



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 SEPTEMBER: 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 - starting Monday 09 September Y6 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - starting Monday 09 September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower School Art Club: 3.10-4.00 (slightly earlier finish) - starting Monday 16 September (Google Form to follow) Upper School Girls Football Club: 3.10-4.15 - starting Monday 16 September (Google Form to follow) Coding Club - Y4/5/6: 3.10-4.15 - starting Monday 16 September (Google Form to follow)
Tuesdays	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - starting Tuesday 10 September Y6 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - starting Tuesday 10 September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole School Dance & Gymnastics Club: 3.10-4.15 - starting Tuesday 17 September (Google Form to follow)
Wednesdays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - starting Wednesday 11 September Y5 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - starting Wednesday 11 September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper School Football Club: 3.10-4.15 - starting Wednesday 18 September (Google Form to follow) Upper School Netball Club: 3.10-4.15 - starting Wednesday 18 September (Google Form to follow)
Thursdays	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - starting Thursday 5 September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir practice: 8:15-8:45 - starting Thursday 12 September Citizenship Club Y4/5/6: 3.10-4.30 - Date TBC (Google Form to follow)
Fridays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - starting Friday 6 September
Monday 02 September	INSET DAY - School closed to children
Tuesday 03 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School open to Year 3 ONLY Y4, Y5 & Y6 Meet the Teacher Appointments in the School Hall or online - please enter via the hall door, with your child, 5 minutes before your booked appointment
Wednesday 04 September	All year groups return to school
w/b Monday 09 September	Home Learning starts for Year 6

Friday 13 September	Class 6LF - Cake Sale - 50p
w/b Monday 16 September	Home Learning starts for Year 4 and Year 5
Wed 18 → Fri 20 September	Y5 Stubbington Residential Visit
Friday 20 September	Class 6KT - Cake Sale - 50p
Friday 27 September	Class 5EG - Cake Sale - 50p
w/b Monday 23 September	Home Learning starts for Year 3
<i>Upcoming dates for October</i>	
Wednesday 02 October	Flu Immunisation - whole school
Friday 04 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harvest Celebration - food bank items welcomed ● Class 5LL - Cake sale - 50p
Friday 11 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shoe Boxes Collected ● Class 4LW - Cake Sale - 50p
Wednesday 16 October	School Photos - individual: am (Y3 & Y5 PE day - please wear uniform to school for photo)
Friday 18 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Show Racism the Red Card - wear red to school ● Class 4AM - Cake Sale - 50p

A WARM WELCOME FROM YOUR HEADS Mrs Digby (Associate Head - on site every day) & Mrs Mulhall (Executive Headteacher) working across King's Academy Gomer and King's Academy Rowner) to you all and welcome to a brand-new school year! We are so excited to have you back and welcome new families to our community. We can not wait for all the learning ahead. There is so much to look forward to this term, from exciting new lessons to enjoyable activities that will help us all grow together. As always, we are here to support you every step of the way. We are keen to work together as a school community, and we know that when we all work as a team - children, teachers and parents/carers - amazing things happen! Remember, our door is always open. If you ever have any questions or worries, or just want to chat, we are here to listen and help. We are typically on the playground every day and if we are not Miss Sewell or Miss Tuckley will be. Let's make this term the best one yet!

Year 3 can look forward to having the school all to themselves, as part of our transition, on Tuesday 3 September to help them familiarise themselves with the site and staff. Year 3 children are to return in their regular school uniform (not PE kit) and are encouraged to be school-ready by remembering: a smile - to be full of questions - prepared with a water bottle and a sun hat - ready to tuck into a healthy break snack, packed-lunch or school lunch - and, most importantly, not to worry - Team Gomer will help with 'everything'. The children are to line-up on the blue playground from 8.40am and no later than 8.50am. The class teacher will then escort the children to the classroom - parents/carers are to stay on the playground. Parents/carers are to collect their child from the classroom at 15.10.

