



GO GOMER! Well done to **HUDSON HORNE** in Year 3, who was nominated by his teammates, parents and coaches to receive the Player of the Year award with his football team, Locks Heath Lions. Congratulations also to all Year 6 on their applications for Year 6 jobs. We are delighted that the children are keen to represent their school and were impressed by the standard of application. Do check the website or FaceBook page to see who is 'in post'.

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 8:40am (start of school day) and entry to school 8:45am		
	Registration: 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 Lower School Art Club: 3.10-4.00 (slightly earlier finish) Upper School Girls Football Club: 3.10-4.15 Coding Club - Y4/5/6: 3.10-4.15		
Tuesdays	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Y6 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Whole School Dance Club: 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 Upper School Football Club: 3.10-4.15 Upper School Netball Club: 3.10-4.15		
Thursdays	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Choir practice: 8:15-8:45 Citizenship Club Y4/5/6: 3.30-4.30 This Club involves parental support to take and collect their child from different venues. Events emailed to participants separately		
Fridays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school		
Wednesday 02 October	Flu Immunisation - whole school (NO Brass lessons today)		
Friday 04 October	Class 5LL - Cake sale - 50p		
Monday 07 October	Harvest Celebration - food bank items welcomed e.g. in-date tins and packets - no fresh thank you		
Wednesday 09 October	FROGS AGM: 2.15-3.15pm. Parents/carers are welcomed to attend.		
Thursday 10 October	World Mental Health Day - Hello Yellow - Non-school uniform day, with as much yellow as possible. Suggested donation £1 online.		
Friday 11 October	 Shoe Boxes Collected (morning) Class 4LW - Cake Sale - 50p 		

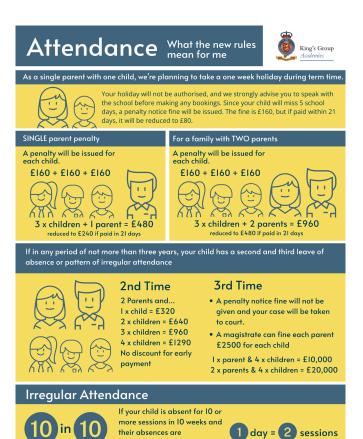
Tuesday 15 October	International Day - information below	
Wednesday 16 October	School Photos - individual: am (Y3 & Y5 PE day - please wear uniform to school for photo & bring kit to change into)	
Friday 18 October	 Show Racism the Red Card - Wear red accessories to school - A day to raise awareness - NOT a fundraiser Class 4AM - Cake Sale - 50p 	
Wednesday 23 October	Y4 Visit to Fishbourne Palace: 9.00-3.00pm - Details to follow separately	
Thursday 24 October	FROGS Spooky Disco - £3.00 • Y3 & Y4: 4.15-5.15pm • Y5 & Y6: 5.30-6.30pm	
Friday 25 October	 Class 3GS - Cake sale - 50p The Big Draw - Parents & carers invited in to draw alongside their child: 2.40-3.10pm 	
Mon 28 Oct- Fri 01 Nov	HALF TERM WEEK	
Tuesday 31 October	Y6 - Deadline for applications for secondary school places (midnight)	
Upcoming dates for November		
Wednesday 06 November	FROGS/POGOS Firework Spectacular: 4.30-6.30pm - Details to follow separately Open Morning - Prospective Year 3 Parents: 9.00-9.45am Open Afternoon - Prospective Year 3 Parents: 2.15-3.00pm	
Friday 08 November	Class 3IA - Cake sale - 50p	

ATTENDANCE MATTERS We are thrilled to report that King'a Academy Gomer continues to demonstrate good attendance, a strength highlighted both in our weekly attendance leagues and at a national level. We are committed to maintaining this positive trend, as regular school attendance is one of the most well-established factors contributing to children's success in education.

Gomer has high expectations for excellent attendance and we expect all children to attend school every day, on time. It is the responsibility of parents and carers to ensure that this happens. 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 be aware of the new government regulations on term-time holidays and absences. The poster to the right outlines the government changes. Penalty fines start at £160 per child, with reductions if paid within 21 days. Repeated absences could lead to court action with a maximum fine of £20,000, so, it's vital to stay informed.

