



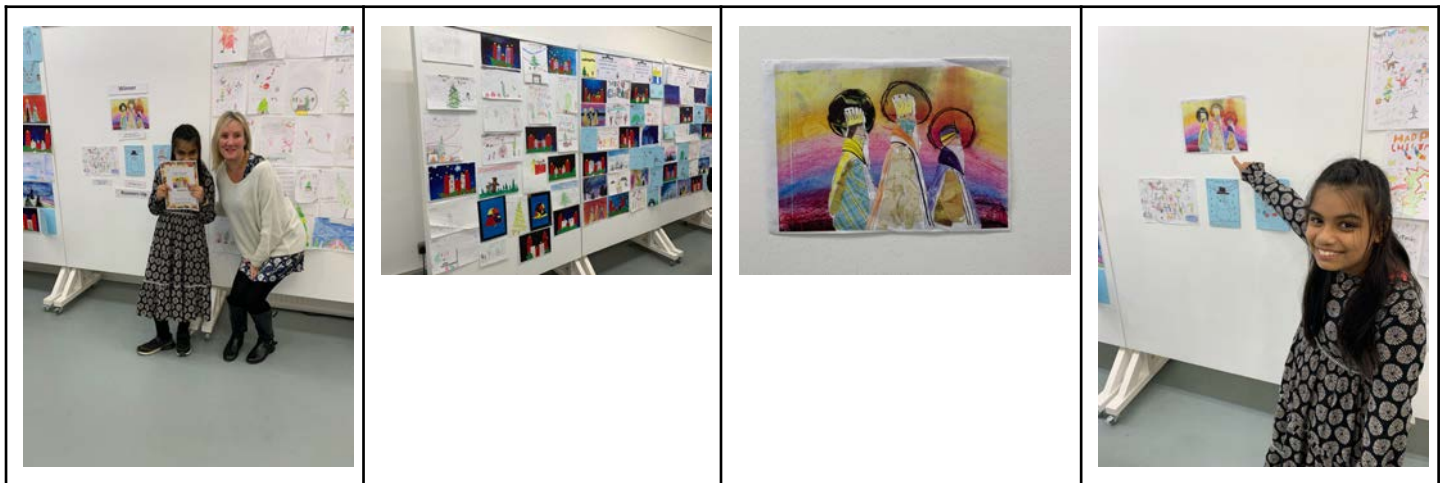
Newsletter 5 - January 2023

GO GOMER!

We told you last month that we made it to the final of the Education Today Awards for the 'Best Use of Technology'. We didn't win that award but are delighted to inform you that the GFM was awarded the Outstanding MAT Award. We're thrilled.



Congratulations to **SARA SALAM** for winning the Dame Caroline Dinenage MP Christmas Card Competition. Sara attended the awards ceremony at the [Yellow Edge Gallery](#) on Stoke Road with her family, Mrs Mulhall and Mrs Wheal who kindly organised us in mid-December. Sara's winning design was sent to ministers, constituents and others across the country. You will see from the second photograph, an array of designs from learners at Gomer Junior School. Go Gomer!



We love to hear about your children's success outside school too. Please inform us so that we can record them here. We will continue to celebrate individual successes in our Friday Celebration Assembly.

DATES FOR JANUARY: The dates below are for your diary and are also included on the electronic calendar; occasionally they are subject to change.

Ongoing	Arrival to playground from 8:40 am	
	Start of school day: 8.50 am	End of school day: 3:10 pm

Mondays	Y5 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Y6 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school ● Lacrosse Club: 3.15-4.00pm
Tuesdays	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Y6 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school ● Upper School Football League Club: 3.15-4.00pm ● Service Club - (all year groups): 3.15-4.15pm
Wednesdays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Y5 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school ● Upper School Netball Club: 3.15-4.00pm ● Upper School Football Training Club: 3.15-4.00pm ● Lego League Coding Club (Y4/Y5): 3.15-4.00pm
Thursdays	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school ● Choir practice: 8:15 - 8:45 ● Lower School Multi-skills Club: 3.15-4.00pm
Fridays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school
Tuesday 03 January	Spring Term starts - Pupils return to school
Wednesday 25	Visiting Author: Simon James Green - please see Google Form here to order and further information detailed below.
Upcoming dates for February (Please note dates will be added to this list in the next newsletter)	
Friday 10 February	INSET day - School closed to children
Monday 13 February - Friday 17 February	Half term
Monday 20 February	Return to school

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all. We do hope you are well and rested after the holiday. We are confident that the children will settle quickly into the school routine. Please help your children with this routine by ensuring that they are at school promptly to start the school day, have the relevant kit and are collected promptly too.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS start this week as per the days shown above. Please ensure that payments are made via Scopay and your child has the correct kit to attend the clubs. Please note, due to the darker evenings, all after school clubs (other than Service Club) will finish at 4.00pm. This will be reviewed again at half term.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS which is why we monitor pupils carefully. The school reviews the attendance of our learners on a weekly basis, identifying pupils that are at risk, or run the risk of becoming a persistent absentee (90% or less). This is then followed up by:

1. Letters to parents informing them that their child's attendance is below 90%. This is done half termly. We will be sending out letters in the coming weeks for the second half of the autumn term.
2. Meetings with parents whose child's attendance shows no improvement or remains below 90% over an extended period. At this meeting, we look at the barriers to schooling from the perspective of the child, school and parent. An action plan is then put into place to address the barriers.
3. If attendance does not improve, then the school will make a referral to the Legal Intervention Team, who will work with family and school to improve attendance.

