



## Newsletter 7 - MARCH 2024

**GO GOMER!** Well done to **PHOENIX ASPINALL** who has successfully completed her Gold swimming award and she is now working towards her honours. An awesome achievement.

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 MARCH:</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 (not before)</i>	
	<table border="1" style="width:100%; text-align:center;"> <tr> <td><i>Start of school day: 8.50 am</i></td> <td><i>End of school day: 3:10 pm</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>Start of school day: 8.50 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>Lacrosse Club (all year groups): 3.15-4.15</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): 3.15-4.15 <b>(The session due on Wednesday 6 March will take place on Tuesday 5 March for this week only)</b></li> <li>Netball Club (Y5/Y6): 3.15-4.15</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): 3.15-4.15</li> <li>Girl’s Football Club (Y5/Y6): 3.15-4.15</li> <li>Citizenship Club (Y3/Y4): 3.30-4.30 - 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>Monday 04 March</b>	Special Lady Lunch - See below	
<b>Tuesday 05 March</b>	Football Club (Y5/Y6): 3.15-4.15 will take place today (this week only)	
<b>Thursday 07 March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FROGJS Special Lady Gift Sale (Mothering Sunday - 10 March) - £3 per gift</li> <li>World Book Day - details sent in February Newsletter - reminder below</li> <li>Big Booky Bake-off - donated cakes and bakes for sale after school</li> </ul>	

<b>Mon 11 → Fri 22 Mar</b>	Big Walk and Wheel - please see details below
<b>Tues 12 → Thurs 14 Mar</b>	SATs Practise Week
<b>Friday 15 March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Comic Relief Day - Children are welcome to wear Red Nose accessories with school uniform. Splat a teacher with cream for 50p - please see below for more details.</li> <li>● 9.00am - DEADLINE for completing Google Forms for after school sports clubs (see below)</li> </ul>
<b>Saturday 16 March</b>	Stubbington Study Centre - Open Day for Y5 families: 10.00am-4.00pm
<b>Wednesday 20 March</b>	Y4 Visit to Weald & Downland Museum - School uniform and packed lunch required.
<b>Thursday 21 March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Y6 National Child Measurement Programme</li> <li>● FROGJS Spring Film Event: 3.15-5.45pm - Details to follow</li> </ul>
<b>Monday 25 March</b>	Y3 Winchester Planetarium Visit - School uniform and packed lunch required
<b>Tuesday 26 March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Y4 Victorian Day - Children in Y4 to come to school dressed as a Victorian - Children will be taught 'Victorian style' throughout the day</li> <li>● Y6 Parent/Carer Learning Review meetings with teachers - Booking details to follow</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 27 March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Non Uniform Day for Y3, Y4 &amp; Y6 - fundraiser for Simon Says</li> <li>● Y3 PE day - please wear or bring trainers to school to wear with non-uniform</li> <li>● Simon Says Drop-in, The Globe, for Parents/Carers: 2.30-3.30pm</li> <li>● Y5 Visit to Winchester Science Centre &amp; Planetarium - School uniform and packed lunch required (sorry this clashes with non-uniform day)</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 28 March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Y3 Egyptian Day - Y3 children are invited to come to school dressed in Egyptian clothing</li> <li>● Spring Term Report Cards go home</li> <li>● Last day of Spring Term - <b>School finishes at 14.00</b></li> <li>● <b>GClub will be available from 14:00-15:20</b></li> </ul>
<b>Upcoming dates</b>	
<b>Fri 29 Mar → Fri 12 Apr</b>	<b>Easter Break</b>
<b>Monday 15 Apr</b>	Summer Term starts - pupils return to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Y5 Parent/Carer Teacher Learning Reviews - Booking details to follow separately</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 16 April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Outdoor Learning/Ground Force Day 1 - To pledge some much-appreciated time please complete this <a href="#">Google Form</a></li> <li>● Class 4LW - Swimming Lessons (1 of 6): pm</li> <li>● Y3 Parent/Carer Learning Reviews with teachers - Booking details to follow separately</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 17 April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Class 4LW Parent/ Carer Learning Reviews with teachers - Booking details to follow separately</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 18 April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Class 4IA Parent/Carer Learning Reviews with teachers - Booking details to follow separately</li> </ul>

**AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS** will finish the week ending **Thursday 28 March 2024**. The new clubs will start again the first week of the Summer Term - w/b 15 April 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 **by 9.00am Friday 15 March 2024**. 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 18 March 2024, ready for payments to be made before the first sessions start. Football and Netball clubs will remain the same.

- Multi-skills Club (Y3/Y4) - Thursdays - Google Form - click [here](#) to register
- Tennis Club (NEW -All year groups) - Tuesdays - Google Form - click [here](#) to register

**ARBOR** report cards will be sent home on Thursday 28 March. The report cards are intended to give you some headline information about how your child is achieving academically. Y3, Y4 and Y5 will have these ahead of the parent/teacher learning reviews (Y6 - sorry, your parent meeting will be before this date). Your parent/carer review meeting will discuss your child's academic and social and emotional development in far more detail. More information to follow separately via email regarding making an appointment.

**ARRIVAL AT & PICK UP AFTER SCHOOL** For health and safety reasons children should not be on the school playground before 8.40am. We have recently had several children arriving at the school site too early. Unaccompanied children who are on site too early will be sent to GClub, which will incur a cost. Staff are on duty each morning at 8.40 am. Even if chaperoned, please avoid arriving too early as our GClubbers might be using the playground. Additionally, some parents/carers have been arriving well ahead of the end of the day. It can be unsettling to children to see adults walking around the site or standing outside classrooms. For safeguarding reasons, please do not access the school site before 3.05pm. If you do, please wait on Pyrford Close or Bury Hall Lane. Parents/carers who arrive on-site ahead of this time will be asked to relocate off-site.

**BIG BOOKY BAKE OFF** will be held on **World Book Day 7 March**. We are very excited about this as it is a new World Book Day activity for us! We would like to invite all families and staff on the day to donate cakes, biscuits or bakes decorated in the themes of familiar books - perhaps Charlie's Chocolate Cakes, Borrowers Biscuits, Billionaire Boy's Bakes or some gingerbread book characters! Raid your imagination. Cakes & bakes will be admired and voted for during the day by pupils and staff. There will be prizes for fabulous booky bakes with the most votes. Any cakes you are willing to donate will be sold after school to raise money - please attach the price you wish the cake/s to be sold for, if you wish this to occur. Cakes without price tags, will be returned to you at the end of the day to enjoy at home. Money raised from selling any donated cakes will go to updating some of our classroom reading resources.

**BIG WALK AND WHEEL** The Big Walk and Wheel will be taking place 11-15 March. On each day, our school will compete to see if we can achieve the highest percentage of pupils having 'active journeys' e.g. walking, using a wheelchair, scooting or cycling to and from school. If we manage to be one of the highest performing schools participating, we will be in with a chance of winning a range of school equipment including: bikes and scooters, having our playground painted with activities or even a stunt bike show being performed right here! As a part of the walk and wheel week, the Golden Lock competition will also return; at the end of each day, whichever randomly selected bike has 'the Golden Lock', will win a prize. In addition to this, there will be an inter-class competition, the class with the most active journeys that week will also win a prize. So let's get active!

**BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK** takes place 8-17 March. Gomer has lots of exciting activities planned including an assembly to launch the week.

**CHOIR TASTER** (for FREE) sessions are available with our Choir Master (Director of Music from St. Mary's Church) Mr Paul Pilott on Thursday 14 March and/or Thursday 21 March. Our Choir meet at 08.15 in The Globe. The taster sessions are an opportunity for your child to sing some songs with our wonderful choir before deciding if they would like to commit to the sessions at a cost of £10 per term. Interestingly, many of our choir have joined the St. Mary's Church Choir whilst others have used the sessions as an opportunity for singing enjoyment, Interested in the taster sessions? Please 'sign-up' with [this form](#).

