



Newsletter 9 - May 2023

GO GOMER! Year 6 have been incredibly focussed over this past year. In their last term they have prepared for the end of KS2 SATs. SATs focus on what children know about Maths and English. They do not reflect how talented our children are at science, geography, art, PE... and they certainly won't highlight all of their amazing personal characteristics. Their results will say if they did or did not meet a certain standard. SATs do not tell the whole story so we can't wait to share some of 'Real Year 6' story at the end of term in their celebration assembly on the afternoon of Tuesday 18th July.

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 MAY: 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennis Club: 3.15-4.15pm 	
Tuesdays	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"> Upper School Football League Club: 3.15-4.15pm - Final Session Tuesday 23 May (<i>possible league round robin matches on Wednesday 24 May - we are still awaiting confirmation from the other schools and will text and email ASAP</i>) 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper School Netball Club: 3.15-4.15pm Upper School Football Training Club: 3.15-4.15pm Lego League Coding Club (Y4/Y5): 3.15-4.15pm 	
Thursdays	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir practice: 8:15 - 8:45 Citizenship Club (Y5/Y6) - Itinerary sent separately Lower School Multi-skills Club: 3.15-4.15pm 	
Fridays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school (No PE on Friday 5 May)	
Monday 01	Early May Bank Holiday	
Tuesday 02	Class 4LW - Swimming Lessons (3 of 6): pm	
Thursday 04	Rescheduled Vocal Lessons (in place of Friday 05 May)	

Friday 05	Coronation Celebration Day - children invited to wear red, white and blue to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent/Carer Coronation Event: 2.00-3.00pm (see details below)
Monday 08	Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III
Tue 09 → Fri 12	SATs Week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y6 SATs Breakfast in The Globe: 8.20-8.40am Tues - Fri
Tuesday 09	Class 4LW - Swimming Lessons (4 of 6): pm
Thursday 11	RNMC Y5 Service Children - Boleh Sailing Opportunity (invites have been sent to those eligible)
Monday 15	Whole School to Bay House for BAE Roadshow (during school day)
Tuesday 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 4LW - Swimming Lessons (5 of 6): pm Y6 Preparing for Secondary Evening - <u>Bay House</u> School: 4.00-7.00pm
Tuesday 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 4LW - Swimming Lessons (6 of 6): pm SEND Forum: Strategies to support Speech, Language and Communication Needs - BP Community Hub: 4.00 - 5.00pm
Wednesday 24	Y6 Preparing for Secondary Evening - <u>Brune Park</u> School: 4.00-7.00pm
Friday 26	Outdoor Classroom Day - see below
Wed 24 → Fri 26	Y5 to Stubbington Study Centre
Mon 29 → Fri 02	Half Term
Upcoming dates for June	
Wednesday 07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer Groundforce Morning - see details and form below Class 4IA - Swimming Lessons (1 of 6): pm
Thursday 08	Class Photos: am
Thursday 15	FROGJS Special Man Gift Sale - £3 per gift
Friday 16 June	Special Man Lunch - Please see details below. Forms to be completed by midday, 2 June

BAE ROADSHOW returns and the whole school will be walking to Bay House on Monday 15 May. MGA are proudly working in collaboration with BAE Systems, The Royal Air Force and The Royal Navy to deliver an engaging theatre roadshow celebrating STEM during the Summer Term 2023. Aligned to the National Curriculum, the 50-minute performance intends to inspire and engage our learners. The theme of the 2023 show is 'From the depths of the oceans to outer space.' The show will examine the engineering challenges that are faced when travelling to the most inhospitable places and discover some of the innovative solutions to these problems.

CALENDAR/INSET DAYS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024

Autumn Term 2023	Spring Term 2024	Summer Term 2024
Start: Friday 1 September Finish: Friday 15 December Half term: 23 – 27 October	Start: Tuesday 2 January Finish: Friday 26 March Half term: 12 – 16 February	Start: Monday 15 April Finish: Tuesday 23 July Half term: 28 May – 31 June

Nb Y3 and Y7 learners will return to school Monday 4 September as part of their transition. Whole school to return to GFM sites on Tuesday 5 September.

