



St. Anne's School
ALDERNEY

School News

Christmas Newsletter 2025



Attendance this term

Little Owls— 94%
Reception

Hedgehogs— 97%
Yrs. 1 & 2

Puffins — 93%
Yr. 3 and 4

Gannets— 97%
Yr. 5

Robins— 95%
Yr.6

Arch— 95%

Braye—94%

Corblets— 92%

Year 11—97%

Whole school— 95%

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



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

As this long and busy term draws to a close, this newsletter highlights some of the key achievements and exciting events our students have been involved in this academic year.

Our newest members, Reception Class, have settled in beautifully, delivering their first performance at the Harvest Festival just weeks later. Miss Mark's hard work is paying off, with the States Education Team noting their excellent progress. Our Head Pupils, Lilian and Poppy (Year 11), have led the way since their appointment in September, coordinating a generous Harvest Festival fundraiser for Alderney Animal Welfare and organizing the popular Hallowe'en disco. They also proudly represented St Anne's at the Remembrance Service.

We've had a term full of visits and visitors: Year 9 attended a PHSE drama in Guernsey, Year 11 went to the Guernsey Skills and Careers Show, and Years 1 & 2 visited the local fire station. We also welcomed the SHARE Nurses, authors, Guernsey Police, and Safer Education to school.

Notably, our Year 11 students completed their mock exams in November. I was extremely proud of the respect shown by the entire school community, ensuring the exams ran flawlessly.

Fundraising has been fantastic this term! Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, including The Trips Fund, Alderney Theatre Group, Sam Chadwick, The Redman Family, and everyone who supported our raffles and sales, we've organized a London Theatre Trip in February for the whole cast and crew of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This once-in-a-lifetime experience will create lasting memories and inspire our pupils.

Students and staff were also proudly involved in several Homecoming events this year, including a Tea Party, museum visit, and wreath laying.

Finally, we are building up to the **sparkliest St Anne's Christmas yet!** We're all looking forward to our parties, primary pupils performed in our magnificent pantomime, and we're expecting a very special visit from you know who! Term ends on Friday, December 19th at 12:25 pm.

Spring term will begin for staff on Monday 5th January 2026 and parents are invited to meet members of St Anne's School Governing Board in the school hall at 4.00pm on this date. Pupils return to school at 8.25am on Tuesday 6th January.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and my very best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Attendance News

This term, for the first time in 8 years, we have met our whole school target of 95%.

Parent Governor Vacancy

St Anne's School Needs You!

For more information please see the letter from Chair of Governors- Mr Ian Carter, regarding the vacancy and upcoming recruitment for a Parent Governor from January 2026.

Hello from the new St Anne's School Governing Body

What is changing and why?

School Management Committee (SMC) - Over 50 years ago the 1970 Education (Guernsey) Law changed many aspects of educational provision in Guernsey and Alderney, for example creating SMCs. The St Anne's SMC gave the wider Alderney community, outside of the parent body, some involvement in the school and provided a framework for some local governance oversight, though the primary responsibility and accountability lay with the Deputies and Officers of the Committee for Education, Sport and Culture (CfESC). Over those years many members of the Alderney community have served on the SMC and my thanks go to all of them for the countless hours spent supporting St Anne's in so many ways.

New Governance Boards (GBs) - Education has recently been a 'hot potato' in the Bailiwick with competing ideas on how all our young people can be best provided for. One aspect that has been agreed upon is the need to transform the role the community, civil servants and politicians play in school governance, in particular to take political nominees (Deputies/States Members) out of decision making at a school level. This has led to new legislation, passed earlier this year, Education (Governance Boards) Ordinance, 2025 which abolishes SMCs in 2026 and establishes new Governance Boards (GB) that have evolving wider responsibilities. The aim is to **enhance accountability and improve educational outcomes for all learners in Bailiwick Schools. The new St Anne's Governance Board** comprises a Chair, the Headteacher, a Parent/Carer, a Staff member and up to five further Associate governors.

Governors: what do they do? The role of Governors and the GB is one of 'critical friend' to the school to both challenge and support the school and to hold it to account at local community level regarding financial matters, building issues, safeguarding and educational outcomes for all young people. To prepare Governors for their new role a full training package was offered by CfESC to ensure that members of the GB can undertake their role with confidence.

