




**GO GOMER!** Well done to **OLIVER COX** who recently gained his yellow belt in Judo. An amazing achievement!

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

<b>DATES FOR DECEMBER:</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</i>
	<i>Registration: 8.45 am</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>End of school day: 3:10 pm</i></span>
<b>Mondays</b>	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"> <li>● Lower School Art Club: 3.10-4.00 (slightly earlier finish) - <b>Last session 09/12/24</b></li> <li>● Upper School Girls Football Club: 3.10-4.15 - <b>Last session 09/12/24</b></li> <li>● Coding Club - Y4/5/6: 3.10-4.15 - <b>Last session 09/12/24</b></li> </ul>
<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>● Whole School Dance Club: 3.10-4.15 - <b>Last session 10/12/24</b></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>● Upper School Football Club: 3.10-4.15 - <b>Last session 11/12/24</b></li> <li>● Upper School Netball Club: 3.10-4.15 - <b>Last session 11/12/24</b></li> </ul>
<b>Thursdays</b>	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Choir practice: 8:15-8:45 - <b>Last session 19/12/24</b></li> </ul>
<b>Fridays</b>	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school
<b>Monday 02 December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christmas Lunch Order Deadline - <b>midday today</b>. Please order <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>● Christmas post boxes open - First names, surnames and class on envelopes please</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 03 December</b>	Class 6LF Parent/Teacher Learning Review Meetings
<b>Thursday 05 December</b>	Y3 & Y4 visit to St. Mary's Church Alverstoke: 13:00
<b>Friday 06 December</b>	<b>INSET DAY - School closed to children</b>
<b>Sunday 08 December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Choir Performing at St. Mary's Christmas Tree Festival - 11.45 arrival, with a 12.15-12.45 performance (festive jumpers/clothing encouraged). Children to find Mr Pilott.</li> <li>● Choir performing at Stanley Park 15:30-17:30 for a Community Carol gathering organised by Chris Dyke/Igloo Choir. Parent/carer to attend to supervise their child. Please see <a href="#">here</a> for more information and to give permission.</li> </ul>
<b>Monday 09 December</b>	Y5 - Bikeability Forms to be returned to school.

<b>Tuesday 10 December</b>	<b>No Y6 PE today - school uniform to be worn</b> Y6 to KGA Bay House Performance - Rock of Ages: <b>1.00-3.45pm (approx. finish)</b> - for more information/to give permission click <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Wednesday 11 December</b>	Y4 Christingle @ St Mary's Church: 1.30-2.30pm Y4 Christingle at St Mary's Church: 1.30-2.30pm. Children will walk to the church from school. Please complete <a href="#">this Google form</a> to give permission and outline if you will be attending - we hope to see lots of you in attendance. Collection boxes for the Children's Society, will be sent home separately, to be returned to school.
<b>Monday 16 December</b>	<b>Nativity costumes due in: Y3 (stable animals), Y4 (shepherds), Y5 (stars theme), Y6 (kings)</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y3 Jólábókaflóð - Y3 children are to come to school in their onesies/PJs and bring their slippers. In the afternoon they will take part in an Icelandic book tradition where they will be immersed in stories and drink hot chocolate (squash or water options also)</li> <li>• School Choir visit to Bury Lodge Nursing Home: 1.00-2.30pm</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 17 December</b>	FROGS Gift Sale - If you would like to shop with FROGS please send your child with monies for gifts <b>priced at £3</b> , in a named envelope or named purse, for each gift they would like to purchase. There is a great choice of super gifts.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last day to book for G-Club 2:00-3:00pm session on Friday 20 December.</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 18 December</b>	<b>Y3 &amp; Y5 PE Day - Wear festive jumper with PE kit to school</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christmas lunch - Christmas/festive coloured jumpers are welcomed and to be worn with white school polo top and school skirts or trousers.</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 19 December</b>	<b>We have no PE today.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rocksteady Concert at Gomer for parents of pupils who have Rocksteady lessons: 09.15-10.00. Please enter via the school hall doors to sign in</li> <li>• Whole School Christmas Celebration - Hosanna Rock Performance and Nativity at St. Mary's Church, Alverstoke: Performance starts at 2.00pm. Seats to be taken from 1.40pm - This is a ticketed event. 2 per family only - Please complete this <a href="#">Google form</a> to order tickets. <b>This form will close on Thursday 12 December</b> - Tickets will come home on Wednesday 18 December.</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 20 December</b>	<b>We have no PE today.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elf Day! Dress up as an elf or 'elforise' school uniform to support Alzheimer's Society - £1 suggested donation in cash or <a href="#">Just Giving</a></li> </ul> 
<b>Early Finish</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last day of term – <b>School ends at 2.00pm</b></li> <li>• <b>GClub will be available from 2.00-3.20pm</b> for sessions <b>booked</b> by Tuesday 17 December.</li> </ul>
<b>Upcoming dates for January</b>	
<b>Monday 06 January</b>	First day of Spring Term - Pupils return to school  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y5 Bikeability - 6th/7th/8th January.</li> </ul>

**AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS** will finish the week ending **Friday 13 December**. The new clubs will start on the first Tuesday of the Spring Term - 7 January 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. 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 beginning 16 December 2024, ready for payments to be made before the first sessions start. Due to the darker evenings the after school sports club will finish at **4.00pm**.

- **Art Club** (Y3/4) - (Mondays - First session 13/1) - Click [here](#) to register.
- **Girl's Football** (Y5/6) - (Mondays - First session 13/1) - Current team to roll over - Spaces still available Click [here](#) to register.
- **Coding Club** (Y4/5/6) (Mondays - First session 13/1) - This team will continue from the Autumn term up until February half term
- **Lacrosse Club** (whole school) (Tuesdays - First session 7/1) Click [here](#) to register.
- **Netball Club** (Y5/6) (Wednesdays - First session 8/1) - This team will continue from the Autumn term.
- **Football Club** (Y5/Y6) - (Thursdays - First session 8/1) - This team will continue from the Autumn term.

**ATTENDANCE SUCCESS - THANK YOU GOMER FAMILIES** We are delighted to share that our school attendance is above the national average – a fantastic achievement that reflects the commitment of our families to education. Thank you for recognising the importance of school and for sending your children in every day. Your efforts make a difference! Research consistently shows that children who attend school regularly achieve the best outcomes, both academically and socially. That's why maintaining our strong attendance is a top priority – we want every child to have the best opportunities to thrive. While we understand that children can sometimes be unwell and need time to rest and recover, it's crucial to keep absences to a minimum. Please remember that term-time holidays remain unauthorised, and we now have a 'catch-up' learning requirement for such absences, to ensure that no child misses out. We will continue to monitor attendance closely and work together with families to support all of our learners. Thank you for your ongoing partnership – let's keep up the great work, Gomer!

**BE BRIGHT BE SEEN** (advance notice) As Christmas draws near, the evenings and mornings are darker. Children are encouraged to wear bright clothing to and from school so they can be seen during these dark hours. Therefore on **Friday 10 January** Gomer are taking part in a 'Be Bright Be Seen' day. Children are invited to wear bright accessories along with their school uniform. We are not asking for special items to be bought but to try and use existing items. But, for any child needing extra, brighter outerwear could be a helpful Christmas gift. Remember - Be Bright Be Seen! We urge children who are cycling to school to check their lights - this could make a super Christmas gift too if some are needed.

**BIKEABILITY (starts first day back after Christmas break - 6, 7 & 8 January)** - All forms to be returned by Monday 9 December.

**CAKE SALE** Congratulations to 4AM for their amazing effort in their cake sale, raising an impressive £96.66! Thank you to all the parents and carers who baked, donated, and purchased treats – your support is greatly appreciated and helps make these events such a success. We're so grateful for the continued enthusiasm and generosity shown towards all our cake sales. Every contribution makes a difference, and we couldn't do it without you. Well done, and thank you to everyone who got involved!

