



## Newsletter 4 - DECEMBER 2023

**GO GOMER!** Well done to **LEAH SPENCE** who competed in the Welsh Gymnastics Championships in a category of 19 gymnasts. She achieved a personal best score, finished 1st and brought home the gold medal! Well done also to **PEARL COHEN** who also attended the Welsh Championships, competing in the same category and finishing 2nd, bringing home the silver medal. Following this both girls along with **EMILY MACKIE** have just been selected to start competing at National level from next year. A fantastic achievement for all 3 girls following a year of hard work, determination and fantastic results. We would also like to thank you for supporting our **PYJAMARAMA DAY** which raised a fantastic £269 for the Children with Cancer UK charity. The charity was very grateful for all your support and the monies raised will help to make a world of difference for children living with cancer and their families.

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

We will also continue to celebrate individual successes in our Friday Celebration Assembly.

<b>DATES FOR DECEMBER:</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>	<i>Arrival to playground from 8:40 am</i>	
	<i>Start of school day: 8.50 am</i>	<i>End of school day: 3:10 pm</i>
<b>Mondays</b>	Y5 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Y6 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school	
<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>● Service Club (all year groups): 12.00-12.50</li> <li>● Hockey Club (all year groups): 3.10-4.15 - <b>Last session 05/12/23</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>● Football Club (Y5/Y6): 3.10-4.15 - <b>Last session 06/12/23</b></li> <li>● Netball Club (Y5/Y6): 3.10-4.15 - <b>Last session 06/12/23</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 (all year groups): 8.15-8.45</li> <li>● Multi-skills Club (Y3/Y4): 3.10-4.15 - <b>Last session 07/12/23</b></li> <li>● Citizenship Club (Y5/Y6): 3.00-4.30 - This Club involves parental support to take and collect their child from different venues. Events emailed to participants separately</li> <li>● GFM Pantry: 3.00-3.30pm on the blue playground (stock dependent)</li> </ul>	
<b>Fridays</b>	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school	
<b>Thursday 30 November</b>	Y4 Violin Concert: <b>2.10 - 3.00pm</b> . Entrance via the school hall doors. Doors open at 2.10pm. The concert starts at 2.20pm. After the concert you may take your child early from their classroom door.	
<b>Thursday 30 November</b>	Parent/Carer Presentation - opportunity to meet KGA's CEO - Nick Cross: 5.00-6.00pm in	

	The Hall - please enter The Hall via the playground door.
<b>Friday 01 December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christmas Lunch Order Deadline - midday today. Please order <a href="#">here</a></li> <li>● Non-school uniform (Christmas Jumpers welcomed) in exchange for tombola/fayre donations (no alcohol please) - (<b>Y3 PE day</b>: please bring trainers to change into)</li> <li>● FROGJS Christmas Fayre: 2.30-3.10pm (<b>pupils only</b>), 3.15-4.15 (<b>all welcome</b>)</li> <li>● Bling Your Bike/Scooter Day &amp; security marking</li> <li>● Last Home Learning of the term set</li> <li>● School Reports emailed home</li> </ul>
<b>w/b 04 Dec → 08 Dec</b>	'Leg It To Lapland' Sustrans Challenge
<b>Monday 04 December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Choir session taking place this morning (in place of Thursday 7 December)</li> <li>● Christmas Card Boxes open - First names, surnames and class on envelopes please</li> <li>● Parent/Teacher Learning Reviews - Year 5 &amp; Class 4IA</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 05 December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent/Teacher Learning Reviews - Year 6 &amp; Class 3EG</li> <li>● Y6 to Bay House to watch <a href="#">Oliver!</a> Performance: 12:30 - 3:30pm</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 06 December</b>	Parent/Teacher Learning Reviews - Class 3RW
<b>Thursday 07 December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent/Teacher Learning Reviews - Class 4LW</li> <li>● Rocksteady Concert at Gomer for parents of pupils who have Rocksteady lessons: 09:15-10:00. Please enter via the school hall doors to sign in</li> <li>● Christmas Tree Festival preview - Y3 to walk to St. Mary's Church</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 08 December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Flu Immunisation - Whole School (See Below)</li> <li>● 4LW Cake Sale - 50p</li> <li>● The <b>school choir/singing lessons</b> will be singing at the St. Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival, in the afternoon, with other local schools. If your child is in the school choir please complete the <a href="#">Google Form</a> to book tickets for this event (1 ticket per child) and to confirm if you will be collecting from school or the church. We believe (we have yet to be given times but will update ASAP if we hear of anything different to last year) the doors open at 2.10pm (as per ticket) but we suggest you arrive at 2.00pm. We will transport your child to the church. We anticipate the concert will finish by 3.00pm. Unless returning for GClub please make arrangements to take your child home at the end of the performance.</li> </ul>
<b>Sunday 10 December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Choir Performing at St. Mary's Christmas Tree Festival - 11.45 arrival, with a 12.00-12.30 performance (festive jumpers/clothing encouraged). Tickets available to purchase on the door.</li> <li>● Choir/Singers Performing at Stanley Park by Alverbank Hotel, 16:00 - 18:00 for a Community Carol gathering organised by Chris Dyke/Igloo Choir. All welcome. All children need to be chaperoned by an adult. This event is ticketed, if not already done so, please contact the school office for a password to obtain free tickets.</li> </ul>
<b>Monday 11 December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● FROGJS Christmas Gift Sale - If you would like to shop with FROGJS please send your child with monies for gifts <b>priced at £3</b>, in a named envelope or named purse, for each gift they would like to purchase. There will be a great choice of super gifts</li> <li>● Y3 Jólábókaflóð - Y3 children are to come to school in their onesies/PJs and bring their slippers. In the afternoon they will take part in an Icelandic book tradition where they will be immersed in stories and drink hot chocolate (squash or water options also)</li> <li>● Christmas Fayre at the Gosport Community Hub, Brune Park School: 15:30-17:30 - All welcome. Christmas gifts, crafts, Santa, refreshments and much more. For more information please contact <a href="mailto:gospportcommunityhub@gfmat.org">gospportcommunityhub@gfmat.org</a></li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 12 December</b>	<p><b>We have no PE today.</b></p> <p>Children are to come to school in their regular school uniform. They should bring in simple outfits (as below) to support the performance:</p>