So how does this impact St Anne's? This year, the interim GB and CfESC have overseen the selection of a Chair (designate) from the applicants (Ian Carter), the election of a Staff Governor (Joanne Allison), and the appointment of an Associate Governor for Community (Beth Chapman). Though a Parent/Carer Governor was elected earlier this year, due to changing circumstances that position is now vacant. A further letter outlining the nomination and election process for a new Parent/Carer Governor will be distributed in the New Year and I am simply highlighting this potential opportunity now. Please bear in mind the lifeblood of the island is our children, and this would be your opportunity to support them whilst gaining an understanding of the multifarious aspects of how St Anne's underpins their education.

Parent /Carer Governor 2026 If you are a parent/carer of a child at St Anne's School, and would like to discuss the role, commitment and training opportunities of being a Parent/Carer Governor, please feel free to contact me on 07742 382942 / icc22@yahoo.com or the Headteacher, Wendy Wilson 822173 / STA.Office@education.gg .

Best wishes for the Christmas season,

Ian Carter Chair (Designate)

St Anne's School Governing Board

PTA update

The St Anne's School PTA would like to thank everyone for their continued support throughout this term. We are delighted to share that our new bike shelter has now been ordered and we are currently awaiting its delivery. A special thank you goes to Guernsey Post and Stenham Trustees Limited for their generous contributions, helping make this possible. We would also like to express our gratitude to all parents, carers and islanders who joined and supported our annual Christmas fayre — thanks to your kindness and enthusiasm, we raised just under £3,000. These funds will continue to support our school community and enrich the experience of all our children.

Wishing you all a wonderful festive season!

Physical Education Term Review

The past term has been highly active and productive within the Physical Education (PE) department across all key stages.

Curriculum Coverage

Curricular activities were structured as follows:

- Secondary Classes: Students engaged with a breadth of team sports, covering units in Netball, Basketball, Hockey, and Football.
- Junior Classes: The focus for our younger students included core team games, specifically Netball and Football.

Infant Classes: These sessions prioritised the exploratory development of essential Fundamental Movements and Fundamental Skills, providing a crucial foundation for future physical literacy.

Extra-Curricular Success

A significant highlight of the term has been the exceptional enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by the pupils in the extra-curricular sports provision.

The regular after-school sports clubs, offering sessions in Football, Netball, and Gymnastics, have consistently reported high levels of attendance throughout the term. This robust participation is a testament to the students' engagement and passion for sport.

I look forward to resuming these successful clubs in the New Year, commencing 2026.

Year 1 and 2 trip

Y1&2 have been busy learning about the Great Fire of London this term and have topped it off with a trip to Alderney Fire Station.



We had the most wonderful time learning what firefighters do and how they protect themselves.

We saw the fire engine and learnt about the type of equipment they use. What a treat for the end of term!

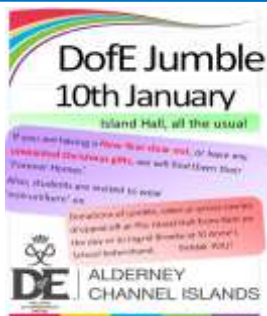
The Infants have had a Christmas Wreath making competition.

Thank you to all the children that entered and all the adults for helping out. The winners are:

Reception – Arthur

Year 1 – Ethan

Year 2 - James



Year 3 and 4

Year 3 and 4 shared their knowledge of different countries and their Christmas traditions in assembly – celebrating diversity and importance of respecting different cultures. They have also been getting into the Christmas spirit by making Christmas cards for all the residents at Connaught Care Home.



What a Show!

Last week, our talented performers from Reception to Year 6 took to the stage for our magical pantomime: **“Cinderella and Rockafella”!**

From sparkling costumes to incredible acting and singing, the children truly brought the story to life. The energy, laughter, and creativity were unforgettable – we couldn't be prouder of every single performer!

A huge thank you to our amazing staff and families for all the support behind the scenes



Secret Garden Update

Since the Jumble Sale to raise money for a new shed, we have been beavering away clearing and tidying. With a bit of help from some kind friends we are hoping to have the shed up by Christmas and the pond finished in the new year. Any money which is left over will be used to buy gardening equipment and materials. The PTA were very generous and donated the money to buy the new pond liner and fleece.