#AttendanceMatters #StayInSchool #EveryDayCounts



unauthorised the school will

consider prosecution

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL We would like to remind parents that the playground continues to open to the children at 8.40am each morning. From Monday 30 September, the whistle will be blown at 8.45am, allowing registration to start promptly at 8.50am. This ensures children can enjoy their full teaching day, which we are sure will be pleasing to parents. Please note, if children arrive after the rest of the school has walked in from the playground after 8:50am, they will need to enter through the school reception as usual, where their late arrival will be recorded. Please do not try to use the rear doors - this causes extra work for the staff and children will still be recorded as arriving late. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a smooth start to the school day!

BIG DRAW 2024 is scheduled for Friday 25 October at 2.40pm. The 2024 Big Draw Festival theme #DrawinginMotion is a celebration of the dynamic and ever-changing nature of drawing. This theme invites people from all corners of the globe to explore how the act of drawing can capture the essence of movement, energy, and life. Moving beyond the notion of drawing as a static art form, 'Drawing in Motion' emphasises the fluidity and vibrancy of the creative process, showcasing how lines, shapes, and forms can convey movement and bring art to life. Whether it's the literal movement of kinetic art, an evolving story told through animation, or the quick, instinctive strokes of sketching on the go, this theme encourages us to experiment and embrace the vibrancy and life inherent in every mark we make. If you would like to join us please complete this Google Form and confirm your attendance by Monday 21 October. It is really important that you inform us of your intention to draw alongside your child in class at 2.40pm on Friday 25 October.

CAKE SALES 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:

6LF: £93.80	6KT: £72.00	5EG: £88.95

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 04 November** as the designs are being collected by Cauliflower Cards early on **Wednesday 06 November**. As soon as Cauliflower Cards return your orders we will send them home with your child.

CHARITIES FUNDRAISING We are pleased to announce that King's Academy Gomer will be supporting both <u>Hello Yellow</u> (to support Mental Health - more information below)) and <u>Elf Day</u> (to support Alzheimer's Research) during the Autumn term. Supporting charities is a powerful way to make a positive impact in our communities and beyond and is important because it:

- 1. **Fosters Empathy**: Contributing to charitable causes or raising awareness helps us understand the challenges others face, cultivating compassion and empathy in our community.
- 2. **Makes a Difference**: Charities often address urgent needs, from providing food and shelter to supporting education and healthcare. Every contribution, big or small, helps create meaningful change.
- 3. **Builds Community**: Supporting local charities strengthens community bonds and fosters collaboration. Together, we can tackle issues that matter most to us.
- 4. **Inspiring Others**: When we give or share, we inspire those around us to do the same. Acts of kindness can create a ripple effect, encouraging a culture of generosity.

We would love to hear what charities our parents, carers and families think the school could support/raise awareness for later in the year. Please complete this Google form to let us know.

CHOIR This club takes place before school on a Thursday morning, 8.15-8.45am with Mr Pilott 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 Gardner or the school office.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION is added to our website with various events and information which may be of interest to you. Click <u>here</u> to view current information.

COUGHS and **COLDS** are lurking. 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.

CURRICULUM LEARNING. Not sure what your child is learning about this term? Please do visit our online curriculum pages for each year group: <u>Year 3</u>, <u>Year 4</u>, <u>Year 5</u>, and <u>Year 6</u>

DEPARTURE FROM SCHOOL We kindly remind parents/carers that the school day ends at 15:10, unless your child is attending a club. Please do not enter school grounds before 15:05 to minimise distractions and ensure site security. Early arrivals will be asked to wait outside. Additionally, for safety reasons, children are not allowed to use the Multi-Gym, play-trail, or play football on the school field before or after school. These areas are supervised only during school hours. We encourage you to use local parks instead. Your support in following these rules is essential to keeping all children safe. Thank you for your cooperation.

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 **Wednesday 6 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 FROGS and POGOS from w/b Monday 7 October via school bags - see hard copy of letter. From w/b Monday 21 October tickets will be on sale from the infant school gazebo - everyday after school. We will also be selling 'glow before you go', the day before (Tuesday 5 November) from the infant gazebo to reduce queues on the night of the display, and on the firework night in the junior bike shelter. 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. If your child requires ear defenders when listening to fireworks, we are unable to supply these from school resources, so please bring your own.