On Tuesday 3 September Year 4, 5 and 6 are invited to school for a 10 minute, in person, appointment with their Class Teacher in the School Hall. We are delighted that we have almost 100% bookings. Yet to make an appointment? There is still time - just... Please contact the school office to book an appointment. If an in-person appointment is not possible for you and your child, you can meet with your child's Class Teacher online. The meeting will be a valuable opportunity for you and your child to talk through with the Class Teacher any strategies that worked well last year, areas for development in the new academic year and will give you an opportunity to share any wellbeing matters. We hope this will help us enable your child to get the best out of their year ahead, both socially and academically. Years 4, 5 and 6 will then start formally on Wednesday 4 September.

ANNUAL ACADEMY IMPROVEMENT supports our continuous pursuit of excellence for our children, staff and community. Our Academy Improvement Plan is a vital tool that helps us achieve this goal. It provides a clear roadmap for enhancing educational standards, fostering a positive and inclusive school environment and ensuring every child receives the support they need to thrive. By setting specific objectives and regularly reviewing our progress, we are committed to creating a dynamic learning atmosphere where every child can succeed and develop their full potential. Together, with the support of our dedicated staff, engaged parents and enthusiastic students, we are building a brighter future.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS will be starting w/b 16 September. Please look out for an additional email in the first full week back, for more information. There is a charge of £10 per after school club, per term, to support resources, possible staffing and kit. Struggling with this contribution? Please speak to the school office. If a club runs on a day that is not your child's PE day, they will need to bring a PE kit to change into. Due to available staff, Service Club will continue to run on Tuesday lunchtimes - more information to follow.

BICYCLE SHELTER is for whole school use. A polite reminder that the blue coloured racks are reserved for Big Team Gomer (staff). Children are reminded to cycle to school with a helmet. They should also use a D-lock to secure their bicycle, through the wheel onto the bicycle rack, keeping the key in a safe space in their school bag. Please do not cycle or scoot once you are on site and walk your bicycle to the rack.

BOOK DONATION for class 'free readers' and our 'Calm Zone on a trolley' would be welcomed. Perhaps you have had a sort out at home and have some age appropriate and sound quality books you no longer need? If this is you, Mrs Kidd (librarian) would be delighted to receive your donations to add to our class bookshelves. We are very well stocked for curriculum books but value the children having as many books as possible to choose from - contributing to their love of reading.

BREAKFAST & AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB (GClub) continues for pupils of KGA King's Academy Gomer beginning Tuesday 3 September. Bookings should be made at least 24 hours in advance. Please do not leave it too late! We will always try to accommodate last-minute emergency bookings - but please ensure you communicate directly with the school office about this. We have been asked if we can accommodate infant siblings but we are not looking to do so any time soon - if at all. In September, we will be using Tucasi (Scopay) to book and pay for GClub places. Once the session is full you will not be able to book, so advance booking is recommended. For more information and FAQs about GClub please see [here](#).

CAKE SALES are returning this Autumn Term (the only term we do this). We think the sales add to our community spirit. Participation and purchasing from the sales is completely optional. For those classes who are participating we gratefully ask that pupils in the identified class, donate cakes (nut free) into school for sale at a cost of 50p per cake. Money raised from the sales is given to the class who then choose how to spend its funds, e.g. additional wet play games. Donations of cakes (homemade or shop-bought) are brought to school on the morning of the sale in a named (if wanting it back) container. The sale is optional and will be accessible to the whole school, in an organised manner, at morning break (money bought in, in named purses advised). Any monies not spent by classes will travel with them into the new academic year and the sales provide a lovely 'Treat Friday' snack for those children who would like one.

CHARACTER EDUCATION helps any one school build and maintain a culture of values and character development. We were proud to be awarded a kitemark in October 2022. We will be revisiting themes of kindness in our assemblies this week and next. For more information about how this is integrated into our curriculum and how you can build on this at home, please visit our [school website](#).

CHOIR continues this term with practices on a Thursday before the start of school (first session Thursday 12 September). The choir has been sounding beautiful and we look forward to them participating in more events during the course of the year. All year groups are welcome to join.

