



GO GOMER! This half-term has been filled with fantastic learning opportunities and we have had a big focus on reading and writing. The Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) completed their training, International Day was a success, children in Year 6 have been awarded 'school roles' and children across the school have been applying themselves diligently to their learning. We are very proud of all the children who have been awarded Golden Child awards this term and been invited to 'top table'. Year 4 have been superb school ambassadors at Fishbourne. The school also celebrated World Mental Health Day with the Hello Yellow campaign and held an exciting Spooky Disco event. Gomer secured a fantastic 8-1 victory in their first football match, and the students contributed generously to the Love in a Shoebox campaign. As always, Go Gomer!

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

DATES FOR NOVEMBER: 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>Registration: 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choir practice: 8:15-8:45
Fridays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school
Mon 28 Oct– Fri 01 Nov	HALF TERM WEEK
Tuesday 31 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y6 - Deadline for applications for secondary school places (midnight)
Monday 04 November	Cauliflower Card order deadline - Please ensure all orders are placed and artwork is returned to school for processing by 09:00 am.
Tuesday 05 November	Buy your 'Glow Before You Go' - available directly after school on the infants playground and also the junior school playground. Also available on the night of the Firework Spectacular.

Wednesday 06 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open Morning - Prospective Year 3 Parents: 9.00-9.45am ● Open Afternoon - Prospective Year 3 Parents: 2.15-3.00pm ● Class 6KT Visit to WWII Bunker (Alverstoke): 1.00-3.00pm
Wednesday 06 November	<p>PLEASE NOTE: NO AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS CLUBS TODAY - GClub will run as normal</p> <p>FROGS/POGOS Firework Spectacular: 5.30-6.30pm</p>
Thursday 07 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Class 6LF Visit to WWII Bunker (Alverstoke): 1.00-3.00pm
Friday 08 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Class 3IA - Cake sale - 50p
w/b 11 November	Anti-bullying week
Sunday 10 November	Gosport Remembrance at War Memorial Hospital
Monday 11 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Remembrance Gathering: 10.40-11.05am ● Pupils welcome to wear Cadet, Scout, Brownie or Cub uniforms to school
Tuesday 12 November	Odd Sock Day for anti-bullying week
Thursday 14 November	Y6 SATs drop in sessions for parents/carers - 2 sessions available: 3.15-3.45pm or 5.15-5.45pm
Friday 15 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children in Need - Pudsey Accessories with school uniform are welcomed ● Ground Force/Outdoor Learning Day: 9.00-12.00 - 'gardening clothes' to be worn to school.
Wednesday 20 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Y6 - The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP): pm. A reminder - if you do not want your child's height and weight to be measured, please send in a letter addressed to our Head Teacher to confirm this. Children will not be made to take part on the day if they do not want to. ● Tour of school for prospective Y3 parents/carers who cannot make Open Day: 4.15-4.45pm
Tuesday 26 November	Class 6KT Parent Teacher Learning Reviews - Booking details to follow separately
Friday 29 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Non-school uniform (Christmas jumpers welcomed) in exchange for tombola prizes ● Cake donations for the fair are very welcome today. ● FROGS Christmas Fair: 2.30-3.10pm (pupils only), 15.15-16.00 (all welcome)
Upcoming dates for December	
Monday 02 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Christmas Lunch Order Deadline midday today! Please place your child's order here (even if bringing own packed lunch) 2024 Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 18 December 2024
Tuesday 03 December	Class 6LF Parent Teacher Learning Reviews - Booking details to follow separately
Friday 06 December	INSET DAY - School closed to children

A FOND FAREWELL TO OUR FANTASTIC PTA TREASURER & CHAIR We are sad to announce that our amazing PTA Treasurer and Chair, who have dedicated many years to the roles, will be stepping down at the end of this academic year. Their dedication and efficiency have been crucial to the smooth running of all our fabulous PTA events, and we are going to miss them terribly. True to their organised nature, we are already looking to recruit a new Treasurer and Chair so they will be in post for September 2025. There will be a thorough handover to ensure a seamless transition. These roles are incredibly important for the continued success of the PTA, and we're keen to find enthusiastic people, just as committed, to taking over these roles. Interested in learning more before you apply? Please feel free to chat with the Office team or speak directly to our wonderful Treasurer or Chair. We'd love to hear from you!