FROGS Friends of Gomer 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, and 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 9 October at 2.15pm, 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 FROGS event, please complete this **Google Form.** Their first event of the year is their Spooky Disco. See below.

GOMER INFANT SCHOOL PLAY TRAIL/APPARATUS is for Gomer Infant children during the school day only. It is out of bounds for junior school pupils. We regularly remind children not to play on it. Please reinforce this when you are on-site at drop-off and collection time. While we understand that children enjoy using these facilities, we are concerned about their safety outside of school hours. There is a clear school rule that the play equipment **is not** to be used beyond the school day, a rule designed to protect all children. We appreciate that you may not agree with every rule in place, but it is important that we have your support in enforcing this, as it ensures the safety of the children. We expect all families to respect these guidelines, which are in place for everyone's well-being.

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. And, please keep reading, reading and reading and practising those times tables.

HARVEST CELEBRATIONS are set for Monday 7 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 Gosport through the winter months. Children can bring in items any day in the first week of October. We will then give thanks for these in our celebration festival on the Monday. 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.

HELLO YELLOW King's Academy Gomer will be joining thousands of schools across the UK and taking part in Hello Yellow in support of and to raise awareness of the charity YoungMinds, on Thursday 10 October (World Mental Health Day). On this day we will be holding a non-school uniform day and asking everyone to wear something yellow. There are days when all of us struggle with how we are feeling. Things can get tough, and it can be difficult knowing how to cope. For so many young people, when this happens, they don't always get the help they need, when they need it. They don't know where to turn, who to talk to, or if anyone else feels the same. No young person should feel alone with their mental health. But together, we can change this. We'd like to ask parents and carers to consider donating to help YoungMinds keep fighting for young people's mental health. Our suggested donation is £1 which can be donated on our fundraising page. YoungMinds have resources for parents and carers to find help and advice, if you're ever concerned about a child or young person – you can find this on their website. We stand brighter, together.

INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION At King's Academy Gomer, we believe that an internationally minded curriculum builds cultural understanding, improves communication skills and promotes knowledge and awareness of the wider world. We use opportunities within our curriculum, such as our daily assemblies, MfL and cross-curricular teaching, in addition to enrichment activities such as International Day and overseas partnership projects to explore people and places beyond the limitations of their surroundings. To help launch the International Dimension aspect of our curriculum we are hosting an International Day on **Tuesday 15 October 2024.** The children will be learning about: Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Japan. We have a Mexican themed menu planned for the day which comprises: chilli (red) or enchiladas (green) - website to remind children nearer the time - children can order in class on the day, as usual. Next month we will be asking for your views regarding which countries and cultures you would like your child to learn about and how you might be able to help further enrich our curriculum.

NHS RESOURCE We are deeply committed to providing the best possible education for every child. We understand that, as a school, we play an important role in supporting not only our students but their families as well. However, as the demands on schools continue to grow, we must acknowledge that our primary focus is education, and while we strive to offer as much support as we can, there are limits to the time and resources we have available. We want to ensure all our families have access to the additional support they may need. The NHS offers a fantastic range of resources through their 'In Our Place' programme, which is designed to help with various aspects of family life, from emotional wellbeing to practical advice. Thank you for your understanding, and please don't hesitate to reach out if you need guidance in accessing further support.

OPEN MORNING/AFTERNOON We are aware that choosing the right school for your child is an important one. We encourage parents/carers to view our school prior to applying for a place for your child. **Key dates for applying for a Year 3 place for 2025:**

- Wednesday 23 October: Open morning (9.00am) and open afternoon (2.20pm) in the school hall
- Friday 1 November 2024: Application process for Year 3 junior school places opens
- Wednesday 15 January 2025: Applications due for year 3
- Wednesday 16 April 2025: Parents/carers will be notified of school places
- **Wednesday 20 November:** In the event you can not meet with us on Wednesday 23 October, we have made available a tour of the school at 4.15-4.45pm

Click here to visit the HCC site where you can apply for your September 2025 school place.

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 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.

