



Newsletter 2 - OCTOBER 2023

GO GOMER! Well done to **TALLULAH CRASCALL, AMELIA DICKENS** and **THOMAS RICKETTS** who took part, with their Cub pack, 6th Gosport, in a Cycling Festival raising over £500 for people made tetraplegic through sports accidents. They were incredible, completing 6, 10 and 13 laps of Thruxton race circuit, each lap being 2.34 miles. An amazing achievement! A huge well done to all Year 6 learners who have been presented with 'job roles' as a result of their successful applications. We have been celebrating them on our website also. Additionally, congratulations to our new School Council who were also celebrated on our website and Facebook page on 26.9.2023.

We love to hear about your children's success outside school. Please inform us so that we can record them here.

DATES FOR OCTOBER: 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
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"> Service Club (all year groups): 12.00-12.50 Hockey Club (all year groups): 3.10-4.15
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"> Football Club (Y5/Y6): 3.10-4.15 Netball Club (Y5/Y6): 3.10-4.15
Thursdays	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir practice (all year groups): 8:15-8:45 Multi-skills Club (Y3/Y4): 3.10-4.15 Citizenship Club (Y5/Y6): 3.00-4.30 - <i>Starting after October half term. Google Form to follow in due course. Limited places available (8). This Club will involve parental support to take and collect their child from different venues.</i> GFM Pantry: 3.00-3.30pm on the blue playground (stock dependent)
Fridays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school
Monday 02 October	Year 5 & Year 6 SGO Hockey at St. Vincents - Google Form sent home
Thursday 05 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Census Day - we're aiming for 100% attendance this day to capture all the children who attend our school National Poetry Day GFM Bay House Open Evening: 4.30-7.30pm

Friday 06 October	Pyjama Day - PyJamarama Fundraiser - to raise money for Children with Cancer UK - £1 suggested donation.
Monday 9 October	Harvest Celebration - donations of tinned or packet foods welcomed. The School Choir will be singing. Parents/carers are welcome to watch. Please arrive at the school hall at 10.10 to sign in and be seated.
Tuesday 10 October	World Mental Health Day - Everyone asked to accessorise uniform with yellow - A day to raise awareness - this is NOT a fundraiser.
Wednesday 11 October	FROGJS AGM: 2.00-3.00pm. Parents/carers are welcomed to attend.
Thursday 12 October	Y3 morning visit to St. Mary's Church, Alverstone for a baptism role play to support our RE learning. Check weather - coat might be required.
Monday 16 October	School Photos - individual: am
Thursday 19 October	FROGJS Spooky Disco - £3.00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Y3 & Y4: 4.15-5.15pm ● Y5 & Y6: 5.30-6.30pm
Friday 20 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Show Racism the Red Card - Wear red to school - A day to raise awareness - NOT a fundraiser ● The BIG DRAW - Parents & carers invited in to draw alongside their child: 2.40-3.10pm
Mon 23 – Fri 27	HALF TERM WEEK
Monday 30 October	INSET DAY - School closed to children
Tuesday 31	Y6 - Deadline for applications for secondary school places (midnight)
Upcoming dates for November	
Thursday 02 November	FROGJS/POGOS Firework Spectacular - Details to follow separately
Friday 03 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shoe Boxes collected - leaflets to follow
Wednesday 08 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open Morning - Prospective Year 3 Parents: 9.00-9.45am ● Open Afternoon - Prospective Year 3 Parents: 2.15-3.00pm
Friday 10 November	Y4 Visit to Fishbourne Palace: 9.00-3.00pm - Details to follow separately
Monday 13 Novemer	Author Visit - Chris Bradford: 1.00-3.00pm

A WHOLE MONTH has passed since our last newsletter was sent out and we are so pleased with how settled and happy the children are. September can be a challenging month to adapt to after the summer holiday so we are pleased that the children are fully involved in school life. Have a question about something related to school? Please chat to teachers or Learning Mentors at the start or end of the day, visit our [website](#), come to the Reception or access our secret FaceBook Page - don't forget our public [FaceBook](#) page too which shares news and successes daily. **Not sure what your child is learning about this term?** Please do visit our online curriculum pages for each year group: [Year 3](#), [Year 4](#), [Year 5](#), and [Year 6](#) Additionally, you may like to read our curriculum newsletter.