We were grateful for the parents who attended the FROGS AGM on 9 October. The school really needs the support of

the PTA, so we're hoping for a positive response to upcoming events and engagement with these key roles going forward. If you're interested in volunteering, even if it's just a small amount of time, or joining the committee, we would greatly appreciate it. Please keep an eye out for upcoming events and opportunities, and if you'd like to get involved, you can still complete this [Google Form](#). Every bit of help makes a big difference to the school and our students.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK is w/b 11 November. This year's theme for anti-bullying week is 'Choose respect'. At our school, we are committed to fostering an environment where every child feels safe, valued, and respected. We do not condone any form of bullying, and we believe that by choosing respect, we can create a positive and supportive community for all. Throughout the week, our children will engage in thoughtful activities, discussions, and lessons, centred around the impacts of bullying and the importance of standing up for kindness and respect. They will explore how their words and actions affect others and how making respectful choices can help build strong, inclusive friendships. On **Tuesday, 12th November**, children are welcome to wear odd socks to serve as a positive reminder that we are all different. We encourage parents and carers to continue these important conversations at home, reinforcing the message that every child has the right to feel safe and respected, both in school and beyond. Together, we can stand united against bullying by consistently choosing respect in our words and actions.

ATTENDANCE CLARITY We believe and evidence shows that regular attendance is vital for our children's learning and development. The Department for Education (DfE) provides clear guidance to schools, emphasising that monitoring and promoting good attendance is key to supporting children in achieving their full potential. As part of our commitment, we have set a goal that all children should aim for **at least** 95% attendance, as outlined in our school's Attendance Policy, which is in-line with DfE expectations. **We are delighted that we ended the half-term above the national average for attendance and are striving to maintain this.** We will be communicating with you at least monthly on your child's attendance. We understand that children will occasionally need to miss school due to illness, and we fully support families in making the right decisions regarding their child's health. Additionally, there may be exceptional circumstances where children are unable to attend school, and we are sympathetic to this. However, it remains essential for us to keep track of each child's attendance to ensure that any barriers to regular attendance are addressed early. If a child's attendance falls below 95%, we have a duty to contact parents or carers to explore how we can support you in improving this. Additionally, any attendance below 90% is classified as persistent absence, and this requires further action to prevent children from falling behind. On a more positive note, we will also be celebrating those children who consistently maintain high attendance, as we believe it is important to recognise and encourage great habits. Working together, we can provide the best environment for learning and help each child thrive. Should you have any concerns or need support in this area, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Thank you for your understanding and for helping us to give your child the best possible education.

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:

5LL: £114.40	4LW: £119.69	4AM: £96.66	3GS: £106.20
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CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION has been made available by our local MP Caroline Dinenage. We have entered the competition before and a Year 6 pupil from Gomer won two years ago! The shortlisted finalists of the competition will have their work on display at a local venue and the winner will be invited to visit Caroline in Parliament. The winning design will also be used as Caroline's 2024 Christmas card. If you would be happy for your child's design, and information to be shared with our MP, please complete this [form](#) by **Thursday 14 November**. Without your consent, we will not submit your child's design. Please note, King's Academy Gomer is in no way affiliated with any political party. We have been invited as a community event.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH We will be having our Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 18 December. Children can choose from a traditional Roast Turkey Lunch (Red) or a Squash & Feta Puff Pastry Parcel (Green), together with all trimmings and pudding. Please order [here](#) by midday, Monday 02 December (even if choosing to bring in a packed lunch) and make payment of £3.00 via Scopay. Children are encouraged to wear Christmas or festive coloured jumpers, with their school uniform, for the Christmas meal.