	<p><b>Year 3</b> - White clothing</p> <p><b>Year 4</b> - Sparkly star outfits</p> <p><b>Year 5</b> - Angels e.g. halo headdress, white clothing (wings optional)</p> <p><b>Year 6</b> - Christmas/Festive Jumpers with school uniform underneath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Please access the live streamed Nativity via our website <a href="#">here</a>. <b>Nb</b> Due to receiving awesome feedback when live streaming our performances, we will be performing on camera again this year, to enable as many people as possible to watch their family members perform.</li> <li>● <b>We will send a password to you nearer the time.</b> In order to remain secure, this will only be a few days before.</li> <li>● If you can not watch the nativity live, you can watch it on playback</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 13 December</b>	<p><b>We have no PE today.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christmas lunch - Christmas/festive coloured jumpers are welcomed and to be worn with white school polo top and school skirts or trousers.</li> <li>● Y4 Christingle at St Mary's Church: 1.30-2.30pm. Please complete <a href="#">this Google Form</a> to give permission and outline if you will be attending. Collection boxes for the Children's Society, which were sent home w/b 27 November, to be returned to school.</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 15 December</b>  <b>Early Finish</b>	<p><b>We have no PE today.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christmas/festive coloured jumpers are welcomed and to be worn with white school polo top and school skirts or trousers or, your child is very welcome to wear their regular school jumper/cardigan.</li> <li>● Last day of term – <b>School ends at 2.00pm</b></li> <li>● <b>GClub will be available from 2.00-3.20pm</b></li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 19 December</b>	Pantomime - Service Family Outing: <b>18:00</b> . Funded pantomime visit for GFM Service children and their families to attend King's Theatre for Hook. Please see the email sent Monday 13 November to order your tickets for the event. Any enquiries? Please contact Claire Rutherford at the Gosport Community Hub.
<b>Upcoming dates for January</b>	
<b>Tuesday 02 January</b>	Return to school
<b>Friday 12 January</b>	Be Bright Be Seen Day - Children are invited to wear bright accessories with their school uniform e.g. hi-vis items.

**ABSENCE REQUESTS** For all term time absence requests (including medical/dental appointments) please complete the Absence Form. The School Office can provide you with this. For day to day absences due to sickness/lateness, please use the function on the homepage of the website. 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 holiday absence request, confirming that no alternative dates for holiday were available to you.

**AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS** will finish the week ending **Friday 8 December**. The new clubs will start again the second week of the Spring Term - w/b 8 January 2024. If you would like your child to take part in any of the after school sports clubs below please **re-register** their interest on the relevant Google forms below. Whilst considerations will be made for those who have been on the waiting lists or have not attended before, places can not be guaranteed. Those whose names have not been chosen will automatically be added to a waiting list and contacted if and when a space becomes available. The charge remains at **£10** per term per club, payable via Scopay. You will be notified if your child has been successful on the week of 01 January 2024, ready for payments to be made before the first sessions start. Due to the darker evenings the after school sports club will finish at 4.00pm.

- Multi-skills Club (Y3/Y4) - Thursdays - Google Form - click [here](#) to register
- Lacrosse Club (All year groups) - Tuesdays - Google Form - click [here](#) to register
- Football Club (Y5/Y6) - Wednesdays - Google Form - click [here](#) to register and see information below

**BE BRIGHT BE SEEN** (advance notice) As Christmas draws near, the evenings and mornings are darker. Children are encouraged to wear bright clothing to and from school so they can be seen during these dark hours. Therefore on **Friday 12 January** Gomer are taking part in a 'Be Bright Be Seen' day. Children are invited to wear bright accessories along with their school uniform. We are not asking for special items to be bought but to try and use existing items. But, for any child needing extra, brighter outerwear could be a helpful Christmas gift. Remember - Be Bright Be Seen! We urge children who are cycling to school to check their lights - this could make a super Christmas gift too if some are needed.

**CHARACTER EDUCATION** We are a school of character! Following a focussed 18 month school improvement programme, we were delighted to receive our Quality Kitemark in October 2022. Throughout daily life at Gomer Junior School, we allow the children opportunities for character to be explicitly taught, as well as to be recognised within the role models around them. Alongside character lessons, the children also take part in a broad curriculum that encourages them to challenge themselves and be the best version of themselves. All children within the school are invited to apply for the School Council and positions specifically for Year 6. This is an integral part of the development of the school as it allows all children the opportunity to be leaders and make important changes in their community. For more information on how 'character, is taught, sought and caught, please visit our [school website](#).

**CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE** Our Christmas performance will be 'live streamed'. With the success of previous years' streaming due to its accessibility and inclusivity for the whole community, we are all set. You can access the performance from our website [here](#) and parents/carers will be emailed on Monday 11 December with the password to access the page on the website. Streaming will be from 14:00 on Tuesday 13 December.

**FLU IMMUNISATION** The school Nursing Team will be on site on the morning of Friday 8 December. If you have not already done so please see their reminder and their link below for the consent form and information about the vaccine:

- Your child's Nasal Flu Vaccination is NOW DUE. This is free from the NHS.
- Click [here](#) or on the link below for the consent form and information about the vaccine.
- School Code: SH144093
- Session date: 8 December 2023
- Link to website: [Winter Flu Vaccination programme : Hampshire Healthy Families](#)

Please note, the electronic consent system will close at **9am on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**. Please do not submit a consent form if you have already done so, as the nursing team do not want duplicate forms. If you are unsure whether you have already submitted one please check your emails for a confirmation (including your junk box) from 'school immunisations' or contact the Immunisation Team. Any errors can be amended by contacting the Immunisation Team.

**FOOTBALL CLUB** is popular and will make a return next term. Due to staffing levels (we only have one teacher available and no available parents to help this year), we are reducing the number of club participants to 20. Those children who have already been playing competitively for the school will remain as part of the team. There will no longer be an A or B team - children will be chosen by the coach to participate in league games based on the practise sessions. If your child is in Y5 or Y6 and is interested in football training on a Wednesday, or competes in the league team, please complete this [Google Form](#) by Friday 15 December. We will update you on the week of 01 January 2024 if your child has been allocated one of the twenty spaces. Shin-pads are a fab Christmas gift for our budding footballers. If you are a parent who coaches a local team and now have capacity to help with coaching at school please let the office know. This will see us being able to increase places at football club.

**FROGJS CHRISTMAS FAYRE** - Y5 plea for teddies. Y5 would be most grateful for any donations of pre-loved teddies for their teddy tombola on or before Friday 1st December. If your child is volunteering to help on a stall please complete the permission slip, they will bring home today, giving your consent for them to do so.