ABSENCE REQUESTS For all term-time absence requests (including medical/dental appointments) please complete the Absence Request Form. To access the form please click [here](#). For day-to-day absences due to sickness/lateness, please use the function on the homepage of the website which can be found [here](#). Please note, that 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 holiday absence request, confirming that no alternative dates for holiday were available to you. Please note, this does not guarantee authorisation.

ARBOR APP PARENT PORTAL enables you access to your child's dashboard and account. You can see key information about your child including: attendance data, timetables and learner reports. You are able to access the Arbor Parent

Portal either directly via the website or via the Arbor Parent Portal app which you can download via the app store. Logging onto the app has been challenging for some parents. Please see the letter sent in the email with this newsletter. Still having issues? Please come to the school office.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS and it is not as how it was in previous years in October. Regular school attendance is an important part of giving your child the best possible start in life. It is important that both school and home, work together on this. Our current attendance figure is at **96.5%**, however our current persistent absentee figures are at **13.4%**. A child is considered a persistent absentee if their attendance is below 90%. Every month, we will be communicating with parents whose children have an Attendance Rate below 90% to work together on how we can move towards improving their child's attendance.

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

BAY HOUSE would like to invite current Year 6 pupils and parents to their opening evenings. Bay House will hold their open evening on Thursday 5 October. The school will be open between the times of 4.30pm and 7.00pm. The deadline for applications for September 2023 secondary school places is **midnight 31 October 2023**.

BIG DRAW 2023 is scheduled for **Friday 20 October** at 2.40pm. The 2023 Big Draw theme, 'Drawing with Senses', changes the focus from external to internal, exploring the way we personally process the world and internalise our experiences through our senses. This is a great year to look at the 5 basic senses: Touch, Sight, Sound, Taste and Smell and experiment with these and those you are less familiar with. If you would like to join us please complete this [Google Form](#) and confirm your attendance by Monday 16 October.

CAKE SALES There have been some acts of extreme kindness from our pupils whereby they are buying other children cakes who have not brought in money into school. As lovely and generous as this is, we recognise that the act of kindness may impact on the diet of those children with intolerances to some ingredients e.g. wheat. Therefore, please talk with your child(ren) to acknowledge the kind intention but ask that children only buy cakes for themselves in order that they do not contribute to a friend becoming poorly. Additionally, if your child does need to monitor their food intake, please remind them of what they can and can not eat and why. Thank you to all our families who have supported the sales with donations and for those children buying their Treat Friday snack. Our young entrepreneurs have raised the following sums for their class:

6RI: £111.20	6LF: £121.12	5SB: £86.00
---------------------	---------------------	--------------------

CAULIFLOWER CARDS are the organisation we use to make the children's Christmas cards. The children will be given time, before half-term (some have already started), to design a Christmas card. The design will be sent home before half-term for you to decide if you would like to purchase any - this is totally optional. Orders are to be placed and paid online by following the instructions on the order form. If you do make an order, please return the art work and linked form to school by **Monday 30 October** as the designs are being collected by Cauliflower Cards on **Wednesday 1 November**. As soon as Cauliflower Cards return your orders we will send them home with your child.

CHOIR This club takes place before school on a Thursday morning, 8.15-8.45am with Mr Pilot who is the Musical Director at St. Mary's Church, Alverstoke. The cost for the tuition is £10 per term. If your child would like to take part in this club please contact Mrs West or the school office.