COLD AND WET WEATHER sees children needing a coat. Please ensure that you send your child to school wearing their coat. At drizzly break-times we still like children to have some time outside and without a coat this is problematic. Wellies (or stout shoes) are very much welcomed in school if they are clearly named/identifiable. Wellies will be stored on the racks (thank you for buying these FROGS) outside during the day but stowed inside overnight. When the field is not too saturated in the wetter and wintry months, children with wellies will be able to play on the field. You may also

like to send your child to school with a coat you don't mind getting a little muddy if you have a child who is enjoying our 'mud kitchen'.

COUGHS and COLDS A further reminder. In the coming months, there may be further seasonal illnesses. Please note school Calpol is for school-based incidents. Should your child need Calpol for pain relief, please ensure you have it given to them before the start of school and have sent it in with them (named and with related consent given to the office) in the event they require it to be readministered during the school day. Schools do not have the resources to provide Calpol for known illnesses. Please also send your child to school with a **packet of tissues** to help with their runny noses or sneezes. It's fine to send your child to school with a minor [cough](#) or [common cold](#). But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly. For further information and guidance on common childhood illnesses please click [here](#) to access the NHS website.

EPI-PENS for those children who require them, please ensure they are in school and are 'in date'. Previously, we were able to obtain these for emergency school use but these are now hard to obtain and we no longer have them.

FACEBOOK continues to capture our daily blog. Please interact with our posts by 'liking' or commenting on them. Additionally, we do have our private parent/carer Facebook page which gives parent/carers the opportunity to ask each other questions out of hours. The school owns the page but please do not ask questions you are aiming directly at the school - for something only the school can answer or needs bringing to their attention, please communicate with the school office or your child's teacher directly.

FIREWORK SPECTACULAR is planned for Wednesday 6 November - thank you and the community for your support with this; tickets are selling fast. All food will be served in the hall and we will be viewing from the blue playground, picnic area or grass in front of the bicycle shelter. Regardless of the weather, the display is always rather awesome. Prior to the event children will be discussing the importance of firework safety. Please do have your tea with us at the event where we will be selling hot dogs, pizza, doughnuts, and hot and cold drinks from the servery inside the hall. To reduce waste, and for improved safety measures, please bring your own lidded hot drinks cup. Please be aware - the fireworks are loud, so younger viewers may wish to wear ear defenders and thick woolly hats. Additionally, alcohol and sparklers are not allowed on the school site. With thanks to Big Team Gomer at the infant and junior school (some Big Team Rowner too) for giving their evening to marshal the event. With thanks to the FROGS and POGOS for sorting the refreshments for us.

FROGS have been busy. The Spooky Disco, held on 24 October was a great success; dancing, costumes, games, tattoos and snacks were enjoyed by all who attended! **FIREWORKS** are scheduled for Wednesday 6 November. Gates open at 5.30pm via the Gomer Infant red pedestrian gate. There are a few tickets still available for this event from the infant school gazebo. Buy your '**GLOW BEFORE YOU GO**' accessories (available directly after school on the infant's playground, Tuesday 5 November and on the junior school playground after school and on the night). Please come along to stock up on this year's glowy items from our POGOS and FROGS ready for the autumnal dark nights and firework show season. There has been much work behind the scenes and we can't wait for this fabulous annual event.

GROUND FORCE/OUTDOOR LEARNING - DAY 1 has been set for Friday 15 November 2024. We love gardening at Gomer. So, the whole school will be participating in a range of gardening, landscaping and outdoor learning opportunities, at different times during the day and for part of the day. Adult support with helping with the grounds, independently or alongside your child, will be very much appreciated between **09:00-12:00**. 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 (we suggest they are named). On the day, all children are to come to school in clothes you do not mind getting dirty and should bring their wellies or suitable outdoor shoes. Please ensure Y3 have their trainers so PE can still be an option without the need for changing. Donations of good quality plants or bulbs would be very much appreciated. Please complete this [Google form](#) if you are available to help on the day.

