



Newsletter 7 - March 2023

GO GOMER! Well done to **SOPHIE-MAE COOK** who took part in two horse riding competitions during half term. The first was a combined dressage and jumping. She attained her highest % score yet in dressage and two clear rounds in jumping. She achieved a 1st place competing against adults and others of a similar age. She then took part in a showing competition taking part in best young handler, young ridden, prettiest mare and another ridden class. She achieved three 4ths and a 5th place which were amazing as there were up to sixteen riders and horses in each class. What an awesome achievement - we're so proud of Sophie-Mae!

A big thank you for supporting last month's Healthy Heart Day fundraising event. A total of **£169.61** was raised and has been sent to the British Heart Foundation.

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 MARCH: 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 • Citizenship Club (Y3/Y4) - Itinerary sent separately: 4:00-5:30pm • Lower School Multi-skills Club: 3.15-4.00pm	
Fridays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school	
Mon 27 Feb → Fri 03 Mar	Read-a-thon - see email sent home 20.2.2023 and information below.	
Wednesday 01	Choir: 08.15-08.45 Due to industrial action choir will take place today instead of Thursday 2 March	

Wednesday 01	Y3 Parent/Carer Learning Reviews - booking details sent separately
Wednesday 01	Y6 Visit to Marwell Zoo: 08:45-16:00 - School uniform and packed lunch required Layers are encouraged because the children will be outside for much of the day
Wednesday 01	Scooter Skills Session for Y4 children who have signed up to take part
Thursday 02	No Rocksteady
Thursday 02	Y4 Parent/Carer Learning Reviews - booking details sent separately
Thursday 02	World Book Day - details sent in February Newsletter - dress yourself, a doll or teddy up as your favourite book character.
Friday 03	Big Booky Breakfast - 8.30am start (see below)
Friday 03	Scooter Skills Session for Y5/Y6 children who have signed up to take part
Friday 10	Y3 Egyptian Day - Y3 children are invited to come to school dressed in Egyptian clothing
Saturday 11	Stubbington Study Centre - Open Day for Y5 families: 10.00am-4.00pm
Monday 13	FROGJS Special Lady Gift Sale (Mothering Sunday - 19 March) - £3 per gift
Monday 13	Y6 SATs Talk: 3.30-4.15pm - Google Form closes 1 March. Link to meeting, for those attending online, will be emailed to parents/carers
Wednesday 15	Y4 Visit to the Dive Museum, Stokes Bay - details previously sent
Friday 17	Comic Relief Day - Children are welcome to wear Red Nose accessories with school uniform We are not fundraising for this event.
Friday 17	Choir: 08.15-08.45 - Due to industrial action choir will take place today instead of Thursday 16 March
Mon 20 → Fri 24	Big Walk and Wheel - please see details below
Monday 20	Epilepsy Awareness - Children are welcome to wear purple accessories with school uniform. We are not fundraising for this event. Children will be learning about epilepsy to raise awareness of this condition.
Monday 20	Bring that 'Special Lady' In Your Life to Lunch: Y3 – 11.45am, Y4 – 12 noon, Y5 – 12.15pm, Y6 – 12.30pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than one child - please go to oldest child's sitting time • Parents/carers must order and pay in advance – please complete this Google form by Tuesday 7 March
Thursday 23	FROGJS Easter Disco - £3.00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y3 & Y4: 4.15-5.15pm • Y5 & Y6: 5.30-6.30pm
Monday 27	Ground Force Day - Spring tidy: 9.00-3.00pm - details and Google form below
Wednesday 29	Y3 visit to Winchester Science Centre & Planetarium - School uniform & packed lunch required
Wednesday 29	Y4 Victorian Day - Children to come to school dressed as a Victorian Children will be taught Victorian style

Wednesday 29	Y6 - Bay House - A GFM Family Welcome: 3.30-4.15 - details and Google form below
Thursday 30	Rocksteady Concert at Gomer for parents of pupils who have Rocksteady lessons: 09:15-10:15
Friday 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last day of Spring Term - School finishes at 14.00 • GClub will be available from 14:00-15:20
Upcoming dates for April	
Mon 03 → Fri 14	Easter Break
Mon 17 Apr	INSET Day - School closed to pupils
Tuesday 18 Apr	Summer Term starts - pupils return to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 4LW - Swimming Lessons (1 of 6): pm

ATTENDANCE MATTERS and is an important part of giving your child the best possible start in life. Our attendance for the year is currently **95%**. We are keen to see this rise over the coming months. We pride ourselves on working alongside our parents/carers in ensuring that their child(ren) attend school regularly, but understand that sometimes there may be barriers to this.