COMMUNICATION From September we will continue to use the Arbor App for school communication messages. Please ensure you have downloaded the Arbor App. To do so please visit this [page](#). Our Year 3 families will be used to this and we are confident Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 will soon learn. Any problems? Please do contact the school office.

FACEBOOK continues to provide a forum for current parents/carers to communicate. Please search for our 'secret/closed' parent/carer page. The purpose of our closed parent/carer group is to help everyone by posting informal parent/carer reminders (e.g. school visit tomorrow – wellies required), questions (e.g. When does term end?). The Facebook group has clear guidelines (please see pinned post), secure settings and is available to KGA Gomer parents/carers only. The group is a **positive** forum so we ask that any personal issues or concerns are taken to the school directly. The school monitors the group to ensure that members are respecting its ethos and contributing where

necessary. The school does check-in with the page but infrequently so if you want to bring something to the attention of the school please do this directly with the school office or a member of staff. Although the school operates an up-to-date calendar, website, text service (via Arbor) and provides letters (via email), the school is aware that some information does not always come home - Facebook can help with any queries. We also have a school public page in which we tend to blog daily during term time. **Please do like and comment on our Facebook posts on our school page too – we like knowing you are reading our posts which encourages us to try and do so daily.** Friends of Gomer School (FROGS) have a separate Facebook page which we also recommend you follow.

FOOTBALL is very popular at Gomer. We are happy for the children to play at lunchtimes on their allocated day when they play fairly and kindly. Children are encouraged to have shin-pads and a change of shoes (no studs) for this play to reduce scuffed shins and shoes. We participated in the Gosport Football League last year and did really well. Are you a parent/carer who could volunteer to help coach the team? If so, please advise in order that our Year 5 and Year 6 players can take part. The coach will choose the day for practise - please contact the school office by Monday 9 September with your expression of interest.

FROGS are our awesome PTA. Two of our most active volunteers left FROGS when their child left last term. Mrs Janine Biggs, our FROGS Chair, organises some fabulous events which are wonderful for socialising and raising much needed funds. Big Team Gomer generously give time to support many events. We are grateful to all parents/carers who do but typically see it being the same families who physically help at events. Please consider helping at one event this year either with the preparation, during the event or packing away. Janine would be REALLY pleased to hear from you.

GCLUB are looking forward to welcoming back our GClubbers. Mrs Case has lots planned. However, the team can not maintain supervising children who are continually being picked up late. Staff have to stay on at school and this can be problematic for their own schedules and locking the school. If any one family is late for two occasions, in addition to a late fee being charged, your child's place at GClub will be reviewed. This may lead to them not having a place.

INHALERS A reminder please to check your child's inhaler, if they have one, to ensure they are in date. We are aware that some use-by dates will have expired over the summer holidays.

HEALTHY SNACKS are encouraged at morning break. These need to be stored in class trays, separately from children's lunch boxes - class teachers typically collect these at the start of the day. Please ensure snacks are nut free and of a healthy/low fat nature e.g. cereal bars, rice cakes, rice crackers, cheese box, vegetable sticks and fruit. Crisps and chocolate biscuits should be reserved for lunchtime only.

LEARNING is at the centre of all we do. Our children are immersed in reading, writing and mathematics which is woven into a broad curriculum. Keen to know more about exactly what your child will be learning this term? Please visit our curriculum page [here](#). On this page you can see the overview for the whole school and visit your child's year group for more focussed information regarding term-by-term learning. Your support with your child's school based learning is invaluable. Quick ways to support your child make progress include hearing them read everyday or you reading to them, multiplication recall and visiting key spellings.