The **CHRISTMAS FAIR**, scheduled for **Friday 29 November**, is set to be another wonderful community event. FROGS are currently planning this with school staff. A reminder that children are invited to wear non-uniform/festive jumpers on that Friday in exchange for tombola items e.g. chocolates, tins of biscuits, sweets, jars, snacks and treats. We are not doing a bottle stall and alcoholic items can't go on the tombola, as we wouldn't be able to give them to unaccompanied children. Prizes for the raffle and homemade or shop-bought cakes will also be gratefully received (cakes on the day of the fair). Might you own a business and be able to provide a raffle prize and/or know someone who would? This would be an awesome way to support the FROGS and your school. **Raffle tickets will be sent home in due course**. Timings and arrangements for the day are as follows:

- **2.30-3.10pm – Pupils only** can access the fair during this time - if they wish to do so. This provides every child the opportunity to attend the fair and enables the school to dismiss the children at the end of the day safely, so that children can be reunited with their adult from their classroom. If spending, please ensure pupils have their money in a named purse or envelope. Please note, there will be a Calm Zone in place for those pupils who do not wish to take part. Toasties and hot dogs will be available for £1, cakes for 50p alongside a selection of 'pocket money' stalls, so change will be appreciated. Raffle tickets will also be available during this time.
- **3.10pm – Pupils** will be dismissed from their classroom door as normal. Please meet them as you normally would. If they are attending the fair after the school day they can only do so if they are chaperoned by a parent/carer.
- **3.15pm – ALL WELCOME** to school for the fair which can be accessed via the hall door. Stalls will be in the hall, and also in lower school classrooms, and the large year 5 classroom beside the library. The raffle will be held in the hall and tickets can be purchased on the day.
- GClub will operate as normal. If children attending want to attend the fair for longer, Miss Kimber will endeavour to arrange a chaperone for them after 3:15pm.
- **3.50pm** - classroom stalls start to close. Please either leave the site or make your way to the hall for the raffle.
- **4.00pm** - The raffle will be called in the hall. **Please send in requests for extra tickets, if required, ahead of the fair to save time.** You are however welcome to buy more on the day. You may also like to continue to buy some food and sweet treats from the hall to keep you nourished during the raffle.
- **4.15pm** Fair closes after the raffle so please make your way offsite, avoiding the gym and play-trails.

We look forward to seeing you here. We have stalls that require volunteers – please help if you can. In anticipation of your continued support, thank you for supporting your school. Some points to help the day run smoothly:

- Non-school uniform (Christmas jumpers welcomed) in exchange for tombola/fair donations (no alcohol please)
- Raffle tickets - **These will be sent home in due course.** 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 them!
- For those pupils in Year 3 who have PE today please ensure they (as a minimum) have trainers to change into.
- Children to bring 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.

SCHOOL MEALS - NEW MENUS are now available and start in November. Please click [here](#) to view these on the school website.

LEARNING REVIEWS We are pleased to inform you that the Year 6 Learning Reviews have been scheduled for Tuesday 26th November (6LF) and Tuesday 3rd December (6KT). A booking form will be e-mailed home shortly, allowing you to select a 10-minute appointment either online or in person. These important meetings are scheduled after the Year 6 SATs Meeting and the completion of practice SATs papers. They will provide a valuable opportunity to discuss where your child is excelling and identify areas for development. It is essential that every parent makes an appointment, as these reviews play a key role in ensuring we work together to support the children's academic progress.

Learning Reviews for the remaining year groups will be scheduled for the Spring Term. Please also remember that, in line with our open-door policy, parents are welcome to speak with teachers at the start or end of the school day. We look forward to seeing you at this crucial time in your child's education.

LOST PROPERTY is overflowing. Please, please put names in ALL items which come into school. We have dozens of jumpers and cardigans which have not been collected, none of which are named.

PETS AS THERAPY We are really excited to announce that King's Academy Gomer is taking part in the Read2Dogs scheme. George, the 'Pets As Therapy' dog will be visiting us to read with some of our students. It has been proven that reading to a therapy pet shows a marked improvement in pupils' reading and their communication skills, seeing them become more willing and engaged and talking more confidently with their peers. George is fully trained to work with children and will be chaperoned with his trainer at all times. Please complete this [Google Form](#) below to give permission for your child to read with George. Please note, it will not be possible for him to read with every child but we are aiming for him to get to know as many children as possible.