COUGHS and COLDS have affected us already this term. In the coming months, there may be further seasonal illnesses. Please note school Calpol is for school-based incidents. Should your child need Calpol due to a cold, please ensure they have it given to them before the start of school and sent in with them (named and with related consent) in the event they require it being readministered during the school day. Schools do not have the resources to provide Calpol for known illnesses. Please also send them to school with a **packet of tissues** to help with their runny noses or sneezes. Sometimes it is hard to know what to do, so the following information might prove helpful when judging if your child is well enough to attend school:

- **Coughs and colds:** It's fine to send your child to school with a minor [cough](#) or [common cold](#). But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.
- **Covid:** If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school. However, if they have the following:
 - have a high temperature
 - do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities
 Then try and keep them at home until they feel better. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

Vomiting and diarrhoea: Children with [diarrhoea or vomiting](#) should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours). For further information and guidance on common childhood illnesses please [click](#) here to access the NHS website.

DOGS are gorgeous and many of our families have them. We have made a concession for dogs 'in arms' to be on-site because these are typically puppies. We occasionally have working dogs on the school site e.g. therapy dogs. Aware that some children are very nervous of dogs, we became a 'dog free' site many years ago (signpost by rear gate). Please respect that fully grown dogs are not to be walked onto the school site or tied-up close to the gates, unattended, where children have to walk by. Many thanks for your help with this.

FIREWORKS are scheduled for **Thursday 2 November**. Gates open at 5.30pm via the Gomer Infant red pedestrian gate. Tickets will be made available for this awesome community event by our fabulous FROGJS and POGOS before half-term. A letter will follow with further details of this event. We will also be selling 'glow before you go' prior to this event to reduce queues on the night of the display. There has been much work behind the scenes and we can't wait for this event. As in previous years, we will notify our local residents of the display so they can keep pets inside. You may like to help us spread the word.

FROGJS Friends of Gomer Junior School is our parent-teacher association, who work tirelessly to support and enrich our young people's school experience. During the last academic year they hosted discos, supported school shops, held fairs and events, which the community really enjoyed and which also raised money for the school. They are holding their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday 11th October at 2pm, and would welcome more volunteers to attend this meeting or offer a small amount of time to support their efforts. If you are interested in being a member of the committee or helping at a FROGJS event, please complete this [Google Form](#). Their first event of the year is their Spooky Disco. See below.

GCLUB is our awesome breakfast and after-school childcare club. Our children and staff love their school and we are looking for a special someone to join Team Gomer to lead GClub. Ms Kimber, our current and fabulous GClub Leader is soon to become a Learning Mentor within Team Gomer so she will be handing over GClub to someone new. GClub needs someone who can work independently and manage others. If you would like to find out more before making an application, please call 02392 524312 or email recruitment@gfmat.org to arrange (please include your mobile number for contact) a visit. Additionally, please visit our Vacancy page – see [here](#). If you're not interested but know someone who is, please share this information with them. With thanks to Ms Kimber for being a huge asset to GClub. We know the children will miss her at GClub. We are delighted we get to keep her in the team. Her role will now see her working with children across the school.

GMG (Gomer multi-gym) play is enjoyed by the children very much throughout the day. You'll notice a large sign which outlines that play should be supervised with a **member of staff**. Our current Year 3 love the gym and like to play at the end of the day. To date, we have not discouraged this. However, because the children are not always playing safely or using the equipment appropriately or supervised, we are now making this area 'out of bounds' at the end of the day. We are worried that children will get hurt. Therefore, the children have been reminded they are not allowed to play on the GMG. We politely ask that this is respected by adults too and please know that a member of staff will need to ask you to move your child away from the gym if they are playing on the equipment.

GOMER APP (this is different to the Arbor App. The Gomer App was launched in 2015) is now redundant. It can now no longer be downloaded and for those who do have it on their phone, you will notice that the calendar and daily posts are no longer synching to it. Despite this you can still access the same information but in different ways. For our daily blog posts, please visit the school website or FaceBook. For the school calendar, please visit the school website [here](#). We are trying to see if the comprehensive school calendar can be linked to Arbor. This might not be possible but we will keep trying.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM Continues to be our platform for sharing Home Learning. Year 3 parents/carers - please keep helping your child to log-on. We are confident they will all soon learn to do this with speed and efficiency. All parents are encouraged to check their child's classroom to ensure that Home Learning tasks are being completed. We are aiming for children to be self-motivated to complete the weekly tasks but recognise some friendly encouragement may be required.

