



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 JANUARY: 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: 8.45 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lower School Art Club: 3.10-4.00 - First session 13/01/25 ● Upper School Girls Football Club: 3.10-4.00 - First session 13/01/25 - (spaces available) ● Coding Club - Y4/5/6: 3.10-4.00 - First session 13/01/25 (Please note: this club will end February half term - The last session will be 10/02/25) ● Counting Club - Y3 (by invitation only): 3.15-3.50pm - First session will run until 4.00pm starting 06/01/25 	
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"> ● Service Club (all year groups): 12.00-12.50 ● Guitar lessons - First session 07/01/25 ● Woodwind lessons - First session 14/01/25 (To be confirmed) ● Lacrosse Club (all year groups): 3.10-4.00 - First session 07/01/25 (Spaces available) 	
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"> ● Netball Club (Y5/Y6): 3.10-4.00 - First session 08/01/25 (spaces available) ● Brass lessons - First session 15/01/25 ● Drum lessons - First session 08/01/25 	
Thursdays	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Choir practice (all year groups): 8.15-8.45 - First session 09/01/25 ● Football Club (Y5/Y6): 3.10-4.00 - First session 09/01/25 	
Fridays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Piano lessons - First session 10/01/25 ● Violin lessons - First session 10/01/25 ● Vocal lessons - First session 10/01/25 	
Monday 06 January	Spring Term starts - Pupils return to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Y5 Bikeability - 6th/7th/8th January. ● Y3 Counting Club - by invitation only: 3.10-4.00pm - First session 06/01/2025 	
Friday 10 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be Bright Be Seen Day - Children are invited to wear bright accessories with their school uniform e.g. hi-vis items. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bling your Ride - see below for details
Monday 13 January	Y3 Parent/Teacher Learning Reviews - Booking details to follow separately
Tuesday 14 January	Y4 Parent/Teacher Learning Reviews - Booking details to follow separately
Wednesday 15 January	Y5 Parent/Teacher Learning Reviews - Booking details to follow separately
Upcoming dates for February	
Friday 14 February	INSET day - School closed to children
Mon 17 – Fri 21 February	HALF TERM WEEK
Thursday 27 February	Y6 Parent Information Evening - SATs Presentation Q&A: 3.30-4.30pm

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all. We do hope you are well and rested after the holiday. We are confident that the children will settle quickly into the school routine. Please help your children with this routine by ensuring that they are at school promptly to start the school day, have the relevant kit and are collected promptly too.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS start next week as per the days shown above. Please ensure that payments are made via Scopay and your child has the correct kit to attend the clubs. Please note, due to the darker evenings, all after school sports clubs will finish at 4.00pm. This will be reviewed again after the February half term.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026 CALENDAR DATES

A further reminder of the school terms and holidays for the next academic year 2025/2026. We emailed this information to parents/carers on Friday 13 December 2024 and is also shown below:

Autumn Term 2025	Spring Term 2026	Summer Term 2026
Start: Tuesday 2 September 2025 Finish: Friday 19 December 2025 Half term: 27 October – 31 October 2025	Start: Monday 5 January 2026 Finish: Friday 27 March 2026 Half term: 16 – 20 February 2026	Start: Monday 13 April 2026 Finish: Tuesday 21 July 2026 Half term: 25 – 29 May 2026

The academic year begins on **Tuesday 2nd September 2025** for all teachers and support staff INSET

Wednesday 03 September

- School open to Year 3 ONLY (**NO GClub**)
- Y4, Y5 & Y6 Meet the Teacher Appointments in the School Hall

Thursday 04 September All year groups return to school

Professional Learning INSET Dates:

- Tuesday 2 September 2025
- TBC - December 2025
- TBC - February
- Monday 20 July 2026
- Tuesday 21 July 2026

BE BRIGHT BE SEEN DAY is scheduled for Friday 10 January. Children are invited to wear bright accessories with their school uniform e.g. hi-vis items.

BLING YOUR RIDE competition will be on **Friday 10th January**. This is open to all children at King's Academy Gomer as part of our Be Bright Be Seen Day. This is an opportunity to decorate your bike, scooter, wheelchair or bag (if you are walking) at home, and then ride it, wheel it or walk with it to school. You can use ribbons, coloured card, stickers, or anything else bright and colourful you have at home. Please be as creative as you like! The theme of the competition is **Be Bright Be Seen** and we want to see some really bright decorations. **Please ensure that the bike/scooter//wheelchair/bag is clearly labelled with your child's name and class**, so it can be identified for judging as there will be prizes for the most creative and bright designs. **Please make sure that no decorations interfere with brakes, chain, pedals and wheels, and that all bikes and scooters will be safe to ride.** Good luck!