As part of our attendance protocols we do the following:

- Keep parents/carers updated on attendance via letters, newsletters and our websites
- Report to parents/carers on how their child is achieving in school and how their child's attendance is impacting on this
- Monitor individual learner attendance
- Review attendance on a regular basis and identify any learner falling below 90%. If your child's attendance is below 90%, we identify, monitor and review trends and patterns in attendance. If your child's attendance falls below 90% you will be notified of this. In most cases, we will monitor this, however in some cases you might be invited in for a meeting to complete an attendance plan. In an attendance plan we will look at what the barriers to school are from the school's parents and pupil's perspective and draw an action plan to amend this. This will be reviewed regularly.

We hope that the supportive process above will lead to improved attendance. However, if the poor attendance continues:

- The parents/carers will be asked to meet with the GFM Attendance Panel to justify the reasons for absence where anomalies exist. At this meeting the panel will
 - ❖ Outline how a supportive action plan will be implemented to increase attendance
 - ❖ Set attendance targets to be worked towards
 - ❖ Start the legal process for poor attendance (if necessary)

If you would like to speak to a member of staff about your child's attendance then please contact Miss Sewell. Towards the end of the academic year, we had a sharp increase of holiday request forms. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, we will not authorise holidays.

100%	0 days off school
97%	5 days off across the school year
95%	10 days off across the school year
90%	20 days off across the school year
85%	30 days off across the school year

A GFM FAMILY WELCOME awaits Year 6 learners from Gomer Junior and Rowner Junior who will be attending Bay House in September. The Bay House senior team are extending an invitation to our Year 6 families, on **Wednesday 29 March at 15.30-16.15** in the Main Hall, to join them to:

- Hear about exciting site developments
- Learn about changes since the most recent Ofsted inspection
- Provide an opportunity for parents/carers to ask questions
- Provide Year 6 learners (who choose to attend) to take part in an activity whilst parents/carers congregate in the

main hall

If attending, please complete this [Google form](#) in order that refreshments can be catered for.

BIG BOOKY BREAKFAST is planned for **Friday 3 March** to celebrate the end of our Read-a-Thon week! Children from all year groups are invited to arrive at school from the earlier time of 8.30 am on Friday 3 March. Children will be welcomed into their 'Classroom Cafe' where they will be given the opportunity to share books and stories with their friends and year group staff (no additional adults/siblings please). There will also be an opportunity for them to tuck into a tasty breakfast pastry, whilst sharing the books they have read during the week. A suggested donation of £1 would be appreciated - funds raised on the day will be put towards funding the Booky Breakfast and any extra will be put towards additional reading materials for the library. Please complete this [Google form](#) so we know how many pastries to order. PLEASE NOTE: If your child attends GClub on the morning of Friday 3 March, they will be able to choose to join their friends in class for the Booky Breakfast from 8.30am, or may remain in the hall until their normal finish time of 8.50am.

BIG WALK AND WHEEL The Big Walk and Wheel will be taking place 20-31st March. On each day, our school will compete to see if we can achieve the highest percentage of pupils, walking, using a wheelchair, scooting or cycling to school. If we manage to be one of the highest performing schools participating, we will be in with a chance of winning a range of school equipment including: bikes and scooters, having our playground painted with activities or even a stunt bike show being performed right here!

BIKEABILITY UPDATE We have been unable to secure our requested summer term dates from Hampshire for our Y5 pupils to take part in this training, during this academic year. We do not want them to miss this invaluable training and will be contacting Hampshire again to see if the sessions can be offered to them during the next academic year with the intention of providing Year 5 and Year 6, Bikeability sessions. However, this is not guaranteed.

CITIZENSHIP CLUB started last week and the children really enjoyed making new friends at Lee-on-the-Solent Junior School. Please note the dates of forthcoming sessions. Each week Mrs Fry will share details of where to drop off and collect as well as any other details you may need for each week's activities. Please make sure your child attends the club in their school uniform or PE kits. Please contact Mrs Fry if you have any questions.