HARVEST CELEBRATIONS are set for Monday 9 October. We will be collecting items for the Gosport Food & Basics Bank. Our local and original food bank relies upon Harvest donations to see it serve the poorest in Gosport through the winter months. We will leave a collection box for donations outside the classroom **w/b 2 October** for children to add to or they will be welcome on the day of Harvest Celebration too. Aware that the Gomer Community is struggling with rising food costs, please do talk to a member of the LAPS Team if we can be of assistance in sign-posting you to food that can be made available to you.

LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES information is available on our website. Please see [here](#).

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT LESSONS We have a number of spaces available for guitar, violin and woodwind (flute, clarinet and saxophone) lessons this term. Lessons cost £70 per term, per instrument. The cost is based on a minimum of 10 lessons per term being provided although the majority of pupils receive more than 10 lessons. This cost remains incredibly competitive and is subsidised by the school. If you would like further information please contact our music lead, Mrs West or the school office.

NATIONAL POETRY DAY is on Thursday 5 October and is the annual mass celebration that encourages everyone to make, experience and share poetry with family and friends. Each year we come together because voices, words and stories help to bridge understanding in our community. Team Gomer will have opportunities to listen to and read a range of poetry on this day.

OPTICIANS appointments are free for children and it is recommended that children have an eye test at least annually. Although serious vision problems during childhood are rare, routine eye checks are offered for FREE to identify any problems early on. We are seeing an increase of children who are struggling to read from the board or from books and recommending that all children have an appointment to see an optician for a FREE test. For more information please see [here](#). Opticians can become busy so half-term may be an ideal time for your child to have an eye-test or after school on a weekday.

PARKING SAFELY & WITH COURTESY helps the whole community. We are aware that it can be tricky to park around the school site. Wherever possible, please encourage children to walk, cycle or scoot to school. If it is not possible to walk or scoot all the way, please consider leaving home a little earlier so you can park a small distance away from school. Need somewhere to park? It has recently been reported, again, that some of our neighbours are struggling with school-related traffic at drop-off and collection time. Vehicles should NOT be parked over drives or non-parking areas.

PROSPECTIVE YEAR 3 parents and carers have an opportunity to visit the Gomer Junior School site on Wednesday 8 November. There will be two available time slots for this visit, which will include a short tour of the school in action. The school will be opening its doors between 9:00-9:30 am and again at 2:40 - 3:10pm for any parents who would like to view the school. Applications for year 3 places in 2023 can be made online at hants.gov.uk between 1 November 2023 until 15 January 2024, which is the deadline.

PYJAMARAMA 2023 is on Friday 6 October, in support of the charity Children With Cancer UK, whose vision is one where every child and young person survives cancer. Children are invited to get cosy and wear their pyjamas to school. We suggest regular PJS, onesies or nighties with leggings - dressing gowns and slippers are welcomed too. For any child not wanting to 'dress down' they are more than welcome to wear their school uniform - maybe with a bedtime accessory if they would like. Please do ensure that children arrive at school in their outdoor shoes and have a coat so they are set for break time and lunchtime. You can choose to help fund vital research to help fight and improve experiences and outcomes for patients and their families by making a donation of your choosing through our Just Giving page [here](#).

ROTARY have asked us to support their Shoe Box Appeal again this year and the pamphlets will be sent home today regarding this charity collection. If you would like to participate with this optional charity activity, please sellotape, to the top of the box, a donation of **£2.00** towards transportation costs. We have been given 50 self-assembly boxes if you require a shoe box. If you would like one of these, for the purpose of gifting a box, please come to the school office. We recognise that these gifts can be costly to accumulate. Therefore, donations of individual items are as welcome as complete boxes, so that the children can make up boxes together. Items that would be useful to send in include, toiletries, games, colouring items, socks etc. Boxes or items to be received in school **by Friday 3 November (morning)**. You are welcome to send complete boxes, contributions for a box or money to support the P&P ahead of this time.

RESPECT Please respect all of our school staff. We are all professionals who are here to help your child. If you have a concern or viewpoint we have an open door and are keen to hear from you. Please come and talk to us.