LUNCH Due to rising costs and the general cost of living we have had to review the cost of providing school meals. We have tried to keep the costs as low as possible but can no longer sustain this. Therefore, the cost of a school meal will rise this month to £3.00 per meal - a rise of 20p. Aware that Hampshire County Council's Education Catering Service will be charging £3.20 per meal from September, we are pleased we are still currently competitive with our pricing. **NEW MENUS** from September 2024 are now available. Please see the website details [here](#). **IMPORTANT – Ending Y2 and starting Y3** Your child will have been automatically able to have free school meals up to now as part of the universal scheme. However, this ends when they leave infant school. If you meet the criteria and have not applied for FSM, your child will not receive them from Y3 onwards and meal costs will apply. If you think your child is entitled to free school meals you can apply via the Hampshire website <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants>

MUD KITCHEN/PEN DEN play is very popular. Might you have some pots, pans and/or kitchen utensils you no longer require at home? If so, please send them into school and we would love to make use of them in their Pen Dens.

NEED TO MAKE CONTACT WITH A TEACHER?

year3@kgagomer.uk	year4@kgagomer.uk	year5@kgagomer.uk	year6@kgagomer.uk
-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------

Need to talk in person? Please contact the school office in order that they can arrange a time for you. Additionally, you may be able to speak to your child at the end of the day. If it is a staff meeting day, your child's class teacher may ask to meet at another time.

PERIPATETIC MUSIC LESSONS 2024/2025 start this month w/b 9 September. If your child would like to sign up for music lessons, please contact Mrs Gardner who is our Music Leader or the school office. The competitive termly charges of £85 per term represents a minimum of 10 lessons - often the children have more but we do need to account for teacher absences - this still represents superb value for money. If you would like your child to have a trial lesson, please do contact the school office or have a chat with Mrs Gardner about the options.

ROTARY/SHOE BOX APPEAL We have been asked to support the Rotary Shoe Box Appeal again this year and the pamphlets will be sent home this week 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 are being 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 11 October (morning)**. You are welcome to send complete boxes, contributions for a box or money to support the P&P ahead of this time.

STAFF MATTER Ms Mason has supported children in a 1-1 capacity for many years at Gomer. Her efforts have been valued by the school and our families. She has secured a specialist support staff role closer to home - this was a highly sought-after job so we are very proud her expertise has been recognised. We said goodbye to her in our final July assembly but did not get to mention this in our July newsletter - hence telling you here.

STUBBINGTON STUDY CENTRE excitement builds due to us bringing the Year 5 visit forward to this month. The benefit of this date change sees our children having the centre to themselves and the weather is looking to be fine. Please check the email sent to you on Monday 22 July with the kit list. And please note, you will be required to drop your child at the centre on Wednesday 18 September at 10.00am and collect them at 13.00 on Friday 20 September. Parent/carer transport has helped to keep costs down. We are very grateful to the staff who give their time voluntarily to support this overnight trip.

START OF DAY Every day children are welcome on site from 8.40am, on the blue playground. Children are to be lined up behind their year group cone by 8.50am. Year 3 have practised this on their transition days but Team Gomer will meet and greet the children and be available to parents/carers to answer any questions you may have. This will be really swift in order that children can start their Gomer learning journey promptly. Please arrange with the office if you require lengthier meetings.

TUCASI (SCOPAY) is used for all payments e.g. visits and school meals. Link codes have been sent to all families, so please check your emails. Additionally, it will be used for the booking of GClub - we are delighted to see that lots of sessions have been booked (children cannot attend unless they have been booked in).

UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS We look forward to welcoming our pupils in their smart uniforms at the start of term. The vast majority of the community adheres to our uniform policy - thank you. To ensure you have the correct uniform please check the [website information](#). If children are not wearing the correct uniform we will be reminding you and may ask you to come to school with the correct uniform for your child. Children need to have their hair tied back if it is long enough. If this is forgotten this will need to be sorted in school. Please ensure all uniforms are clearly named. 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.

WATER BOTTLES are encouraged in class. We ask that these are not hard screw top metal bottles and required to be plastic, ideally with a sports type top to avoid spillages. Please name bottles clearly and have them washed daily. Even in hot weather last year, children were not being sent to school with bottles - we do not have a spare supply of these so please organise these from home.

YOU SAID/WE DID We welcome feedback. Throughout the school year, we will use this section of the newsletter to tell you how we have responded/changes etc to keep you posted.