GFM INSET dates, for the academic year 2023/2024:

- Friday 1 September 2023
- Monday 30 October 2023
- Friday 9 February 2024
- Monday 22 July 2024
- Tuesday 23 July 2024

KING CHARLES CORONATION CELEBRATION DAY is all set for Friday 5 May. With thanks to those who have purchased a Gomer Coronation tea towel. This will make for a super memento and should be with you before the Coronation Weekend. The FROGJS have purchased a commemorative badge for each child to have as a memento of this special occasion. Please send your child to school in red, white and blue clothing (there will be no PE on this day) and singing lessons for this week will take place on Thursday 4 May. GFM Catering has provided a picnic menu for that day, so children can have a picnic lunch/garden party outside if the weather is fine - thank you to those who have ordered (no further orders can now be taken). Children are welcome to bring a named picnic blanket should they wish to. They will also have the opportunity to sit with Gomer Infant School in order that all children eat together.

At 1:45pm on this day, the Pyrford gate will be open and families are then invited to join us to watch the children from across the Gomer Community perform songs across the decades of King Charles' life - Performance will begin at 2:00pm. Please enter the school site via the Pyrford Road or Ladram Road Gate. You will be directed from these entrances to a performance area. Please be aware that weather permitting, we will be on the field. Please bring picnic blankets or your own seating if required. FROGJS will have light refreshments available for you to buy from the playground or you may like to bring your own (no alcohol please). We would love as many families as possible to celebrate this lovely community event. We are aiming for the event to finish at the end of the Gomer Junior School day (3:10pm). After the performance, ALL children from both schools will be taken back to their classrooms and can be collected from there. Please do not take your child offsite before then.

GCLUB will not run on Monday 8 May as it is a Bank Holiday so school will be closed. It will run as normal on Friday 26 May (last day of the half term).

GOMER INFANT SCHOOL apparatus is for Gomer Infant children during the school day only. We regularly remind children not to play on it. Please reinforce this when you are on-site at drop-off and collection time.

GROUNDFORCE MORNING - PART 2 has been scheduled for the morning of **Wednesday 7 June**. Summer planting in preparation for the judging of Gosport in Bloom. Please [click here](#) to confirm you are able to help with your child

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY is a national initiative on May 18. At Gomer, we'll be completing some learning outside (not unusual for us) on Friday 26 May. With the impacts of climate change and the incidence of mental health problems on the rise, there has never been a more important time to harness the potential of the outdoor classroom. Connecting children to nature is a crucial way to support mental health whilst equipping pupils with the tools they need to take climate action. Outdoor Classroom Day is a global campaign which aims to inspire outdoor learning and play.

NATIONAL THANK A TEACHER or SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER is Thursday 21 June. Team Gomer are grateful for each other, their GFM colleagues and for colleagues that teach and support their own children in and around Gosport. The Thank a Teacher campaign recognises ALL staff working in UK schools and colleges; school leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, and all support staff such as lunchtime supervisors, caretakers and cleaners. The campaign exists to celebrate the professionalism, passion and commitment of schools all around the country. So, if you would like to send a free card (anonymously or signed) to any member of staff working in any educational establishment you can do so by visiting [here](#). And messages received are valued by the recipient very much.

NORTHCOTT HOUSE LUNCH CLUB We are thrilled to announce our exciting new lunch club that is starting Wednesday 26th April. Each Wednesday a group of children will walk round to Northcott House with Mrs Fry and Miss Hall to have lunch with the residents there. This has come about through the citizenship club (which is on a Thursday after school) because of how much the children and residents enjoyed their time together. If your child has volunteered for this then you will have received an email. We had so many of our young people wanting to attend that this club will run again in the second half of the Summer term to enable other groups of children to attend.

The dates for this half term are as follows:

- 26th April (Yr 6)
- 3rd May (Yr 5)
- 10th May (Yr 4)

- 17th May (Yr 3)

On these Wednesdays, we will leave school at 12:00 and walk to the nursing home. While there we will enjoy our packed lunches with the residents. We will then leave there at 12:50 to walk back to school for 13:00.