**COMIC RELIEF is on Friday 15 March**. Want to end your week with some Comic Relief fun? Support Comic Relief 2024 by playing 'Splat the Teacher!' At the end of the day, for just 50p, at the benches outside the Year 6 classrooms, you can buy a plate of whipped cream to splat one of the teachers with or decorate their face with a cream beard, moustache or eyebrows. Mrs Digby and Mrs Mulhall are disappointed not to be available but Mrs Fry, Mr Merrifield and Ms Sewell look forward to your decorating and donations. *'When you donate to Comic Relief or Sport Relief, you're supporting vulnerable people and communities in the UK and internationally. Our vision is to create a just world free from poverty and we're doing this by funding amazing organisations doing amazing things', (awarenessdays.com)*.

**FROGJS SPECIAL LADY GIFT SALE** is set for **Thursday 7 March**. It has been scheduled ahead of Mothering Sunday - 10 March. Each optional gift is priced at £3 and gifts are available for any special lady in the lives of our children who might like to honour them on Mothering Sunday. Thank you to FROGJS for organising this sale which enables affordable gifts for the children and some funds for the school.

**KING'S GROUP ACADEMY UPDATE** We emailed all parents/carers with a detailed update on 20.2.24. As we announced last term, The Department for Education (DfE) formally approved the merger in October 2023 and since then, we have been working together to ensure the legal and practical arrangements are in place. We are pleased with the pace of the progress being made and feel that we are currently on track to achieve the DfE's planned target date for officially joining the King's Group in April 2024. As we mentioned last term, there should be very little immediate change for the young people in our schools and we are dedicated to making the transition as smooth as possible for everyone affected. As promised, the 'Frequently Asked Questions' document has been published on the GFM website [www.gfmat.org](http://www.gfmat.org) You can continue to submit your questions or comments via email to Vanessa Shorter, [vshorter@gfmat.org](mailto:vshorter@gfmat.org)

**LEARNING REVIEW MEETINGS** for parents/carers of year 6 children, will be held 26 March. This is to ensure parent/carers have a full overview of their child's progress prior to the Easter break, when children might want to focus on certain areas prior to their SATs. Learning review meetings for parents of children in year 3, 4 and 5 will occur after the Easter break. Booking details for all of these will follow soon.

**MOMENTS MATTER/ATTENDANCE COUNTS**



We wanted to remind you about the government's recent campaign on attendance, titled '[Moments Matter, Attendance Counts.](#)' Launched in January 2024, and referenced on our website and FaceBook page, this campaign highlights the significance of attendance for learners' attainment, wellbeing, and overall growth. It also provides valuable advice and support for parents and caregivers. We believe that this campaign aligns with our school's values and practices regarding attendance.

At our school, we have always closely monitored the attendance of every child. Each learner's attendance contributes to their overall attendance mark, which we review on a monthly basis. As part of our ongoing efforts to promote attendance awareness, we have been sending letters to families whose children have an overall attendance rate less than 90%. Since the launch of the government campaign, we have needed to extend this practice to include learners with an overall attendance between 90% and 95%. This additional letter is simply a notification to inform parents or caregivers that their child is nearing the 90% threshold. We want to ensure that everyone is aware of the importance of regular attendance at school. It is worth noting that any attendance below 90% is considered persistent absenteeism. The table below also highlights how absence from school impacts on the overall school attendance figure. You will have seen, in the news recently, the Government's national drive to improve school 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