READING is so, so important to your child's development, both academically and personally. We kindly ask you to **please, please, please** ensure your child is reading regularly, and where appropriate, reading aloud to you. This not only helps build their confidence and fluency but also creates a wonderful opportunity for you to engage with their learning

and spark meaningful discussions around what they're reading. To further support our pupils, we have systems in place to encourage children to explore a variety of genres, alongside their banded books, so they can experience a broad range of texts. Whether it's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, or something entirely new, expanding their reading habits helps to build comprehension skills and foster a lifelong love of reading. We cannot emphasise enough how crucial regular reading is, so thank you for your continued support at home in making reading a part of your child's daily routine. Together, we can inspire a love for reading that will benefit your child for years to come.

REMEMBRANCE We are delighted to be supporting the Royal British Legion again this year. The Armed Forces conduct their role with courage and humility and often play down the sacrifice and bravery required to serve. The Royal British Legion is here to help members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, veterans and their families. They support serving and ex-serving personnel all year round, every day of the week. Your donations, for items for those who wish to, will help them continue their work. Children are welcome to wear the RBL items with the school uniform from Monday 4 November - **Monday 11 November** when we will be having our whole school remembrance gathering. Children are welcome to wear the uniform of any military cadets, brownies, scouts etc that day. Our Service Families have received additional communication about this gathering which we are keen to involve them with. With thanks to our Service Children who will be helping Miss Hall sell the items on behalf of the RBL.

Poppies and other Royal British Legion poppy-themed items will be on sale immediately after the half-term break, should your child wish to purchase them. These include poppy appeal bracelets for £1.50; snap bands, zip pulls, rulers and wristbands for £1; pencils, crayons, reflective poppies for 50p, and traditional poppies for a minimum 50p donation. The suggested donation list will be placed on our website once we have received it.

SCHOOL UNIFORM should now be of the winter variety until the Summer Term 2025 - so please pack away the summer dresses and shorts. Thank you for your support with this - and for investing in the new logo too. 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.

SECONDARY SCHOOL applications close on Thursday 31 October. You can apply [here](#). If an application is not made you will be classified as 'late' and might then not get your first choice.

SMOKING & VAPING We would like to kindly remind all parents, carers, and visitors that **smoking and vaping are not permitted anywhere on our school site**. This includes outdoor areas such as the car park and playground. As a junior school, we are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for our children, staff, and visitors. Smoking and vaping on school grounds is not only against our school policy, but it is also **against the law**. We ask for your full cooperation in respecting this rule, ensuring that our school remains a smoke-free and vape-free zone at all times. Together, we can set a positive example for our children and contribute to a healthy, clean environment for everyone. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Y6 SATs INFORMATION EVENING We invite all parents and carers of Year 6 pupils to attend a vital information evening about the Key Stage 2 SATs on **Thursday 14 November**. A Google Form and invitation has been sent to Year 6 families. This meeting is an excellent opportunity for you to learn more about the SATs process, including key dates, what your child will be tested on, and how you as families can provide the best support during this crucial time. The Year 6 teaching team will offer a presentation and a question-and-answer session, available at two different times:

- 3:15pm - 3.45pm - in the 6KT classroom on **Thursday 14 November**
- or
- 5:15pm - 5.45pm - in the 6KT classroom on **Thursday 14 November**

Attending this event is incredibly important. As the children approach the important milestone of their Year 6 SATs (taking place w/b 12 May 2025), we understand that parents/carers want to give them the best possible support. We will also share tips and strategies for home learning and how to reduce any anxiety your child might feel during this time. Most importantly, this session will equip you with the tools to help your child reach their full potential. Your involvement is crucial, and together we can ensure your child feels prepared and confident. Please join us to help them do their very best!

YOU SAID/WE DID We have heard some of our [menu](#) options were not as familiar to our children as we had hoped. In response, we reviewed the menus earlier than we usually would. While we are proud to continue offering vegetarian options as part of our ongoing sustainability efforts, we have made some changes. We have replaced a few of the

lesser-known dishes/ingredients with favourites that our children identified as their top picks. A big thank you to our catering team for their continued support and for helping us make these adjustments!