POLITE REMINDER Water bottles should be of the plastic variety and contain water rather than squash. Squash type drinks are welcomed in packed lunches only.

REPORTING ABSENCE Thank you to parents/carers who continue to use our website system to log their child's absence. A polite reminder to those who may be new to reporting absence or lateness, to do so via our [website form](#). This system allows messages to be accessed and forwarded to members of staff immediately. If you are needing to request a planned absence please ask the office for a form in order that this can be processed accordingly or find it on our Attendance Matters [website page](#).

SATs have been scheduled, for the second year since COVID, for Year 6 by the government. We were pleased so many families attended our SATs Information Session in March. The school is committed to ensuring pupils make progress throughout their learning journey at Gomer and can account for this accordingly. We will share attainment information with parents/carers in our annual reports (July) and liaise closely with secondary schools to inform them about Year 6 accordingly. Year 6 children are invited to arrive at school each day from 8.20am for a SATs breakfast. They should arrive at The Globe where they will be provided with a drink and light snack e.g. cereal or toast. They are encouraged to also have a pre-breakfast before they arrive, so they have plenty of energy.

Date	SAT
Tuesday 9 May 2023	Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar – Paper 1 Spelling Punctuation & Grammar – Paper 2
Wednesday 10 May 2023	English Reading
Thursday 11 May 2023	Maths Paper 1 (Arithmetic) Maths Paper 2 (Reasoning)
Friday 12 May 2023	Maths Paper 3 (Reasoning)

How you can help your child with the build up to and during SATs week:

- Plan a relaxing weekend before the SATS - perfect due to the Coronation extended weekend
- Ensure your child gets plenty of sleep during SATs week
- Talk to your child about how they are feeling
- Find small things that can help your child relax during the week
- Make sure they are in school with plenty of time - rushing can add to feeling unsettled
- Remind them that they are awesome and SATs are only a snapshot of who they are

SEND PARENT DROP IN this half term will focus on 'Strategies to support Speech, Language and Communication Needs'. These are free to attend and are held at The GFM Community Hub, which is located on the Brune Park School site. The next session is going to be held between 4pm and 5pm on Tuesday 23 May, parking is available on site. You are welcome to turn up on the day - no booking is required. The session usually includes an information presentation from our GFM SEND Leaders plus local professionals, then an opportunity for you to share and ask questions. Handouts and refreshments are provided free of charge.

SPECIAL MAN FROGJS gift-sale is all set for the morning of Thursday 15 June. All gifts are priced at £3. The sale is totally optional

SPECIAL MAN LUNCH has been organised for Friday 16 June, so that children can share lunch with that 'special man' in their life - father, carer, grandparent, godfather, uncle, family friend etc. Please complete this [Google form](#) if you would like to take part in this event by **Friday 2 June** (during half term week). Meals are charged at £2.65 with payments to be made online via SCOPAY, under PRODUCTS. Alternatively, you can bring a packed lunch. Children's meals can be ordered on the day as usual and paid for online, at the current cost of £2.65. To accommodate our special visitors, we will have staggered lunch sittings as follows:-

Year 3 - 11.45am	Year 4 - 12.00 noon	Year 5 - 12.15pm	Year 6 - 12.30pm
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If you have child in lower school and upper school, please attend the **YOUNGEST** child's sitting

On arrival to school, please make your way to the school hall by the picnic area door (5 minutes ahead of your child's sitting) so we can have you signed-in and seated ahead of your child joining you. You will be required to wear a visitors sticker and asked to hand this in when you leave so we can account for you being off-site.

The menu will be as follows:-

- Red Option - Fish Fingers, Chips and Peas
- Green Option - Vegan Quorn Fishless Fingers, Chips and Peas
- Jacket Potato - Served with Baked Beans and Cheese

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 Men' to leave after you have eaten due to limited space inside the school.

STAFF MATTER and we are delighted to inform you that Mrs Thurston is pregnant. Due to the due date of the baby, Mrs Thurston will be with her class until the end of the academic year. Team Gomer are very excited for Mrs Thurston and their family. We welcome back Mrs Wilden, from her maternity leave, at the end of the month. She will be working on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday for the remainder of the term - in her Assistant Headteacher role, supporting our Inclusion work across the school and providing some class based teaching where required. We are delighted that Miss Annison, who has been covering Mrs Wilden's leave, will remain with Team Gomer.