BOOSTER GROUPS (Year 6 - by invitation only) Running week beginning 13th January - week beginning 3rd February
Individual details will be emailed home and a reminder will be posted on the Google Classroom for those invited.

- Wednesday morning 8:20 - 8:40 Maths groups (15th, 22nd, 29th Jan. Last session 5th February)
- Wednesday afternoon 3:15 - 3:40 Reading group (15th, 22nd, 29th Jan. Last session 5th February)
- Thursday afternoon 3:15 - 3:40 Arithmetic group (16th, 23rd, 30th Jan. Last session 6th February)
- Friday morning 8:20 - 8:40 Handwriting (17th, 24th, 31st Jan. Last session 7th February)

CONTACT INFORMATION Please note that it is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that the school has up to date contact telephone numbers and addresses, in case of any emergencies. Please contact the school office, ideally via email, if you need to update us. Thank you.

CURRICULUM overviews can be found on our [website](#). For a more detailed overview regarding what your child will be learning this term, please visit the year group curriculum page.

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
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GOMER GROWERS is going to be taking place after school. Now that Mrs Carre is class-based four days a week she is kindly volunteering to run this group (by invitation only) with Mrs Fry. We will be in touch with more details soon.

HOME LEARNING is valued at Gomer and we believe that learning doesn't stop at the end of the school day. Home learning plays a vital role in consolidating what children have learned in the classroom and, at times, preparing them for what lies ahead. It's an essential step in reinforcing key skills and encouraging independent learning. While we are proud of the effort many children and parents put into completing tasks at home, we have noticed that some children are not consistently engaging with their home learning. Ahead of personalised emails to you, this is a gentle reminder of the importance of Home Learning and how it can significantly benefit your child.

Why Home Learning Matters

- **Consolidates Classroom Learning:** Completing tasks like Times Table Rockstars, Spelling Shed (Years 3 and 4), and Bedrock (Years 5 and 6) helps embed what children have learned at school.
- **Prepares for New Topics:** Pre-learning activities provide children with a head start, building their confidence in upcoming lessons.
- **Develops Organisation and Responsibility:** By managing their time and completing tasks, children build valuable life skills that will serve them well in school and beyond.

We have designed our Home Learning programme to be manageable and meaningful. Daily reading, practising times tables, and completing a few other targeted tasks make a real difference to children's progress. For Year 6 learners, we will be offering after-school sessions for those unable to complete tasks at home. Children learn alongside 29 others in the classroom, so any additional help at home gives them an advantage, allowing them to thrive. Supporting your child's home learning also shows them that their education is important and valued.

How Parents/Carers Can Help

We sincerely thank parents/carers who are already supporting their children with home learning. Your involvement is making a real difference! For those who may find it challenging to find the time, we encourage you to prioritise this. Even small steps, such as reading together for 10 minutes a day or supervising online learning, can have a significant impact.

Please, let's work together to foster self-motivation and a love for learning. By encouraging your child to complete their tasks and take pride in their work, you are setting them on a path to success and equipping them with skills that will last a lifetime. Thank you for your continued support—it makes a difference to your child's education and future.

LACROSSE CLUB There are spaces available for this club which takes place after school on Tuesdays. Please contact the school office if your child would like to take part. A reminder, the cost of this club is £10 per term. Lacrosse is an exciting and fast-paced sport that combines elements of teamwork, coordination, and strategy. Originating from Indigenous peoples of North America, it's often referred to as the 'fastest game on two feet.' Players use a stick with a netted head (ours are plastic), called a lacrosse stick, to catch, carry, and pass a ball, aiming to score in the opposing team's goal. With its unique mix of running, hand-eye coordination, and tactical play, lacrosse is as engaging as it is fun. Participating in lacrosse offers a range of benefits for children:

- **Physical Fitness:** With plenty of running and quick movements, lacrosse helps children develop stamina, speed, and agility, improving their overall fitness.
- **Hand-Eye Coordination:** Mastering the use of the lacrosse stick enhances children's hand-eye coordination, which can also support their motor skills in other activities.
- **Teamwork and Communication:** As a team sport, lacrosse encourages children to work together, communicate effectively, and support each other to achieve their goals.
- **Confidence Building:** Learning new skills and achieving success on the field helps children develop self-esteem and resilience.
- **Inclusivity:** Lacrosse is a sport that welcomes players of all abilities and backgrounds, fostering inclusivity and a sense of belonging.