SAFETY ON SITE please do not allow your child or their siblings to play on and around the Gomer Junior Multi-Gym before or after the school day, as it is not at these times supervised by a member of staff. At the beginning of the day children should be waiting behind their cones and parents are welcome to wait on the playground. At the end of the day please ensure your child is escorted off the site once they have been collected from their classrooms.

SCHOOL UNIFORM remains a priority and we are so pleased that the vast majority of children are wearing the correct uniform everyday. We are still reminding some children to keep branded clothing at home and have a plentiful supply of pre-loved items for anyone who requires them. **Winter Uniform** is required from after half-term so please pack away the summer dresses and shorts. **Skoolkit** are our stockist for items with the school logo and are all set up to help you - local supermarkets have lots of stock too making uniform affordable. To ensure you have the correct uniform please do check the [website information](#) Please ensure all uniforms are clearly named. For health and safety reasons long hair needs to be tied back. Children will be reminded if they have forgotten their school uniform. Children should not wear any jewellery (with the exception of watches) apart from a single or pair of **stud earrings** in pierced ears. The school cannot accept any responsibility or liability for mislaid personal jewellery. To help keep your child safe, earrings need to be removed for PE lessons. We suggest they are not worn at all on PE days.

SERVICE CHILD CENSUS INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR SERVICE PUPIL PREMIUM - If you have yet to complete the Google form emailed earlier this week, (service families only), please click [here](#) to complete the form by Monday 2 October 2023. Please ignore this form if this does not apply to you or your family.

SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD! Show Racism the Red Card will see us wearing as much red as we possibly can to stand up against discrimination and show racism the RED CARD on **Friday 20 October**. Children are encouraged to wear red non-school uniform or red accessories with their uniform if they prefer on **Friday 20 October**. Every heart and every mind that we change changes at least one life but has the capacity to change hundreds, if not thousands of others. 'In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist. We must be anti-racist'. This is an event to raise awareness not funds, so no donations required. **'CHANGE HEARTS. CHANGE MINDS. CHANGE LIVES'**

SNACKS Healthy (nut free) snacks for children at breaktime are welcomed. A number of children are consistently coming to school without a healthy mid-morning snack and complaining of being hungry.

SPOOKY DISCOS - hope to see you here on Thursday 19 October! Volunteers are required, please, to enable the running of this event. You need not commit to both discos - either upper or lower will be very much appreciated. Please email or speak to reception if you can offer your support. £3 tickets on the door include a tattoo, crisps, drinks and sweets. 4:15 - 5:15 for years 3 & 4 and 5:30 - 6:30 for years 5 & 6. Spooky costumes welcome.

Spooky Disco

Friends of Gomer Junior School (FROGJS) are holding a **Spooky Disco** on **Thursday 19th October**

Years 3 and 4- 4:15pm to 5:15pm
Years 5 and 6- 5:30pm to 6:30pm
£3.00 per ticket
(Ticket price includes spooky tattoos, drinks, crisps and sweets)

Raffle tickets can be purchased on the night for 50p each

Fancy dress encouraged
Tickets to be purchased on the night.

WALKTOBER As in previous years Team Gomer are taking part in Walktober 2023. The Walktober challenge is about walking to improve your wellbeing. For the next 4 weeks, Team Gomer are going to be encouraged to walk as much as they can whether this be to school, around the park or even in the garden! We will also be launching this year's Living Streets travel tracker, where the children can earn a badge each month for making regular active journeys to school (or equivalent). During Walktober, Miss Devin and the JRSOs would love to know about how you have been getting involved with Walktober outside of school- this can be done by bringing in some photos or posting on Google Classroom.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY - Tuesday 10 October. Children are encouraged to wear yellow accessories (socks, hair bands, scarves, broach/pin etc) to school with their uniform to raise awareness of this World Mental Health Day and remind all young people that they are not alone. This is an event to raise awareness not funds, so no donations are being requested.

YOU SAID/WE DID Having been told accessing the Arbor App has been tricky to access we have included a detailed letter, with the email used to send this newsletter, to help explain matters.