READING We would like to gently remind all parents and carers to encourage children to read every day – whether it's on their own or reading aloud to an adult. Any reading is good reading, but please remember your child will have both a library book and a colour-banded book that matches their reading level. SORA, our online library is also available on the Google classroom - they offer over 2500 eBooks, over 700 audiobooks and over 100 popular magazines. Our school website has lots of suggestions to help foster a love of reading at home, and don't forget, our local library and school library are fabulous resources too! Happy reading!

And...

We are looking for parents and carers who would be willing to volunteer a little of their time each week to help listen to children read in school. If you can spare 1-2 hours a week, your support would be greatly appreciated. This is a fantastic way to help nurture our young readers and make a real difference in their learning. If you're interested, please contact the school office for more details. Thank you in advance for your support!

ROTARY have asked us to support their Shoe Box Appeal again this year and the pamphlets have already been sent home 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 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.

SALT (Speech and Language Therapy) helps many pupils improve their speech fluency and we have been lucky to have had a qualified speech and language therapist working with us for the past 3 years who has been able to support children with need. From this term onwards however, we will no longer be able to fund this provision and instead will be aiming to support children with this educational need, with our staff in school. They have worked closely with the specialist for the last couple of years so are well-equipped to support. If however, you would like your child to continue or start to access SALT with a qualified therapist, this <u>asltip website</u> will take you to useful links where you can search for local providers.

STAY IN TOUCH 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.

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 uniforms 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 the correct 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.

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS - Gosport Discovery Centre Support Session. Members of the School Admissions team will be hosting a drop-in session at <u>Gosport Discovery Centre</u> next Thursday 3 October 2024 between 0930 and 1330 to support any Year 6 parents who are struggling with making their year 7 school place application or who have any questions about the process.

SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD! On Friday 18th October, we will be standing together to support *Show Racism the Red Card* by accessorising our uniform with as much red as possible! This powerful initiative encourages us all to stand up against discrimination and show racism the RED CARD. Children are invited to wear red in addition to their uniform This day is about raising awareness, not funds, so no donations are required. Every heart and every mind we change has the potential to impact not just one life, but hundreds, if not thousands, of others. As the saying goes: "In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist. We must be anti-racist." Let's come together as a school community to make a stand and

spread the message: CHANGE HEARTS. CHANGE MINDS. CHANGE LIVES.

Thank you for your support in helping us promote equality and challenge racism.

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 24 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.



WALKTOBER As in previous years Team Gomer are taking part in Walktober 2024. 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 have also reintroduced the Living Streets travel tracker this year, where the children can earn a badge each month for making regular active journeys to school (or equivalent). During Walktober, Mrs Billing 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.

WELLIES As the wetter days continue, we kindly remind parents to send their child to school with *named* wellies. This ensures that all pupils can enjoy playing on the field at lunchtimes, even on rainy days or when the ground is wet enabling the children to make full use of the school site. A special thank you to FROGS for their generous donation of new wellie racks for the lower school, which include handy water bottle storage on top! Year 5 can look forward to receiving theirs soon. Thank you for your support in helping us keep playtimes fun, no matter the weather!

YOU SAID/WE DID We are committed to creating a menu that not only meets nutritional standards but also aligns with broader goals such as sustainability and variety. Having heard views about our vegan dishes on the menu we thought we would outline the rationale for these:

- **1. Sustainability Commitment:** One of the reasons for including a vegan option once a week is our Trust's commitment to sustainability. Plant-based meals generally have a lower environmental impact compared to animal-based ones, and our aim is to contribute positively to this effort.
- **2. Nutritional Value:** Vegan meals can be a great source of essential nutrients and offer a balanced diet. By offering these options, we ensure that all children have the opportunity to benefit from diverse and nutritious foods.
- **3. Variety and Choice:** We believe that exposing children to a range of food options, including plant-based ones, helps them develop a broader palate. We strive to provide choices that cater to various tastes and dietary needs, ensuring that there are always alternative options available.
- **4. Educational Aspect:** Introducing different types of meals, including vegan ones, can be an educational opportunity for children.

We understand that not every option will appeal to every child. We are also aware that some children have not been keen on some of the new menu choices. So, our school cooks are working to look at the menu and see which dishes need to be replaced in order that the vast majority of the menu is enjoyed by every child. This new menu will be shared this month and launched in November.