



## Newsletter 8 - April 2023

**GO GOMER!** Well done to **ELSA FRAMPTON** who held a cake sale to raise money for the Turkish Earthquake Appeal. She spent all of a Saturday afternoon baking her cakes and cookies to sell and then did a bake sale on Gomer Lane on the Sunday, which has so far raised £220 (with more donations to come!) She even put her own pocket money for the week into the collection. This is a massive achievement and a lovely thing to do. All proceeds are going to the Antep just giving fund (they are a local Turkish restaurant in Lee-on-Solent) who still have family living in a village in Turkey.

*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.*

<b>DATES FOR APRIL:</b> The dates below are for your diary and are also included on the electronic calendar; occasionally they are subject to change.		
<b>Ongoing</b>	Arrival to playground from 8:40 am	
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Start of school day: 8.50 am</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">End of school day: 3:10 pm</td> </tr> </table>	Start of school day: 8.50 am
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<b>Mondays</b>	Y5 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Y6 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tennis Club: 3.15-4.15pm - <b>starting Monday 24 April</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Tuesdays</b>	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Y6 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upper School Football League Club: 3.15-4.15pm - <b>Starting Tuesday 25 April</b></li> <li>Service Club - (all year groups): 3.15-4.15pm - <b>Starting Tuesday 25 April</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Wednesdays</b>	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Y5 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upper School Netball Club: 3.15-4.15pm - <b>Starting Wednesday 26 April</b></li> <li>Upper School Football Training Club: 3.15-4.15pm - <b>Starting Wednesday 26 April</b></li> <li>Lego League Coding Club (Y4/Y5): 3.15-4.15pm - <b>Starting Wednesday 26 April</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Thursdays</b>	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choir practice: 8.15-8.45 - <b>Starting Thursday 27 April</b></li> <li>Citizenship Club (Y5/Y6) - Mrs Fry will share details separately to those who have signed up</li> <li>Lower School Multi-skills Club: 3.15-4.15pm - <b>Starting Thursday 27 April</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Fridays</b>	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school	
<b>Mon 03 → Fri 14</b>	<b>Easter Break</b>	
<b>Mon 17 Apr</b>	<b>INSET Day - School closed to pupils</b>	
<b>Tuesday 18</b>	Summer Term starts - pupils return to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class 4LW - Swimming Lessons (1 of 6): pm</li> </ul>	

<b>Wednesday 19</b>	Midday - Order deadline for souvenir coronation tea towels
<b>Thursday 20</b>	Bay House Build Exhibition: 4.00-7.00pm - For staff/parents/carers in all local primary schools
<b>Tuesday 25</b>	Class 4LW - Swimming Lessons (2 of 6): pm
<b>Tuesday 25</b>	Y5 Visit to the Weald and Downland Living Museum (Anglo Saxon Day). Children come to school at normal time dressed in PE kit with change of shoes, coat and packed lunch. Travelling via coach and returning for the end of day pick up at 3:10. Google form has been sent and an email with more information will be shared nearer the time.
<b>Friday 28</b>	Saturday 29 April is the day of the Service child! To celebrate the National Military Child Day, staff and children are invited to wear purple accessories with their uniform to show their support for Service children across the country on <b>Friday 28 April</b> .
<b>Upcoming dates for May</b>	
<b>Monday 01</b>	<b>Early May Bank Holiday</b>
<b>Friday 05</b>	Parent/Carer Coronation Event: 2.00-3.00 - Details to follow
<b>Monday 08</b>	<b>Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III</b>
<b>Tue 09 → Fri 12</b>	SATs Week

**ABSENCE REQUEST FORM** is now available to download from the school website on the Attendance Matters page - click [here](#).

**ADMISSIONS** announced our Y3 2023 pupils on Monday 17 April. Gomer continues to be a popular choice for local families and we look forward to welcoming our new pupils. If you know any Y2 parents who may be talking about admissions to Gomer Junior School, please direct them to HCC admissions or GFM admissions if they have any enquiries ahead of hearing directly from the school. We aim to make personal contact with our families in early May. We do have some information available on our website. Please see [here](#). To contact the GFM Admissions Team please email [admissions@gfmat.org](mailto:admissions@gfmat.org)

**AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS** Due to the lighter evenings, all after school sports clubs will finish at 4.15pm during the summer term. These clubs will start w/b Monday 24 April.

**BAY HOUSE BUILD** team warmly invites you to learn more about the Bay House build project on Thursday 20 April from 16.00-19.00, in the Marine Centre at Bay House. To accommodate the new build, six buildings, two temporary classrooms and numerous stores and containers will be demolished, including various outbuildings and bin stores in front of Bay House; and they will be replaced with three new buildings, to allow for an enhanced landscape and more space for recreation. The new building will join up with existing retained buildings to provide a much more accessible school and college environment. It is a very exciting project and something all our learners will benefit from.



**CAKE SALES FUNDRAISING** to support the clean up efforts after the earthquakes in Turkey, has been very successful. Thanks, on behalf of the School Council who initiated the sales, to all of those who provided cakes and also those who brought them. We have raised a total of £563.86.

**CAR PARKING**, during the day is for members of staff, authorised parents and expected visitors. However, it is very sensible for those dropping and collecting to and from GClub to use this school facility. Please avoid using the reserved bays by the minibus and please **DO NOT SPEED** in or out of the car park. We have spoken to some individuals and need this to be addressed in order that everyone is safe. If parents/carers are unable to drive in and out of the car park slowly and safely we will have to have the gate closed at all times. Please also do not park illegally on Pырford Close or in front of our neighbours' drives. Inconsiderate parking upsets our neighbours and we are keen to avoid this. Walking and scooting to school is recommended wherever possible. We will be asking our JRSOs to start patrolling to help remind us of all of these key messages.