A grant was awarded through the States by Guernsey Post to buy a bench too.

Channel Seaways have also been very supportive and have helped with the shipping costs.



Thank you to the Alderney Wildlife Trust for their support, advice and encouragement.

And a massive thank you to these lovely people for helping to put the shed up.

Senior English Departmental News: Another Term of Astronomical Achievements!

As the darkest days of the year approach, it is the perfect time to celebrate the brilliant light of our Senior English Language and Literature pupils. Like an ever-shifting stellar forge, our pupils continue to weave a powerful, collective excellence.

- Year 11 pupils have truly earned their **'stellar status'**! Their incredible work ethic has culminated in epic, well-deserved Mock Examination results. They are powerful guiding stars for our younger pupils, demonstrating dedication to all who follow them. Congratulations!
- Year 10 pupils are proving to be deep-space explorers! Their impressive engagement with complex GCSE studies means that our class discussions are **ALWAYS** profound. I learn so much from their infectious curiosity and **fearless deep dives into the 'intellectual cosmos!'** Congratulations!
- Year 9 pupils are approaching their future GCSE studies with the finesse and insight of trained astronomers, charting their course to seismic success. Their **'Speaking and Listening'** presentations on the **'Nature of Humanity'** were compelling. Congratulations!
- Year 8 pupils lit up the night skies with their empathetic and incisive **'Of Mice and Men'** character analyses. An inspirational class, who are modest **BUT** mighty! Congratulations!
- Year 7 pupils have made the transition from primary to secondary-like premier athletes; they have been dazzling comet streaks of speed and energy! I encourage them to look to the older pupils who are lighting their way! Congratulations!

For us all, as we reflect upon the spirit of the season, let us remember the wisdom of the ultimate (in my opinion) literary genius, Shakespeare: **"This above all: to thine own self be true!"**

Well done, Seniors, for being true to your potential!

A sincere **'thank you!'** to all our parents, grandparents, and carers who nurture... each and every one of our St. Anne's School's burgeoning acorns into..... Great Oaks!

As part of the 80th anniversary of Homecoming, the Primary and Secondary School Councils invited their own grandparents/great grandparents to join them for a tea party in the school hall. This took place on Thursday 11th December. During the morning, the pupils from Year 2 to Year 10 baked scones, brownies and Victoria sponges, with the help of Mrs Jenkins. The hall was decorated with bunting and balloons and pupils dressed in 1940s attire for the occasion.



Dear writer,

The letter

The theme for this year is the 'letter'. Somehow, you come into possession of a letter with a message in it that changes your life forever. It may be addressed to you or someone else but you need to do something about it. You may have great ideas as to where this letter comes from and how it comes into your possession. Here are some possible ideas that you could use or adapt in your writing.

- One day a strange, very old, brown envelope arrives for you.
- Whilst out fishing, you retrieve a letter in an ancient bottle, addressed to you!
- Moving into a new house and decorating, you find an envelope addressed to you, behind the ancient wallpaper you are scraping off the wall.
- As an old person, you remember that you buried a time capsule in your garden 80 years ago. In it is a letter from you, aged 10 addressed to you aged 90.

Your challenge is to write a piece in 300 words about 'the letter' (Closing date: 16th January 2026).

The judges will be looking for clever and original ideas that are 'extraordinary' as well as well-structured pieces of writing. Which house will claim the literary bragging rights for 2026?

Age categories:

Key stage 1, Lower key stage 2, Upper key stage 2, Key stage 3, Key stage 4

Kind regards,
The judges

Term Dates

Spring Term

Monday 5th January—Term Starts (Staff)
Tuesday 6th January—Term Starts (Pupils)
Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February—Half Term
Friday 27th March—Easter Holiday 12.25pm