FROGJS DISCO is set for Thursday 23 March: **Y3 & Y4** 16.15-17.15 and **Y5 & Y6** 17.30-18.30. The children love getting their dancing shoes on but such events are not possible without some parental/carer support. Please let our FROGJS Chair or school office know if you can help with the preparation, support during or after the disco. Payment of £3.00 will need to be made on the door - tickets do not need to be purchased in advance. Entrance fee to the disco also includes a drink, a packet of crisps and a bag of sweets.

INDUSTRIAL ACTION from members of the NEU is currently scheduled for Thursday 2 March, Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 March. Please see the email sent to you on Thursday 23 February regarding the March strikes. If there are any changes to this, we will inform you as soon as we know e.g. the government are talking with the NEU which may change their position.

MEDICINES Please note the school holds Calpol 6+ for **emergency use only** and is held for use in exceptional circumstances. If you feel your child may need medication during the school day, please complete a medicine consent form and bring the medicine into the school office clearly named. Please note, If the school is unable to manage prescribed medication, you may be required to administer this for your child. Please remember to collect medicines you will need over the Easter break before Friday 31 March.

MOBILE PHONES, for those who have them, are welcome in school if they are tucked away safely upon arrival to school and do not come out of bags until children are off the school site. Unless children are walking home solo, we recommend that children leave mobile phones at home. Please remind your child that phones are not to be used on the school site unless they have the permission of an adult e.g. they may need to call home at the end of the day to check an arrangement. Please also note that any such device brought into school is done so at the owner's risk - the school are unable to take responsibility for devices.

MOTHERING SUNDAY is Sunday 19 March. FROGJS have organised a gift sale, on the morning of Monday 13 March, for the children to purchase a pocket money gift for the 'special ladies in their life'. Each gift will cost £3 and we may be able to sell more than one gift per child. Due to some very clever shopping by the FROGJS, the gifts retail well above the £3 charge. We are confident there is something in the sale for everyone's tastes. With thanks to the FROGJS who go to great efforts to source the lovely gifts.

OUTDOOR LEARNING/GROUNDFORCE DAY We are hosting two 'Ground Force Days' this year and our first is this month - Monday 27 March. The whole school will be participating in a range of gardening, landscaping and outdoor learning opportunities, at different times, throughout the day. Adult support with helping with the grounds, independently or alongside your child will be very much appreciated. Adults will be working outside and can work with other adults or their child. Please bring some tools with you to help - secateurs, rakes, spades etc would be really useful as we have a limited supply (make sure they are named). Donations of good quality plants would be very much appreciated. Please complete this [Google form](#) to commit to helping on the day. Children are to come to school in clothes you do not mind getting grubby or paint on and should bring their wellies or suitable outdoor shoes. Please ensure Y3 and Y5 have trainers so PE can still be an option without the need for changing.

RED NOSE DAY is Friday 17 March. Due to our recent British Heart Foundation fundraising, we **will not** be selling red noses in school or dressing in red (unlike previous years). However, if your child already has a Red Nose or Comic Relief accessories, they are very welcome to wear them (named) with their school uniform.

SECONDARY SCHOOL places for Y7 September 2022 will be announced on Wednesday 01 March. The GFM transition will be comprehensive and we have already been working with our secondary colleagues on transition matters.

SPECIAL LADY LUNCH has been organised for Monday 20 March (the day after Mothering Sunday) so that children can share lunch with that 'special lady' in their life – mother, carer, grandparent, godmother, auntie, family friend etc. This is an especially special lunch because we have not done this since 2019 - so a first for all learners currently at Gomer. Pre-covid, these lunch events were very successful and we hope to see many 'special ladies' joining us for lunch again this year. Please complete this [Google form](#) if you would like to take part, with further details regarding the process for ordering lunch. Please note that if you are available to take part in this event, please complete this form **by Tuesday 7 March**, as the supply of food needs to be ordered in advance. Meals are charged at £2.50 and can be paid for with a correct cash payment or a cheque payable to Gomer Junior School, in a named sealed envelope. Payment for the adult meals cannot be made online – sorry. Please note that meal choices CANNOT BE CHANGED on the day once ordered. If you are unable to attend, you may like to organise a friend or relative to sit with your child. Once you and your child have eaten, you are encouraged to stay and play outside if the weather is fine and you have time. If we experience a wet play, we may have to ask Special Ladies to leave after you have eaten due to limited space inside the school.

