gift shop and then we had the tastiest lunch at the Mermaid Tavern. Afterwards, we walked a mile to Shell Beach, where we searched for shells! While the girls and Mr. Smith swam, Freddie and I went rock pooling.

We deserved an ice cream (I got a banana split!). Sadly, we had to return to the boat because our five hours were done!

Returning to Guernsey wasn't disappointing! We shopped for BBQ delights! (Aoife bought a pizza!). Back at base, after a refreshing shower, we all enjoyed a really nice BBQ! Then... we went to bed ...

Thank you to Ms. Morgan and Mr. Smith for making our Year 6 Trip SO AMAZING! Without Mr. Smith, I would not have made it through the week! THANK YOU!

By Murray Parker



Year 1 and 2 news...

In DT Y1&2 have been looking at mechanisms and creating their own vehicles using wheels and axles. We have practised with different sized wheels and different materials. We've had a great time and we think our vehicles look great!



Our Year 4 Geography Field Trip by Max Cotton

On Monday, 7th July 2025, after an early break, we set off on our exciting trip to Clonque. We have been learning about the different coastlines and coastal defences of the world, especially in Alderney, in our Geography lessons, so went out to see them up close. We spotted some gabions [which are piles of rocks in cages along the coastlines to break up the waves to slow down erosion] as well as some stacks and stumps. We collected sand samples from each beach we visited along the way. When we were at the causeway we saw caves, big rock pools and even some oyster catcher nests with tiny little eggs in, they were really cool, but we stayed clear of them. We really enjoyed the trip, thank you to Mrs Gilyead, Miss Cotton and Miss Hockey for taking us!



Sports Day 2025

Last week, St Anne's was alive with energy, excitement, and athleticism as we hosted three spectacular Sports Days, celebrating the sporting talents of our pupils across all year groups.

On Monday, we hosted the infant sports day for our pre-school, reception, year one and two pupils. It was great to see all your groups participate in a carousel of athletic sporting activities, running, jumping and throwing; showcasing the skills they have learned in PE.

On Tuesday, we hosted the junior sports day for years 3 - 6. This sports day took on a more traditional athletics event with all pupils participating in the 80m sprint, 400m race, long jump and nerf throw, along with participating in traditional sports day games, such as egg and spoon races and relay races. On what was a fantastic day, all pupils recorded a personal best score in at least one event while a number of sports day records were broken by the competitors.

On Thursday, it was the seniors turn to compete. All pupils took part in the 80m, 200m, long jump and javelin while 17 opted to compete in the challenging 400m.

Athletes competed in their year groups, scoring points as an individual but also for their houses. A number of sports day records were broken and all pupils recorded a personal best time or distance in at least one event.

All sports days were keenly supported by parents and relatives in what was three days of fantastic, athletic sporting activities.



PTA Fayre

On behalf of the St Anne's School PTA, we would like to thank you the school teachers, students, parents, businesses & wider Alderney community for helping us raise over £3,000 at our Summer Fayre!! A special thank you to all who helped make the Fayre another great success on the day and in the lead up to a special thank you to all the island businesses who very generously donated raffle prizes .



Healthy School's Award

In the Early Years department, the children and their families have been working hard in supporting the school to secure a Bailiwick of Guernsey 'Healthy School's Award'. We have been taste testing healthy new foods and recording them in our 'Fun Food Journals', packing and eating our way through super healthy snack pots and lunchboxes each day, sharing fruit and veg with our friends that's kindly donated by the 'Fruity Friday' helper each week. We also held a 'Stay and Play- Fun Foods' event in June, that parents/carers were invited to. This event was packed full of fun play based activities and learning opportunities, that also supported the exposure to new foods, and awareness around the importance of healthy diet and lifestyle. This event was kindly funded by The Health Improvement Commission. With their support we hope to run it each year for all Early Years children and their families to enjoy. St. Anne's School now proudly holds an Outstanding Healthy School Award, which can be viewed in the foyer.



Youth Games 2025

On Saturday, June 14th, 2025, sixteen Year 5 and 6 children travelled, by ferry, from Alderney to Guernsey to participate in the 2025 Specsavers Youth Games.

Over the preceding term, these young athletes trained with coaches from Guernsey, developing new skills and participating in small-sided games in netball, basketball, softball, padel, and athletics to prepare for the event.

Despite a somewhat turbulent sea crossing, the group arrived in Guernsey and were transported to Beau Sejour Leisure Centre.

Throughout the morning, across Guernsey, St. Anne's pupils engaged in practices and games within their respective five sports, alongside fellow students from primary schools across Guernsey.

A total of 800 children took part in this sports festival, which aimed to provide sporting opportunities for all young people.

Following lunch, the St. Anne's contingent moved to Footes Lane, where they enjoyed a range of playground games, connected with classmates, and had some free time before the closing ceremony.

During the closing ceremony, all participating children gathered in their allocated teams and paraded around the athletic track, culminating in a final ceremony under the grandstand.