**CATERING COSTS** will be increasing on the 1 April by 15p - each school meal will cost £2.65. The costs will increase again from 1 September to £2.80. The GFM have tried to keep the costs to £2.50 but can no longer sustain this. H3CS have been charging £2.80 since October 2022 - we are pleased not to have kept costs as low as possible for the time that we have.

**GFM NEW MENU** is available to view/download from [here](#).

**GROUNDFORCE DAY** A massive thank you to everyone who attended our first Groundforce Day of 2023. Our school grounds are looking very tidy thanks to all your hard work. It was great to see Gomer buzzing with activity and enthusiasm. Thank you also for your donations of plants and gardening materials. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. We will be hosting another Ground Force Day this term - date and Google Form to follow. 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, old metal pots and pans for the mud kitchen, scaffold planks and tarpaulin would be very much appreciated.

**KING CHARLES CORONATION CELEBRATION** planning is well underway and we are set to celebrate with Gomer Infant School on **Friday 5 May**. Please send your child to school in red, white and blue clothing (there will be no PE on this day) and we are looking to reschedule singing lessons. You may like to send them to school with a tiara or crown - bought or homemade. GFM Catering will provide a picnic menu for that day, so children can have a picnic lunch / garden party outside if the weather is fine. The children are currently designing a tea towel to commemorate King Charles - more information about how to order this to follow. In addition to this, you are invited to join us from 2pm to watch a performance of the children, from the Gomer Community, singing and dancing their way through the decades - this event is weather dependent.

**KING CHARLES CORONATION SOUVENIR TEA TOWELS** A reminder - if you would like to place an order for the lovely memento created by your child, please refer to the email sent on 29 March with details of how to order via Scopay. The deadline for ordering is **midday Wednesday 19 April**.

**LEGO FIGURES** Do you have any spare LEGO figures you could donate for use in the RE curriculum? Using LEGO in RE is a great way for children to creatively express their understanding of concepts. LEGO is an amazing resource in education but we never have enough figures. Thank you.

**MILITARY CHILD** Saturday 29 April is the month of the Military Child. To celebrate our military children, staff and pupils are invited to wear purple accessories with their uniform on **Friday 28 April** to show their support for Service children across the country. Never Such Innocence will be running another art and poetry competition in partnership with the MOD. Last year's theme was the dandelion which produced some amazing poems and artwork. The competition winners had their work displayed in the MOD main building in London and in the Houses of Parliament. They also visited both the MOD and Parliament and met several MPs to discuss their work. We hope children will take part in the poetry and art competition this year - flyer sent home to Service families.

**MUSIC LESSONS** for this term will begin w/b Monday 24 April.

**SCHOOL SUMMER UNIFORM** is now welcome for the Summer Term. 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** A reminder that Year 4 swimming lessons take place this term. Your child will need a one-piece bathing costume (girls) or trunks/shorts (boys) and a towel. A swimming cap is advised as there will be a short time frame for showering. Please teach your child how to put it on and how to dry themselves efficiently. All belongings should be clearly named and carried in a plastic carrier bag or swimming bag. No large sports bags please. All children must bring a suitable coat/jacket to keep them warm after they have been swimming on these days even if the weather is mild. They are welcome to bring an extra drink and snack for after swimming. Children are to continue to wear their PE kit on their swim day and will change into their swimming clothes at Brune Park. Long hair should be tied up.

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

**WATER BOTTLES** at Gomer Junior are required to be plastic and have been for several years. The reason for moving to multi-use plastic only is to:

- avoid spillages in school where bottle tops (metal ones often have a large open mouth) have been left off which can create very soggy carpets, slippery surfaces/hazards, wet clothing and more importantly, ruin classwork/books
- reduce the noise created by metal bottles on desk tables when they are used and frequently dropped in the classroom; this can cause distraction and distress for some pupils, especially when you have 30 pupils / bottles in a class.
- to stop injuries where pupils have bumped their teeth / gums / lips or had a metal bottle drop on their foot

In view of the above, we have revisited with the children that metal water bottles are not welcome in school. Thank you for your understanding in this matter and we thank you for your continued support.

**WORLD BOOK DAY** was a huge success across the school. The children enjoyed a range of exciting activities throughout the day, where we were all able to share our love of reading. The Big Booky Breakfast fed many and then also raised an additional £112 for the school library. This has already begun to be spent on increasing our range of books which help children explore diversity, adding to our ever growing collection. We hope all the children were able to make use of their World Book Day tokens and enjoyed choosing a new book for their own collections. The sponsored read was also a big success with a total of £816 raised. Thank you!

**YEAR 6 LEAVERS HOODIES** are optional and can be ordered soon (separate flyer to be sent). The hoodies are priced from £19.50 and the Y6 leavers can order from a range of colours and sizes. Y6 children are welcome to wear their hoodie, regardless of colour choice, for the **second part of the Summer Term** as part of their PE kit – please ensure that it is labelled with your child’s name.

**YOU SAID/WE DID** We aim to offer a broad curriculum rich with opportunities - many are of no cost to our families e.g. our whole school theatre panto visit in December. For some, these opportunities would not be possible without parental contributions e.g. the residential. We aim to give you notice of likely costs for any one year - please see [here](#). Occasionally, we provide an expression of interest before booking, to see if parents/carers can support an activity - without contributions just would not be able to go ahead. Having been told we are asking for contributions too frequently, we thought we would visit our offer by gaining your feedback - we do not want to be putting pressure on any of our families. We would be grateful for your anonymous feedback by completing this [Google Form](#).