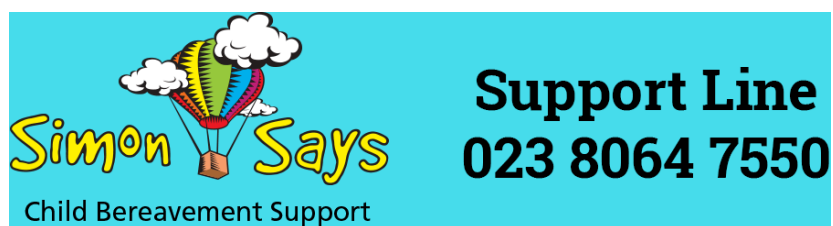
**Improving school attendance is everyone's business and, to tackle the challenge we face, we need to work together.** If you would like to speak to a member of staff about your child's attendance then please contact Ms Sewell or Mrs Wilden.

**MEDICINES** Please note the school holds Calpol 6+ for **emergency use only** and is held for use in exceptional circumstances. If you feel your child may need medication during the school day, please complete a medicine consent form and bring the medicine into the school office clearly named. Please note, If the school is unable to manage prescribed medication, you may be required to administer this for your child. Please remember to collect medicines you will need over the Easter break before Thursday 28 March.

**MOBILE PHONES** have recently been discussed by the government and guidance provided. At our school, for those who have them, phones are welcome in school if they are tucked away safely upon arrival to school and do not come out of bags until children are off the school site. Unless children are walking home solo, we recommend that children leave mobile phones at home. Please remind your child that phones are not to be used on the school site unless they have the

permission of an adult e.g. they may need to call home at the end of the day to check an arrangement. Please also note that any such device brought into school is done so at the owner's risk - the school is unable to take responsibility for devices.

**NON-UNIFORM DAY** on **Wednesday 27 March** will be in support of the Charity [Simon Says](#). They support Hampshire young people up to the age of 18 years who have a significant person in their life who has died or is dying. We aim to support one charity a term and therefore ask for donations of £1 per child. If children do not want to participate they are very welcome to wear their school uniform - and still make a donation or not. We support charities to help raise awareness and valuable funds. Society and governments aren't set up to protect everyone who needs it. That's why charities are here to fill the gaps and provide dedicated resources to help the most vulnerable. Volunteers from Simon Says will be in from 14:00 to deliver an assembly to our Year 6 children (Year 5 and lower school students will be doing their assembly with class teachers.) If you would like to find out more about the work of this local charity, the volunteers from Simon Says will be in The Globe from 14:30 - 15:30 for you to drop in and answer any questions you may have. They will also be happy to offer any guidance or be able to talk about the support available. They are more than happy for you to pop in with your children between 15:10 and 15:30 should you wish to drop in together.



**OUTDOOR LEARNING/GROUND FORCE DAY** We are hosting two 'Ground Force Days' this year. Our first is - **Tuesday 16 April**. 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 would be very much appreciated. Please complete this [Google Form](#) to commit to helping on the day. Children are to come to school in clothes you do not mind getting grubby or paint on and should bring their wellies or suitable outdoor shoes. Please ensure Y3 and Y5 have trainers so PE can still be an option without the need for changing.

**SECONDARY SCHOOL** places for Y7 September 2024 will be announced on Friday 01 March. If you apply online, you will be sent an email confirming the outcome of your application on the notification date. You can also log into the online system to view the outcome. If you applied using a paper form, you will be sent a letter on the notification date by post. Please allow 2 to 3 working days for your letter to arrive. There is no need for you to accept the place offered to your child at any Hampshire school. However, please let HCC know in writing if you no longer need the place so that it can be offered to another child. If you have not been offered a place at your preferred school, your child will be added to the waiting list. You also have a right to appeal against the refusal. The GFM transition will be comprehensive and we have already been working with our secondary colleagues on transition matters.