The day was a resounding success, with all St. Anne's students representing themselves, their school, and their island with distinction. Many formed new friendships and all created lasting memories during a wonderful day of sport.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Alderney Sports Foundation and the Tripsfund for their generous donations, which facilitated the students' travel from Alderney to Guernsey. Finally, we wish to thank the Guernsey Sports Commission, all of their coaches, and the volunteers for their invaluable support throughout the day and the lead-up to what was a truly fantastic event.



Science Extravaganza Day Blasts Off with Explorer Dome!

We were thrilled to welcome Josh and Matt from Explorer Dome for an unforgettable Science Extravaganza Day that brought the wonders of space and chemistry right into our school!

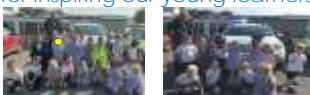
The day began with a cosmic adventure as our primary children stepped into the Space Dome: an immersive experience that transported them beyond the classroom and into the stars. Inside the dome, students explored the mysteries of the night sky, learned about constellations, and discovered the science behind our solar system in a fun and interactive way. In the afternoon, the excitement continued with a chemistry show that truly went with a BANG! Josh and Matt wowed the audience with explosive experiments, colourful reactions, and fascinating facts that sparked curiosity and laughter in equal measure.



We extend a huge thank you to the Guernsey Cultural Enrichment Team for making this incredible event possible. Their support allowed our students to engage with science in a hands-on, memorable way—igniting imaginations and inspiring future scientists.

Special Visitors in School!

Our Reception, Year 1 and 2 children had a very exciting morning with some very special guests! We were thrilled to welcome Laura Simpson and PC Adam, who came to talk to the children about the important role of a police officer and what their job involves. The children got to try on real police uniforms and even had a chance to sit in a squad car! What an unforgettable experience—thank you for inspiring our young learners!



Exploring Architecture Through Art

Our incredibly talented Year 8 students have been busy creating striking A1 mixed media artworks—each piece inspired by the dynamic styles of John Piper and Stephen Wilshire. From expressive colour and texture to detailed, observational drawing, these young artists have channelled their imagination into unique architectural scenes both real and imagined.

Using drawing, collage, ink, and paint, they've brought to life the essence of buildings in ways that reflect both structure and creativity. It's a vibrant celebration of design, innovation, and the individual voices of each student.



Humanities update...

The summer term has been very busy for the Humanities department; preparing our Year 11s for their History GCSE exams (very best of luck with the results); getting to the end of units in Year 10 History and Geography GCSEs (both sets are over halfway through their courses); Year 9 completing projects on the occupation of the Channel Islands in WWII and finally making the most of the weather to get out of the classroom.

Operation Merit...

As all on the island know, we celebrate Homecoming in December and quite rightly so; however, the other islands celebrate Liberation Day. With 2025 being the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, the Henry Euler Trust, established in Alderney to research and sustain interest in the maritime interest of the island, decided to sponsor and organise events to commemorate the signing of the surrender by the German forces on Alderney on 16th May 1945. St Anne's School was invited to play a part in these celebrations; the children here are the future of the island, so it is important they understand the history of which they are part.

On Monday 12th May, the Henry Euler Trust organised for HMS Medusa, in the Channel Islands as part of Liberation Days in Jersey and Guernsey, to visit Alderney as well. The Medusa is the only Harbour Defence vessel still known to exist and she was built in 1943; she stood off Omaha beach before D-Day to mark the entrance to the narrow channel and took the surrender of German troops off the coast near Amsterdam in 1945. St Anne's was very lucky to be invited to have a tour, so we took all the Years 9 and 10 pupils down to the harbour to be shown the workings of a World War II ship.

On Friday 16th May, members of the Force 135 living history group came into school with a selection of their WWII kit to show all the pupils of the school. All the pupils had a chance to examine period appropriate uniforms, camping equipment and weapons. That afternoon, Years 7&8 were at the Island Hall as part of the reenactment of the raising of the Union Flag. They saw the Island Band perform, the members of Force 135 parading and listened to an address by States President, William Tate.

The school's involvement was publicised in a recent issue of the Alderney Journal.



It has been another busy year for St Anne's students working on completing the 'expedition' section of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Ten year 9 students successfully completed their practice and qualifying expeditions in Alderney and Guernsey and some are already planning on following the Silver Award next year. Five year 10 students have already completed their more difficult Silver practice expedition in Guernsey and are looking forward to taking on a section of the South Downs way for their qualifier during the last week of term, we wish them good luck!



Guernsey Press Ad competition—Barry Gardner (Computer Science and IT lead)

In April all our Key Stage 3 students were given the opportunity to enter the Guernsey Press Ad competition. This involved creating up to four adverts for Guernsey based businesses using computer software. There was a total of thirty-three business sponsors who provided a logo and a brief setting out what their ideal advert should contain.

