



Newsletter 5 - JANUARY 2024

GO GOMER! 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 JANUARY: The dates below are for your diary and are also included on the electronic calendar; occasionally they are subject to change		
Ongoing	<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>
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 ● Lacrosse Club (all year groups): 3.10-4.00 - First session 09/01/24 ● Guitar lessons - First session 09/01/24 ● Wood wind lessons - First session 09/01/24 	
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): 3.10-4.00 - First session 10/01/24 ● Netball Club (Y5/Y6): 3.10-4.00 - First session 10/01/24 ● Drum lessons - First session 10/01/24 	
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 - First session 11/01/24 ● Multi-skills Club (Y3/Y4): 3.10-4.00 - First session 11/01/24 ● Citizenship Club (Y3/Y4): 3.00-4.30 - This Club involves parental support to take and collect their child from different venues. Events emailed to participants separately ● GFM Pantry: 3.00-3.30pm on the blue playground (stock dependent) 	
Fridays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Piano lessons - First session 12/01/24 ● Violin lessons - First session 12/01/24 ● Vocal lessons - First session 12/01/24 	
Tuesday 02 January	Spring Term starts - Pupils return to school	
Wednesday 03 January	Class 3RW - Rescheduled Parent/Teacher Learning Reviews	
Friday 12 January	Be Bright Be Seen Day - Children are invited to wear bright accessories with their school	

	uniform e.g. hi-vis items. On the day, there will be a stall for children to purchase reflective accessories e.g. slap bands, key chains etc.
Monday 29 January	Y6 SATs Information Evening for parents/carers 3:30pm - 4:30pm
Upcoming dates for February	
Thursday 08 February	FROGJS Disco - £3.00 Y3 & Y4: 4.15-5.15pm Y5 & Y6: 5.30-6.30pm
Friday 09 February	INSET day - School closed to children
Mon 12 – Fri 16 February	HALF TERM WEEK

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all. We do hope you are well and rested after the holiday. We are confident that the children will settle quickly into the school routine. Please help your children with this routine by ensuring that they are at school promptly to start the school day, have the relevant kit and are collected promptly too.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS start next week as per the days shown above. Please ensure that payments are made via Scopay and your child has the correct kit to attend the clubs. Please note, due to the darker evenings, all after school sports clubs will finish at 4.00pm. This will be reviewed again after the February half term.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS which is why we monitor pupils carefully. The school reviews the attendance of our learners on a weekly basis, identifying pupils that are at risk, or run the risk of becoming a persistent absentee (90% or less). This is then followed up by:

1. Monthly letters to parents informing them that their child's attendance is below 90%. We will be sending out letters in the coming days following our December attendance review.
2. Meetings with parents whose child's attendance shows no improvement or remains below 90% over an extended period. At this meeting, we look at the barriers to schooling from the perspective of the child, school and parent. An action plan is then put into place to address the barriers.
3. If attendance does not improve, then the school will make a referral to the Legal Intervention Team, who will work with family and school to improve attendance.

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 absence request, confirming that no alternative dates are available to you. Please note, we may still not be able to authorise the absence.

BE BRIGHT BE SEEN DAY is scheduled for Friday 12 January. Children are invited to wear bright accessories with their school uniform e.g. hi-vis items. There will be a sale at lunchtime and the end of the day with a selection of high vis items costing no more than £1 each.

CITIZENSHIP CLUB will be starting back up for lower school after the Christmas break. The aim of this club is to involve the children and their families in the local community. It will take place on Thursdays - 11 January, 25 January, 08 February. Children will be heading to Northcott House for games and sharing stories with the residents. On these dates, children will walk to Northcott House at the end of the school day with Mrs Fry and Miss Ingram. They will need to be collected from Northcott House at 4:30pm.

Other community activities (For these events, it will be an opportunity for you to accompany your child to these activities and enjoy them together - no school staff will be attending):

- 18 January: Sort through some of your old toys and clothes and find something to donate to your chosen charity shop.
- 01 February: Coastguard - drop in and get a great view from the watchtower, hear about the work that the coastguard does and more!
- 22 February: Visit Lee-on-Solent Library. Enjoy exploring the library, check out some books and support the library by either donating or buying some second hand books. (Siblings are welcome to attend)

Mrs Fry will email reminders and details to members and their families each week.