LEG IT TO LAPLAND

Class totals for the fortnight	
3IA: 279 Miles (99% active travel)	3GS: 264 Miles (95% active travel)
4EC (4AM): 248 Miles (86% active travel)	4LW: 279 Miles (98% active travel)
5EG: 269 Miles (96% active travel)	5LL: 263 Miles (92% active travel)
6LF: 231 Miles (80% active travel)	6KT: 263 Miles (93% active travel)

An amazing school total of 2096 miles earned by travelling to school in an active way - so we made it to Lapland!

These results will be submitted to Sustrans and we will be keeping everything crossed in the hope of winning one of the amazing prizes up for grabs.

MUSIC LESSONS continue to be very popular at Gomer and the cost of tuition is calculated per lesson. The cost remains at £85 per instrument per term. This cost remains incredibly competitive and is subsidised by the school. For example, a private lesson for 30 minutes costs in the region of £18. The charges, per instrument, are based on a minimum of 10 lessons per term being provided (we have to manage staff absence which we have seen this term due to illness). The majority of pupils receive more than 10 lessons in a term and we do not charge for these extra lessons. Refunds are only available if fewer than 10 lessons have been received.

OFFICE/RECEPTION remains open until 4.30pm Monday → Thursday and 4.00pm on Fridays.

PRE-LOVED TOYS AND GAMES in good condition and have all the pieces, would be welcomed by GClub or classroom teachers for Wet Play. Thank you in advance.

READING is important. Please, please, please ensure your child is reading regularly and where appropriate, to you. We have systems in place to encourage children to choose a variety of genres in addition to their banded book.

REPORTING ABSENCE is best achieved by using the function on the front of the website using the 'Attendance Matters' blue box. This is a really efficient method of communication for you and the school.

ON-LINE SAFETY NEWSLETTERS can be accessed on our website. Please click [here](#) to view the monthly newsletters.

REPORT CARDS were sent home at the end of last term. We are only required to report annually but choose to do more than this to ensure you are well informed of your child's progress. You will receive a detailed report in the Summer Term. The Autumn Term report card provides information on your child's attendance and how they are achieving in the core subjects. This is to provide some key information ahead of the Parent/Teacher Learning reviews scheduled for this month.

SCHOOL UNIFORM should still be of the winter variety until the Summer Term 2025. Thank you for your support with this. 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.

STAFF MATTERS We said goodbye to TA Mrs O'Neil at the end of last term. We are now delighted to have welcomed Mrs Adom-Baffour to Team Gomer as a Teaching Assistant. She joined us on the last day of term and was introduced to Y3, Y4 and Y5. Whilst Mrs Billing is on maternity leave Mrs Adom-Baffour will spend her time predominantly in Year 3 and Year 5. Mrs Billing welcomed her daughter into the world in the last week of term. Baby Harriet is adorable and we can't wait for them to visit.

UPPER SCHOOL GIRLS' FOOTBALL CLUB There are spaces available for this club which takes place after school on Mondays. Please contact the school office if your child would like to take part. A reminder, the cost of this club is £10 per term.

WELLIES (or stout shoes) are very much welcomed in school if they are clearly named/identifiable. Wellies will be stored on the racks outside during the day but stowed inside overnight. We have had a lot of wet weather and when the field is wet, only those with suitable footwear can play on it. You may also like to send your child to school with a coat that you don't mind getting a little muddy, particularly if you have a child who enjoys using our 'mud kitchen' in the den pens.

Y6 SATs - SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD - A SHARED JOURNEY TO SUCCESS As we approach the Year 6 SATs, we want to take this opportunity to share the importance of these assessments and how you, as parents and carers, can make a positive difference in supporting your child. SATs provide a snapshot of how a child has progressed and achieved throughout Key Stage 2 and play a role in determining sets at secondary school. While we firmly believe that SATs do not define a child, we also value the sense of accomplishment children feel when they know they have given their absolute best effort.