I am proud to announce that ten of our students scooped up thirteen prizes by finishing in the top three as voted for by the businesses concerned.

As their proud teacher, I was blown away by their flair for innovation, their ability to interpret and meet sponsors' briefs with real insight, and their confident use of design software to produce high-quality, professional standard posters. Each creation was a testament to their hard work and imagination.

The winners will receive their certificates and prizes at the Celebration Assembly on the last day of term.

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the generous sponsors and to the Guernsey Press for running this fantastic initiative. It has been an inspiring experience for my pupils, and we are already looking forward to entering again next year.

The winning pupils were

- Isla (Year 7)
- Evie K (Year 8)
- Logan (Year 8) – 2 awards
- Theo (Year 8) – 2 awards
- Poppy (Year 8) – 2 awards
- Talia (Year 9)
- Molly (Year 8)
- Kenadie (Year 8)
- Pixi (Year 8)
- Evie C (Year 8)



- Congratulations to Years 7-9 on their **'No More Marking'** article responses which were above the national average
- The incredible outcomes, this academic year, of Year 10 in English Language and Literature as they move into Year 11

Term Dates 2025/2026

Autumn Term 2025

Monday 1st September—Term Starts (Staff)
Wednesday 3rd September—Term Starts (Pupils)
Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October—Half Term
Monday 15th December - Homecoming Day Bank Holiday
Friday 19th December—Term Ends

Spring Term 2025

Monday 5th January—Term Starts (Staff)
Tuesday 6th January—Term Starts (Pupils)
Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February—Half Term
Friday 27th March—Term Ends

Summer Term 2025

Monday 13th April—Term Starts (Staff)
Tuesday 14th April—Term Starts (Pupils)
Monday 4th May—May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May—Half Term
Friday 17th July—Term Ends

*We will have a floating INSET Day – date tbc

French update...

Year 7 French have been looking at the French Educational System, 'Au College.' Students have created their own French timetable, they have learnt how to say which subjects they like/dislike and why. Students have been looking at students of other French speaking countries such as 'La Martinique.' They can now describe a teacher's personality in French.

Year 8 French have been working on 'la nourriture.' They have been working on meals, food and drink, ordering food at a restaurant and at the supermarket. Students have created their own authentic menus, and we have a food tasting lesson. Finally, students have looked at French school lunch culture.

In the last term Year 9 have been looking at current songs in French in the French charts, students have been looking at French famous artists in the French speaking world using websites such as lyrics training.

Year 9 Occupation Project and visit to the Island Museum

This year, the Year 9 History class has focused on 20th century events and as a way of completing their WWII studies, they undertook an investigative project looking at the situation of the Channel Islands from 1940 to 1945. This is, quite rightly, required as part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey History Entitlements document. Starting with the understandable decision of the British government not to try and defend the islands, the pupils looked at the evacuation of the different islands and then how they were occupied by the Germans. Life under occupation on the bigger islands was studied, along with any of the passive resistance and smuggling stories they could find, which added colour to the narrative. Particular emphasis was then placed on how the Germans used Alderney and the impact on the island they had. Liberation of the islands was studied and finally the Alderney Homecoming, along with its challenges. As a way of completing their studies on the occupation, Year 9 visited the Alderney Museum on Tuesday 17th June. Spending time looking at the shipwreck's exhibition was valuable as was the Butes Furniture battle (1946) display. The pupils then spent time completing a questionnaire based on the different WWII exhibits to give them the opportunity to see pictures, uniforms and equipment from the occupation years.

Attendance Matters

Kirsty Furley has been St. Anne's School Attendance Officer since 2018. She has come over to Alderney every half term and has been a great support in helping the school to raise attendance. However, she is leaving the School Attendance Service at the end of this year to move on to a new role. We wish her every success in this. Thank you, Kirsty and all the best for the future.

Although our whole school attendance is improving, 51 pupils have been taken out of school for 2 or more days for holidays this academic year; 31 of these have been out of school for a week or more.

- 90% attendance equates to ½ day missed every week.
- 1 school year at 90% attendance is 4 weeks of lessons missed.
- Research suggests that 17 missed school days a year result in a GCSE grade drop in achievement.

The greater the attendance, the greater the achievement.

Next academic year, as well encouraging increased attendance, we will have a focus on punctuality. There are a small number of pupils, especially in Secondary, whose punctuality is slipping and we need to help them to prepare for the world of work!

The Uniform Grant The Uniform Grant is a means tested benefit, issued annually, intended to assist you in providing a basic school uniform for your children. The amount of grant you receive is calculated with reference to your annual household income and allowed expenses. To ensure that you have received your grant and collected your uniform before then we recommend submitting your uniform grant at least a couple of weeks before term starts. For parents and carers who are not in receipt of Income Support, rent & interest on mortgages will need to be submitted alongside the application form. If you have any questions, you can contact the Income Support team on 221000 or email incomesupport@gov.gg

<https://www.gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=75775&p=0>