Recently, we have been receiving a lot of absence requests. Please note, schools cannot authorise term time holidays unless exceptional circumstances dictate. We define exceptional as - rare, significant, unavoidable and short. For service personnel (all services) please provide a letter from your Line Manager/Divisional Officer/Commanding Officer to support any absence request, confirming that no alternative dates are available to you. Please note, we may still not be able to authorise the absence.

AUTHOR VISIT We are delighted to be welcoming children’s author Simon James Green into school on Wednesday 25 January 2023. On the day, children will have the opportunity to listen to the author and to have a book signed. Books will be provided by our local independent bookstore The Book Shop in Lee-on-the- Solent. If you would like your child to have a book signed, you can purchase from the following titles:

Suitable for ages 5-7 years Llama Glamarama - £6.99	Suitable for ages 7-13 years Sleepover Takeover - £6.99	Suitable for ages 7-13 years Life of Riley Beginner’s Luck - £6.99
		

Payment can be made in cash (to school) using this [Google Form](#) (link in the dates above too). Or, you can order online at www.leebookshop/positivity-boxes Please just scroll to your chosen title(s), enter your own address for delivery and enter your child’s name, school and class in the personalisation or message box. Your order will be delivered directly to school and given to your child on the day of the book signing. Orders should be made no later than by **Friday 13 January 2023** to ensure delivery in time for the event.

CONTACT INFORMATION Please note that it is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that the school has up to date contact telephone numbers for your child in case of any emergencies. Please contact the school office if you need to update us. Thank you.

GCLUB bookings need to be made in a timely manner - please. **GClub** continues to be popular and bookings should ideally be made seven days in advance of the date required. Please do not leave it too late! We will always try to accommodate last minute emergency bookings - but please ensure you communicate directly with the school office about this to ensure we have space. Please do not book on the night before and think that this will be okay - staffing has to be sorted within the school day. If you do make a last minute booking, and have not checked with the Office, please note that we may not be able to accept your child if we do not have enough staff. We will always try to help you but do require clear communication from you. Thank you for your help with this. Wherever possible, please use Tucasi (Scopay) to book and pay for GClub places. Once the session is full you will not be able to book, so advance booking is recommended. For more information and FAQs about GClub please see [here](#).

HOME LEARNING Year 6 are changing their home learning days **from** Friday→Wednesday **to** Monday→Monday. Other year groups will continue to receive home learning on a Friday, to return by the following Wednesday.

ONLINE LUNCH ORDERING PILOT starts later this month: 23 January. We will be piloting a new online meal ordering system on Scopay. The online option will be open to all and you will be able to select your child's chosen meal choice, in advance, online. This will not only help to reduce food waste but also help our catering team better plan when ordering. Children's meal choices will be displayed daily in the classroom as a reminder of their choice for that day. Your child will still be able to choose their meal choice on the day in the classroom, should you or your child not wish to order online or you simply forget. Menus will still be emailed and displayed on the website as usual and you simply select the colour meal choice. For pupils who have a packed lunch you can select the 'packed lunch' option.

OFFICE/RECEPTION remains open until 4.30pm Monday → Thursday and 4.00pm on Fridays.

PRE-LOVED TOYS AND GAMES you no longer want would be welcomed by GClub or classrooms for Wet Play if they are in full working order, in good condition and have all the pieces.

READING is important. Please, please, please ensure your child is reading regularly and where appropriate, to you. We have systems in place to encourage children to choose a variety of genres in addition to their banded book.

REPORTING ABSENCE is best achieved by using the function on the front of the website using the 'Attendance Matters' blue box. This is a really efficient method of communication for you and the school.

SCHOOL UNIFORM should still be of the winter variety until the Summer Term 2023. Thank you for your support with this. With the darker days ahead of us, we also encourage children to have an item of 'reflective glow' attached to their bag or coat if not already attached, to ensure they are visible when walking to school and home again. Additionally, bicycle lights should be considered for all children.

WELLIES (or stout shoes) are very much welcomed in school if they are clearly named/identifiable. Wellies will be stored on the racks outside during the day but stowed inside overnight. We have had a lot of wet weather and when the field is wet, only those with suitable footwear can play on it. You may also like to send your child to school with a coat that you don't mind getting a little muddy, particularly if you have a child who enjoys using our 'mud kitchen'.

YOU SAID/WE DID We received a lot of wonderful feedback from our nativity – thank you. You outlined how much you like the traditional story with contemporary twists. The organisation and broadcasting takes considerable effort so your feedback is much appreciated. With so many in the community being and feeling unwell at the end of term, we hope to have helped contain some of the germs. And, are delighted that family members near and far were able to watch.