**SPECIAL LADY LUNCH** is scheduled for **Monday 4 March**. We host this so that children can share lunch with that 'special lady' in their life – mother, carer, grandparent, godmother, auntie, family friend etc. We hope to see many 'special ladies' joining us for lunch again this year. With thanks to all the special ladies who have already RSVP. A reminder to make payment of £2.80 if you have ordered an adult meal for this event. Payment for the adult meal can be made online on SCOPAY under PRODUCTS. Alternatively, the Special Lady can bring a packed lunch. Children's meals can be ordered on the day as usual and paid for online or they may bring a packed lunch. A reminder of the menu is as follows:-

- Red Option - Battered cod goujons served with steamed green beans and crispy potatoes
- Green Option - Traditional Mac & cheese served with salad
- Either of the above will also include a choice from our pudding selection

To accommodate our special visitors, we will have staggered lunch sittings as follows:-

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



On arrival to school, Special Ladies should make their way to the school hall via the entrance by the blue playground (5 minutes ahead of your child's sitting, no earlier) to be signed-in and seated ahead of your child joining you. Special Ladies will be required to wear a visitor sticker and asked to hand this in when leaving, so the school can account for extra adults being on and then off site. 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 Ladies to leave after you have eaten due to limited space inside the school.

**STUBBINGTON STUDY CENTRE - OPEN DAY** Saturday 16 March, 10.00-4.00pm. This is an opportunity for Year 5 children and their families to look around, talk to the staff and alleviate any concerns they might have about attending the centre before their residential visit. As a result, this could help your child to get the most from their trip in July. There is no need to prebook to attend this open day.

**SUMMER UNIFORM** is welcome in the Summer Term - after the Easter holiday. 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 not welcomed 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.

**STAFF MATTER** Since half-term, Mrs Miles-Williams has been full-time at GClub. We are delighted that she has joined Team Gomer and is now with the children for breakfast and after school.

**SWIMMING** is an invaluable life skill and a compulsory part of the National Curriculum with class 4LW starting their sessions after the Easter break, Tuesday 16 April. We are lucky enough to have access to the Brune Park swimming pool and have specialist swimming instructors to lead the sessions. Each Year 4 child will participate in six sessions. They will receive tailored group lessons based on their ability. Please ensure you have completed this [Google Form](#), to help us initially group the children based on their current ability. Please ensure the children have their swim kits (one piece for girls) in school on a Tuesday and a small snack and drink for after. The Easter break is an ideal opportunity to get organised with swim kits! Additionally, if your child is not water confident, the Easter Holiday is an ideal opportunity to make use of your local leisure facilities. Brune Park has family swim sessions which you may like to check out.

<b>4LW</b>	<b>Tuesdays:</b> 16 April, 23 April, 30 April, 7 May, 14 May, 21 May
<b>4IA</b>	<b>Tuesdays:</b> 4 June, 11 June, 18 June, 25 June, 2 July, 9 July

**WISHING** you all a lovely Easter holiday. Please note that Good Friday (Friday 29 March) is a Bank Holiday so our last day of the Spring Term is Thursday 28 March. We do hope the weather is fine and that all families have some time together to rest. We have had another wonderful term full of learning, activity and smiles. We look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 15 April.

**WORLD BOOK DAY** this year is on **Thursday 07 March** and as always we are keen to encourage the children to be enthusiastic readers, book owners and book borrowers. It has been noted that: 'Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success, more than family circumstances, parents' educational backgrounds or income.' Just 10 minutes daily shared reading benefits every child's future. We have lots of exciting activities planned for WBD including a Big Booky Bake Off where we would like to invite all families and staff on the day to create and bring in cakes and bakes with the themes of their favourite books (more details above). If children would like to dress themselves or one of their dolls/teddies/characters as a character from **a book** on this day then they are welcome to do so. Dressing up is not obligatory and school uniforms can be worn if your child does not wish to dress up. Year groups have adapted their timetable and will use the day to immerse children into the exciting world of books. Book tokens will be made available to your child on the day. More information to follow.

**YOU SAID/WE DID** We love our school and are always keen to do our absolute best for our school community. We would be grateful if you could take the time to complete this [form](#) to outline what you think we do well and what we could do to be even better. This form will close on Friday 15 March at midday.