We are committed to helping every child thrive, and we want them to feel motivated and prepared to approach their SATs with confidence and determination. To ensure children can achieve their personal best, we need your support. By working together, we can maximise what each child is capable of achieving. **How you can help your child prepare:**

- **Home Learning:** Encourage your child to complete their home learning tasks regularly. This reinforces key skills and builds confidence.
- **CPG Books:** Use these valuable resources with your child to practise core subjects at home.
- **Daily Reading:** Reading together supports comprehension skills and enriches vocabulary, both of which are vital for the SATs.
- **Practise Times Tables:** Quick recall of times tables is a fundamental skill that supports success in maths assessments. TTRS is great for this
- **Mental Maths Practice:** Help your child sharpen their mental maths skills by practising calculations and problem-solving.

It's also important to strike a balance - while preparation is key, we do not want children to feel worried or overwhelmed. A calm, supportive environment at home can make all the difference, helping children stay focused and motivated. We are immensely proud of our pupils and the effort they put into their learning every day. With your partnership, we can ensure they are ready to shine, knowing they have done their very best. Thank you for your continued support - it truly means the world to us and to your children. Together, let's make these final weeks before SATs a time of confidence-building, preparation, and encouragement.

INFORMATION EVENING Parents and carers of Year 6 pupils are invited to a presentation about SATs and a question and answer session with the Year 6 teaching team. The presentation will be held in the 6KT classroom 3:30pm - 4:30pm on Thursday 27th February. This presentation will be shared with parents/carers following the event for anyone who cannot attend in person. The 'drop-in' last term was very well received and all parents/carers are encouraged to attend this event. Please note that the presentation will be addressed to parents/carers only; the information contained in this will be passed on to pupils in a child-friendly way at another time. It is not intended that the children attend so please make arrangements for them accordingly.

YOU SAID/WE DID Thank you to all the 28 parents and carers who took the time to complete our recent survey. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us understand what we're doing well and where we can improve. Here are some key takeaways:

What We're Doing Well

- **Positive School Environment:** Many parents expressed how happy and safe their children feel at school. One parent shared, *"This school goes above and beyond, and I feel happy that my child is happy here."*
- **Strong Community Engagement:** Families appreciate the supportive and friendly atmosphere, with one parent noting, *"I really like the community engagement aspect and that all staff are really approachable."*
- **Opportunities Beyond the Curriculum:** Parents highlighted the variety of activities outside the classroom, saying, *"We have loved the number of opportunities offered outside the National Curriculum."*
- **Responsive Communication:** Numerous parents were pleased with the communication, such as one who remarked, *"The communication we have received around our children's needs has been fantastic."*

Areas for Improvement

- **Homework Formats:** Several parents mentioned challenges with online-only homework. A parent suggested, *"I would prefer homework on paper as it's easier to manage and support my child."*
- **Behavioural Balance:** Some parents expressed concerns about the impact of disruptive behaviour on others, with one commenting, *"The school needs to balance the needs of students with additional needs with the remainder of the cohort."*
- **Parental Communication:** A few parents would like more frequent updates between parents' evenings and end-of-year reports. One noted, *"More feedback on my child's progress before the learning consultation would be helpful."*
- **Extra-Curricular Clubs:** A suggestion was made to expand the range of after-school clubs.

Our Commitment

We are committed to addressing the areas for improvement highlighted by our school community:

1. **Homework Options:** We are exploring ways to make home learning more accessible e.g. ensure you can print any on-line resources. So you are aware, we moved to online learning to reduce expenditure on paper and copying, reduce our carbon footprint and support children's digital literacy in a technological world.
2. **Behaviour:** We will continue to be committed to an inclusive school and welcome all learners - there are a variety of needs across the school. We have limited resources but will review how adults are deployed. We will continue to monitor and strengthen our behaviour approach to ensure all students can thrive and to support children in understanding that all children are different and therefore have different needs.
3. **Communication Enhancements:** Plans are underway to provide more regular updates on student progress and development.
4. **Clubs and Activities:** We are reviewing the availability and variety of after-school clubs to ensure more children can participate. This will likely incur a cost to parents. Staff volunteer time to run after school clubs but external providers will have charges. We will investigate.

Thank you once again for your valuable feedback. Together, we will continue to make our school a place where every child can succeed and feel valued.