Summer Term

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 12.25pm

Other Diary Dates

Tuesday 6th January - Year 11 trip parents meeting at 3.30pm
Wednesday 7th January -Miles Davies Careers advisor in school with Year 11 and Year 10
Saturday 10th January—DofE Jumble Sale
Sunday 11th January-Friday 16th January—Year 11 Transition Week
Wednesday 21st January—Year 9 Parents Evening
Monday 2nd February—Year 5 Maths Roadshow
Wednesday 4th February—Saturday 7th February—Drama Trip
Wednesday 11th February—Guernsey Measurement Programme Year 1 and Year 5
Wednesday 11th February—Year 8 Parents Evening
Tuesday 3rd March—Y1 – visiting author
Tuesday 3rd March—De Putron Challenge
Wednesday 4th March—Year 9 Options evening
Wednesday 11th March—Primary and Year 7 Parents Evening
Thursday 12th March—St Johns First Aid training—Yr 5,7,8
Friday 20th March—YR and Y3/4 –Rhubarb Theatre
Wednesday 25th March—Year 10 Parents Evening

January - Friendships

W/c 05.01 Podcast: Managing conflicts in friendships with Dr Maryhan, Psychologist and Parenting Expert, and Alicia Drummond, Founder and CEO of The Wellbeing Hub

W/c 12.01 Podcast: Pornography, consent and online relationships with Dr Colla Tzani, Co-Director of the Cyberpsychology Research Network and Professor Maria Ioannou, Professor of Investigative and Forensic Psychology

Weds 28.01 Webinar: Raising teens in the digital age: Friendship, bullying, and the anime world with Nicholas Coriolo, Child Psychotherapist, Founder of the internationally recognised No Bully programme and TEDx speaker on bullying

Topical content: Top tips for easing back-to-school anxiety

February - Anxiety

W/c 02.02 Podcast: Treatment methods and understanding anxiety disorders in children and young people with Prof. Cathy Creswell, Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Professor of Developmental Clinical Psychology at the University of Oxford

Weds 18.02 Webinar: Practical strategies for supporting a child with anxiety and how to manage your own anxiety as a parent or carer with Prof. Sam Cartwright-Hatton, Professor of Clinical Psychology, specialising in anxiety in childhood

W/c 23.02 Blog: Supporting students with anxiety: a step-by-step guide for teachers by Mago Trachonitis, Assistant Head (Wellbeing) at Sutton Valence School

Topical content: Children's mental health week and navigating Ramadan

Reception Class have had just finished their first full term at school, and what a term it has been! We have been so busy making new friends, enjoying our new classroom and learning all about school life.

Earlier in the year we performed at our Harvest Festival and recently we began to join in with celebration assemblies, with three of our class members receiving Star of the Week!

We have had such fun creating wonderful artwork, learning to read our new reading books, writing our names and learning so many other new skills along the way.

We have just performed as star bakers in our Christmas Pantomime, Cinderella Rockerfella and now we are getting ready for Christmas, making tree decorations and beautiful cards for those we love. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



To my dearest Elijah,

I don't imagine that you will receive this letter but, nonetheless, I must send it. I yearn for your love. Though the seasons have blown and the years have carried me upon their relentless tide - as a weary ship seeks the loving sheltered harbour it once called home - I feel your absence as one feels the fading warmth... long after its flame has died.

Of every second of every day that I spent with you, I remember... I recall us dancing before the moon; our shadows intertwined like two souls who had forgotten that all else existed. No distance (or the cruel passage of time), has dimmed the warmth your presence once kindled within. Because my love for you has no limits, I will love you to the depths of the earth and beyond every horizon.

I do hope that this letter reaches you: it doesn't matter that you gave up on me like a sinking ship, lost at sea... I do hope that you always remember the days we spent together, how we would always go walking, have the deepest conversations about the night skies...

I always wondered what I could have done to make you stay. I was never enough.

Sometimes the weight of that still settles heavily on my chest.

As the sun sets on this final day, my heart heaves. It's time to say goodbye, to let go... to move on from all that I've ever known. Our memories will forever stay; they will never fade away. However, it is time to close this door, start a new chapter and... explore... **Though tears may fall and my heart may ache,** I will forever cherish our moments, for, this goodbye, is not an end but...

... an entirely new beginning...

My beloved Elijah...

Your dearest, Katherine

Lydia May Sugden > Author of Victorian Fiction Year 10 Student (N.B. the 'Married Women's Property Act' took effect on January 1, 1883: a seismic moment in female empowerment)