CONTACT INFORMATION Please note that it is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that the school has up to date contact telephone numbers for your child in case of any emergencies. Please contact the school office if you need to update us. Thank you.

CURRICULUM overviews can be found on our [website](#). For a more detailed overview regarding what your child will be learning this term, please visit the year group curriculum page.

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
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FOOTBALL boots and shin pads are no longer allowed to be worn in school for football at lunchtime. This is to avoid injuries related to studs etc. There is no change to the after school club, boots and shin pads will still be needed.

FROGJS CHRISTMAS FAYRE was a resounding success again this year and raised a whopping £1450. All the money raised by events run and supported by the FROGJS goes directly on resources or endeavours that enrich the children's experience at Gomer Junior School.

LEG IT TO LAPLAND was a fabulous success. We were one of only six schools to take part across Hampshire. Over the course of the week, we travelled 838/1385 miles towards Lapland. We completed 60.5% of the journey.

Class totals for the week	
3EG: 130 Miles	3RW: 92 Miles
4IA: 96 Miles	4LW: 120 Miles
5AM: 83 Miles	5SB: 119 Miles
6RI: 119 Miles	6LF: 122 Miles

All of our data has been passed on so we will find out the winner after Christmas!

OFFICE/RECEPTION remains open until 4.30pm Monday → Thursday and 4.00pm on Fridays.

ON-LINE SAFETY NEWSLETTERS can be accessed on our website. Please click [here](#) to view the monthly newsletters.

PRE-LOVED TOYS AND GAMES you no longer want would be welcomed by GClub or classrooms for Wet Play if they are in full working order, in good condition and have all the pieces.

READING is important. Please, please, please ensure your child is reading regularly and where appropriate, to you. We have systems in place to encourage children to choose a variety of genres in addition to their banded book.

REPORTING ABSENCE is best achieved by using the function on the front of the website using the 'Attendance Matters' blue box. This is a really efficient method of communication for you and the school. **SCHOOL COUNCIL** student members will have the opportunity to work across the GFMAT this half term, discussing ideas around transition in the summer term, for children moving up from Gomer and Rowner to Bay House/Brune Park.

SCHOOL UNIFORM should still be of the winter variety until the Summer Term 2024. Thank you for your support with this. With the darker days ahead of us, we also encourage children to have an item of 'reflective glow' attached to their bag or coat if not already attached, to ensure they are visible when walking to school and home again. Additionally, bicycle lights should be considered for all children.

STAFF MATTER and we say goodbye to Mrs Edwards this week. She has only been with us a short while. In that time the children have become very fond of her. We wish her well with new endeavours. Due to her leaving our support staff will be working with Mrs Case until we recruit another GClub assistant. Please see [here](#) for the advert. Know anyone you can share this with? Or perhaps you might be interested yourself?

WELLIES (or stout shoes) are very much welcomed in school if they are clearly named/identifiable. Wellies will be stored on the racks outside during the day but stowed inside overnight. We have had a lot of wet weather and when the field is wet, only those with suitable footwear can play on it. You may also like to send your child to school with a coat that you don't mind getting a little muddy, particularly if you have a child who enjoys using our 'mud kitchen'.

Y6 SATs INFORMATION EVENING Parents and carers of Year 6 pupils are invited to a presentation about SATs and a question and answer session with the Year 6 teaching team. The presentation will be held in the 6RI classroom 3:30pm - 4:30pm on Monday 29th January. This presentation will be shared with parents/carers following the event for anyone who cannot attend in person. Please note that the presentation will be addressed to parents/carers only; the information contained in this will be passed on to pupils in a child-friendly way at another time. It is not intended that the children attend so please make arrangements for them accordingly.

YOU SAID/WE DID We received a lot of lovely and kind feedback from our nativity – thank you. You outlined how much you like the 'new look' storytelling and the use of our local community - we are pleased we made you laugh. The organisation and broadcasting takes considerable effort so your feedback is much appreciated. With so many in the community being and feeling unwell at the end of term, we hope to have helped contain some of the germs too. And, are further delighted that family members near and far were able to watch - the furthest being a viewing in Iraq!