- Non-school uniform (Christmas jumpers welcomed) in exchange for tombola/fayre donations (no alcohol please)
- The FROGJS would really welcome: donations for the cake stall, some adults to help set-up, run and tidy away (one or all aspects of this)
- Raffle tickets - please return your ticket stubs with payment together with any unused tickets to the school office - the prizes are awesome if you have yet to see!
- For those pupils who have PE today please ensure they (as a minimum) have trainers to change into.
- Children bringing money to school should they wish to spend on the stalls. Children are advised to bring it in a named purse or envelope, which will be collected by their teacher at the beginning of the day. Small change is recommended and appreciated.
- Children will be dismissed as usual at the end of the school as usual and are welcome, with you, to re-enter the fayre as outlined in the November newsletter

**GCLUB's** last session will be on Friday 15 December, 14:00-15:20. GClub will restart on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

**HOME LEARNING** will be sent home for the last time this term on Friday 1 December. Ahead of this, and after too, please spend time learning the songs for the Nativity. No formal learning tasks will be sent home for any year group over the Christmas holiday but children can access their Google Classroom apps, Spelling Shed, Times Table Rockstars etc and of course children can read - lots. A book would make a great Christmas present!

**KINGS GROUP ACADEMIES (KGA) PRESENTATION WITH CEO** Mr Nick Cross, in **The Hall** is scheduled for **5.00-6.00pm on Thursday 30 November** - please enter The Hall via the playground door. Mrs Digby and Mrs Mulhall will be present at the meeting. This will be an opportunity for you to hear a presentation from Mr Cross, learn more about KGA, address any questions or concerns you may have and learn more about the GFM joining King's Group Academies. Alternatively, you are very welcome to attend the session at **Rowner Junior School** on **Tuesday 5 December**, from **2pm to 3pm** in **The Hall**. If you are unable to attend these sessions, you can still participate by submitting your questions or comments via email to [vshorter@gfmat.org](mailto:vshorter@gfmat.org). All questions received will be used to support the development of a 'Frequently Asked Questions' document which will be published on the GFM website.

**LIBRARY** It would be lovely if you could send in a photo of your child enjoying their current library book, especially if they have made something from one of them e.g. baking a cake from a recipe book, doing a magic trick or just curled up reading in their favourite place etc. We are looking to update our book reviews corner, so we can add them here. Please email our librarian [mkidd@gomer.gfmat.org](mailto:mkidd@gomer.gfmat.org). We look forward to receiving and displaying them.

**PARENT/TEACHER LEARNING REVIEWS** will be taking place the week beginning Monday 4 December. If you have not already done so, please book an appointment to discuss your child's progress and attainment so far this year. Please refer to the email sent home on 14 November 2023 for booking details.

**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. It has recently been reported that some of our neighbours are struggling with school related traffic at drop-off and collection time. Drives should NOT be parked over and the garages outside are not for turning. We would be grateful if you could show consideration to our neighbours when parking and travelling to school. Furthermore, please do not drive onto the school site unless your child is attending GClub.

**STAFF MATTER** We are delighted to inform you that Mrs West is pregnant and is aiming to teach her class until Easter when she will then start her maternity leave. We do hope you will join us in wishing Mrs West well with her exciting news. Her class have known for several weeks now but we were keen to tell the whole community.

**THE BIG AMBITION** The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel De Souza, has launched The Big Ambition national campaign to ensure that the voices of children in Hampshire are fairly represented and heard. The Big Ambition provides an opportunity for the children of England to tell political decision makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election. Their responses will be shared with the Government to ensure that children's voices are heard. Children or parents can complete the survey [here](#). Further resources are available on their [website](#).

**TOYS** are to remain at home and not brought into school, with the exception of those children who have special permission to do so due to exceptional circumstances.

**WELLIES** are very useful to have at school - without these, the children can not go on the school field in wetter and/or colder months. Please send your child to school with a named pair of wellies or a stout shoe so that they can play on the field. Children are welcome to take them home for the weekend. Not got a pair? This might make for a good Christmas gift idea! Any spares you may have at home are always welcome if no longer needed - these can be added to the boot racks outside classes.

**WISHING** you all a very happy and safe Christmas Holiday. Wishing you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year also. It has been a busy term and we are delighted with all that the children have achieved. We look forward to seeing everyone again when we return on **Tuesday 2 January 2024**.

**YOU SAID/WE DID** Having heard that you liked our mid-October date update, where appropriate, during super busy months we will share key reminders with you mid-month (or a 'step into Christmas' type document), to help ensure that no key dates or information are missed.