STAFF MATTER We are delighted to inform you that Mrs Edwards has joined the GClub Team for breakfast and after school club. We are delighted that Mrs Edwards will also provide some TA capacity to lower school.

STUBBINGTON STUDY CENTRE - OPEN DAY Saturday 11 March, 10.00-4.00pm. This is an opportunity for Year 5 children and their families to look around, talk to the staff and alleviate any concerns they might have about attending the centre before their residential visit. As a result, this could help your child to get the most from their trip in May. There is no need to prebook to attend this open day.

SUMMER UNIFORM is welcome in the Summer Term - after the Easter holiday. Local supermarkets already have dark blue items in stock but you may like to double check our uniform list before you purchase. In the Summer Term **DARK BLUE gingham** dresses or playsuits are allowed. Pale blue items are to be avoided because these **are not** on our uniform list. The Summer school uniform list also stipulates that formal grey or black shorts, skirts, shorts or culottes can be worn, with short sleeved white shirt, blouse or polo. Gingham blouses **are not** part of our uniform list. Children wanting to wear sandals in hotter weather must do so only when also wearing socks - this is for health and safety reasons. PE Uniform continues to be our blue PE tops and unbranded **black** shorts or sport trousers with trainers.

SWIMMING is an invaluable life skill and a compulsory part of the National Curriculum with class 4LW starting their sessions on the first day back after the Easter break, Tuesday 18 April. We are lucky enough to have access to the Brune Park swimming pool and have specialist swimming instructors to lead the sessions. Each Year 4 child will participate in six sessions. They will receive tailored group lessons based on their ability. Please ensure you have completed this [Google Form](#), to help us initially group the children based on their current ability. Please ensure the children have their swim kits (one piece for girls) in school on a Tuesday and a small snack and drink for after. The Easter break is an ideal opportunity to get organised with swim kits!

4LW	Tuesdays: 18 April, 25 April, 2 May, 9 May, 16 May, 23 May
4IA	Wednesdays: 7 June, 14 June, 21 June, 28 June, 5 July, 12 July

WISHING you all a lovely Easter holiday. We do hope the weather is fine and that all families have some time together to rest. We have had another wonderful term full of learning, activity and smiles. We look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Tuesday 18 April. Please note that Monday 17 April is an INSET day.

WORLD BOOK DAY this year is on Thursday 2 March. It has been noted that: 'Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success, more than family circumstances, parents' educational backgrounds or income.' - Just 10 minutes daily shared reading benefits every child's future. We have lots of exciting activities planned for WBD including a Teacher Creature Feature and our popular Big Booky Breakfast (see above). If children would like to dress themselves or one of their dolls/teddies/characters as a character from **a book** on this day, then they are welcome to do so. Dressing up is not obligatory and school uniforms can be worn if your child does not wish to dress up. Year groups have adapted their timetable and will use the day to immerse children into the exciting world of books. Additionally, as per a recent email, next week we are running a **Read for Good Readathon** and we'd love your child to join in. Pupils can choose whatever they want to read - from comics to classics and audiobooks to blogs - it's all about reading for fun. To take part in the **Read for Good Readathon**:

1. **Take a look at what they plan to read** and help them complete their list of books they hope to read over the 5 days. Remember they can read whatever they want: books, e-books, poetry, comics – anything goes! Sharing books is fine too (in fact recommended) as well as listening to audio books. They could read a number of chapters, or several smaller books or poems. Write their list on the sponsor form
2. **Help your child find sponsors among family and friends.** The easiest way to sponsor a child is at <https://readathon.secure.force.com/sponsor> (which family and friends can use too) or return the sponsor card with a cheque(s) or cash sent to school.

Please support your child's sponsored read as much as you can. They will be helping children in hospitals receive books, as well as helping themselves. Additionally, our school receives free books worth 20% of our grand sponsorship total – so there really is something in it for everyone. For more information, check out your child's sponsorship card and visit www.readforgood.org.

YOU SAID/WE DID You wanted to know if we would be closed for Industrial Action in March. We sent you an email regarding this on 23 February. You told us our timings, during the last strike action, were challenging to your day. We have amended these by providing you with an earlier notification of whether or not your child's class will be open or closed. We have maintained the registers being open until slightly later to accommodate additional travel time that may be required of some families.

Last term you reported that we were sending you too much community information. We have created a page on our website with community activity, for you to access at your convenience. Please see [here](#)