**CLASS TEACHER CHANGE** From January, Mr Merrifield will be reducing his teaching days to spend more time developing his business, GoSport. 4AM will become 4EC - with Mrs Carre as the Class Teacher. Mrs Carre is an experienced and valued member of the Gomer team, having been part of the school for many years. Mr Merrifield will be in school on a Thursday and Friday - teaching 4EC on a Thursday and 3GS on a Friday afternoon. At Gomer, we have successfully managed similar arrangements before, including within one of our current Year 6 classes.

**ELF DAY** Elf Day! Dress up as an elf or 'elforise' school uniform to support Alzheimer's Society - £1 suggested donation in cash or [Just Giving](#)



**FROGS CHRISTMAS FAIR** - If your child is volunteering to help on a stall please complete the permission slip, they will have brought home, giving your consent for them to do so. A few reminders:

- Non-school uniform (Christmas jumpers welcomed) in exchange for tombola/fair donations (no alcohol please)

- The FROGS would really welcome: donations for the cake stall, some adults to help set-up, run and tidy away (one or all aspects of this)
- Raffle tickets - 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!
- For those pupils who have PE today please ensure they (as a minimum) have trainers to change into.
- Children bringing 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.
- Children will be dismissed as usual at the end of the school as usual and are welcome, with you, to re-enter the fair as outlined in the November newsletter

**GCLUB's** last session will be on Friday 20 December, **14:00-15:20** for sessions **booked by Tuesday 17 December**. GClub will restart on Monday 6 January 2025.

**HOSANNA ROCKS** We are excited to announce that this year's nativity will take place at St Mary's Church, Alverstoke, on **Thursday 19 December at 2:00pm**. This will be our first in-person performance since 2019, and we are so grateful to St Mary's for hosting us. While our live-streamed nativities have been warmly received, we are thrilled to be performing to a live audience once again. The entire school will perform in the church, and we warmly welcome you to take your seats from **1:40pm**. The church has allowed us to access the Parish Centre which will be used as a backstage area, to shelter the children when they are not performing.

Due to space limitations set by the church, the event will be ticketed. We are able to offer **two tickets per family only**. If you have yet to order your tickets please access the [Google Form](#). The Google Form and orders for tickets **will close at 09:00 on Thursday 12 December**. Tickets will then be sent home directly with your eldest child on Wednesday 18 December. This is a huge undertaking so we are unable to offer flexibility with this.

To ensure that everyone enjoys the performance, we kindly ask that toddlers are not in attendance, if possible, as they may become unsettled. The performance will be a joyful combination of carols and songs, with the nativity being narrated throughout. Everyone will have the chance to join in with some carols, making it a truly special experience for all.

Please could you provide costumes for your children as follows (we have tried to avoid the need for anyone to purchase expensive costumes):

- **Year 3** - (stable animals) - animal ears headbands etc with brown/cream clothing
- **Year 4** - (shepherds) - tea towel style head-dress and brown/cream tunics
- **Year 5** - (stars) - star-themed headband/hat - teamed with yellow/gold/silver clothing
- **Year 6** - (kings) - crowns, vibrant colour clothing

Children should **bring their costumes into school on Monday 16 December** ready for dress rehearsals and the performance. These should remain in school until after the performance on Thursday 19 December, when they can wear them home. We can't wait to celebrate with you all and see the children shine in what promises to be a delightful and heartwarming performance!

**HOME LEARNING** will be sent home for the last time this term on Friday 6 December. Ahead of this, and after too, please spend time learning the songs for the Nativity. No formal learning tasks will be sent home for any year group over the Christmas holiday but children can access their Google Classroom apps, Spelling Shed, Times Table Rockstars etc and of course children can read - lots. A book would make a great Christmas present!

**INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION - YOUR THINKING** Following the launch of our International Dimension in October, we would like to learn more about other countries and cultures. We are asking our school community to tell us which countries you would like your child to learn about - completing this form will help inform our planning. We believe that an internationally minded curriculum builds cultural understanding, improves communication skills, and promotes knowledge and awareness of the wider world. We currently learn about a variety of countries within our Curriculum; South America, China, France, Spain etc. To help launch the International Dimension aspect of our curriculum we hosted an International Day on Tuesday 15th October 2024, where children explored, experienced and discovered Mexico, South Africa, New Zealand and Japan. Please help us create new learning opportunities by completing this [Google form](#).

**Jólabókaflóð FOR YEAR 3** At Gomer, we are passionate about reading, and this December, we are thrilled to bring the

magic of our annual *Jólabókaflóð* to our school. *Jólabókaflóð* (translated as “The Christmas Book Flood”) is a much-loved Icelandic tradition where books take centre stage during the festive season. It’s a time for sharing stories, relaxing, and enjoying cosy moments with a good book. Year 3 children will celebrate this special tradition on Monday 16 December. On the day, children are invited to come to school wearing their onesies or pyjamas and bring their slippers for extra comfort. In the afternoon, they will take part in this wonderful Icelandic custom by immersing themselves in captivating stories while enjoying a warming cup of hot chocolate (or squash or water if they prefer). It’s a perfect way to embrace the joy of reading, encourage a love of books, and create memorable, festive moments together. We can’t wait to share this magical experience with our Year 3s!

**LIBRARY** It would be lovely if you could send in a photo of your child enjoying their current library book, especially if they have made something from one of them e.g. baking a cake from a recipe book, doing a magic trick or just curled up reading in their favourite place etc. We are looking to update our book reviews corner, so we can add them here. Please email our librarian [mkidd@kgagomer.uk](mailto:mkidd@kgagomer.uk). We look forward to receiving and displaying them.

**STAFFING** Mrs Billing has started her maternity leave a little earlier than planned. We wish her all the best during this exciting time and cannot wait to meet her new baby – possibly before the end of term! We’re sure you’ll join us in sending her lots of love and best wishes. We also extend our congratulations to Ms O'Neill, who is leaving our team to take on a new role as a SEND Case Worker for Hampshire County Council. This is a demanding role. We are proud of her achievement and know she will make a positive difference in her new role. We thank them both for their hard work and dedication to our school community and wish them every success in their next chapters. We are currently advertising for a TA so if you know of anyone who might like to join Team Gomer please direct them to the ad on our FB and Website page or this link: <https://kgagomer.uk/2024/11/28/join-our-team-as-a-ta/>

**TOYS** are to remain at home and not brought into school, with the exception of those children who have special permission to do so due to exceptional circumstances.

**WATER BOTTLES** To ensure children stay hydrated and ready to learn, we encourage all pupils to bring a water bottle to school each day. For safety and practicality, we kindly ask that bottles are plastic (not hard screw-top metal) and ideally have a sports-style top to minimise spillages. It’s important that water bottles are clearly named and brought home daily for washing to maintain hygiene. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide spare water bottles, so it’s essential that every child has one organised from home. We’ve noticed an increasing number of children requesting bottles during the day, and we need your support in ensuring they come prepared. Thank you for helping us keep the school day running smoothly!

**WELLIES** are very useful to have at school - without these, the children can not go on the school field in wetter and/or colder months. Please send your child to school with a named pair of wellies or a stout shoe so that they can play on the field on soggy field days. Children are welcome to take them home for the weekend. Not got a pair? This might make for a good Christmas gift idea! Any spares you may have at home are always welcome if no longer needed - these can be added to the boot racks outside classes.

**WISHING** you all a very happy and safe Christmas Holiday. As we bring this busy yet incredible term to a close, we would like to extend our thanks to all our children, parents, and staff for their hard work and dedication. It has been a term filled with successes, and we are immensely proud of everything the children have achieved. Now, it’s time to enjoy a well-deserved break! We hope you all have the opportunity to rest, recharge, and spend quality time with loved ones over the holiday. Wishing you a joyful and safe festive season, a very Merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. We can’t wait to welcome everyone back, feeling refreshed and ready for another fantastic term, when we return on **Monday 6th January 2025**.