SUMMER UNIFORM is welcome this term and until October half-term. Summer uniform includes:

- Royal Blue jumper/cardigan or Team Gomer sports jacket.
- White polo type shirt with a collar or a white cotton shirt with a stiff collar.
- **For boys:** Grey or black trousers or shorts and short white, grey or black socks.
- **For girls:** Grey or black trousers, shorts or culottes or dark/**navy blue** gingham dresses, or playsuits or gingham blouse and skirt to be worn as a two piece, long or short white, grey or black socks.
- Sensible black shoes (no trainers unless all black and shoe like) or sensible/supportive black or white sandals and trainers for PE days.
- Sensible lightweight coat.

SWIMMING for Year 4 is underway this term. 4LW will continue their sessions at Brune Park. 4IA will start in June. Please ensure the children have their swim kits (one-piece swimsuit for girls) in school plus a small snack and drink for after.

THE SUN IS SHINING and children thoroughly enjoy being outside. To help keep them safe in the sun, please remember sun safety messages: 'slip, slop, slap'. Sun safety experts recommend:

- **Slip** on sun protective, pale clothing that covers as much of your body as possible.
- **Slop** on SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen, at least 20 minutes before sun exposure.
- **Slap** on a sun hat that shades your face, neck and ears. We do not mind what colour this – however, Gomer blue would be amazing - just like Mr Guest's hat!

We have been made aware that some Nivea sun creams now contain almond oil and we do have some pupils in school with nut allergies - please bear this in mind when applying sunscreen for school - thank you.

Please help us to keep your children safe in the sun. And, please see our washing instructions below for any suncream related stains.



TEACHERS Information about the teachers your child will be learning with next year in Gomer Junior, will be shared in July, before transition. In July there are opportunities planned for your child to meet and work with their new teacher(s) and support staff, whilst learning a little about what life will be like in the new year group. If you feel that your child requires additional support to transition into their next year group, please make contact with their current class teacher or Learning Mentor (LAPS) to arrange this.

TRANSITION MATTERS and is a major event not only for a young person but also for the family members that support their child. It is therefore our aim to ensure that the transition journey is reassuring, informative and exciting. A move to a new school is a significant time for any family. For some, transition will be an exciting time. For others, this will be a time of nervousness. Our Year 2s will receive a warm welcome and opportunities to learn more about us, our approach and have opportunities to preview KS2 learning during the Summer Term. Our Year 6 will also be supported by us here at Gomer and their new schools after the May half term through a variety of activities. Transition days are planned for all year groups on July 13 and 14; more details will follow nearer the time. Parents/carers of children in year 2 or 6 who require additional transition support, will be contacted individually.

YOU SAID/WE DID We have been informed that some families find it difficult to remove sunscreen stains from the white polo tops. In brief, there is not a 'blue' polo top option - Gomer has always been white and we are not intending to change our uniform policy. Part of the reason for this choice is due to the white tops being readily available and at a competitive price. For example, polo tops from Asda cost £2.50 for 2 or £6.00 for 5. Additionally, the Skoolkit website is misleading - we have told them that the image looks blue (the description outlines white) - sorry for the confusion. To help you, we have learned that the higher the SPF the increased chances there are of staining. Might a lower SPF, be just as efficient, with the addition of a sun hat 'legionnaire' style to cover the neck? Eucerin 50+ sunscreen claims not to stain clothes so it is worth shopping around. Additionally, you may wish to try these methods to remove a yellow sunscreen stain:

- Do a pre-treatment before washing. Rub a specific laundry detergent designed for stains into the mark and leave for 10 minutes before rinsing and washing.
- After washing, hang your white clothing out in the sun to dry. The sun naturally bleaches stained white clothing in a safe way. For stubborn stains, use lemon juice to intensify the bleaching results.
- Soak the stain in white vinegar. Follow this by washing on a hot temperature.
- Use eucalyptus oil. Cover the stain and leave for five minutes before washing as normal.

We do hope our suggestions help with your laundry