



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 FEBRUARY: 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>	
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"><i>Start of school day: 8.45 am</i></td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"><i>End of school day: 3:10 pm</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>Start of school day: 8.45 am</i>
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TBC	Y6 SATs Booster Sessions TBC - we will be in touch with families directly.	
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 ● Upper School Girls Football Club: 3.10-4.00 ● Coding Club - Y4/5/6: 3.10-4.00 (Please note: this club will end February half term - Last session will be 10/02/25) ● Counting Club - Y3 (by invitation only): 3.15-3.50 ● Gomer Growers: (by invitation only) 3:15-4:00 	
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 ● Lacrosse Club (all year groups): 3.10-4.00 	
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 	
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 ● Football Club (Y5/Y6): 3.10-4.00 	
Fridays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school	
Thursday 06 February	School Nursing Team Drop-in clinic: 09:00 -10:00 (Further information below)	
Thursday 13 February	Year 3 - Holi Festival - Year 3 to wear white t-shirt and trousers they don't mind getting powder paint on. FROGS Red Silent Disco - £3.00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Y3 & Y4: 4.15-5.15pm ● Y5 & Y6: 5.30-6.30pm 	
Friday 14 February	INSET day - School closed to children	
Mon 17 – Fri 21 February	HALF TERM WEEK	

Tuesday 25 February	Year 4 Victorian Day - see dress-up suggestions below
Thursday 27 February	Year 6 Parent/Carer SATs Q&A and Presentation
Upcoming dates for March	
Thursday 06 March	World Book Day
Friday 28 March	Special Lady Lunch

AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS CLUBS As the evenings become lighter, the after-school sports clubs will finish at 4:15 **after** the February half term. Children are strongly encouraged to ensure they have 'glo' clothing or attachments to bags so they can be seen when travelling home. Please note Art club will continue to finish at the earlier time of 4:00

CALPOL supplies in school are for emergency use only. Please do not inform your child that they can just ask for this. If you feel your child may need Calpol during the school day, because of a known ailment, please send a named bottle or sachet, with your consent, to the school office - thank you. With thanks to everyone who is sending in their medicine.

CODING CLUB and BOOSTERS As shared at the start of term, Coding Club is running until half-term. After that, staff's volunteered time will be dedicated to Year 6 Booster sessions, supporting pupils in the lead-up to their SATs. A huge well done to the children who have attended Coding Club—your creativity has been fantastic! A special thank you to Mrs Thurston for leading the sessions. We are also incredibly proud of the commitment shown by those attending SATs Boosters. Your hard work is making a real difference to your learning—keep it up! Go Gomer!

CHILD OF CHARACTER We were excited to introduce our new 'Child of Character' award at the start of term. This has replaced the Golden Child. This initiative is designed to celebrate the exceptional qualities and values our children demonstrate every day, highlighting what it truly means to embody the Gomer Standard. Each week, one child from every class will be recognised as the Child of Character. During a whole-school announcement, the class teacher will share why the child was nominated, linking their achievement to our **school values** of Honesty, Faith, and Courage, as well as our Character Education focus on grit, determination, resilience, and all-around being 'good eggs.' To celebrate this wonderful achievement, each nominated child will receive a special Child of Character badge to wear with pride. Additionally, parents and carers of the nominated children will receive a text message, so they can share in the joy and pride of their child's recognition. We are so proud of the incredible character shown by our children and look forward to celebrating these special moments each week. Thank you for supporting us in encouraging and fostering these important values in our school community.

CLUB COLLECTION Mr Jordan has kindly and rightly requested that we remind you of the importance of informing the school office if someone other than a parent or usual carer will be collecting your child from an after-school club. This is essential to ensure the **safety and safeguarding** of all children in our care. We understand that some families may make informal arrangements, such as neighbours offering to help with collection. However, it is crucial that these arrangements are communicated to the school in advance. Without prior notice, we are unable to release children to anyone who has not been authorised by the parent or carer. We kindly ask for your understanding and cooperation with this procedure, which is in place to protect all children. Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a safe and secure environment for everyone.

FRIENDS OF STOKES BAY - WILDFLOWER GARDEN At Gomer, we love gardening and recognise the value of coming together as a community for events like **Groundforce Day**. The **Friends of Stokes Bay** are planning to seed a wildflower garden at the bottom of Jellicoe Avenue, opposite the Sailing Club and beach entrance car park.

This special event will take place on **Saturday, 1st February, at 10am**, and they would love for children, accompanied by an adult, to join in and help distribute seeds for this beautiful wildflower area.

This fantastic opportunity celebrates **50 years of the Friends of Stokes Bay**, and it's a wonderful chance to leave a lasting legacy. If you're free, the 'Friends' would love to see you there!

Friends of Stokes Bay

In this, their 50th anniversary year, the Friends of Stokes Bay are encouraging local children to become more aware of the importance of protecting our bay and are planning two projects:-

1. A wildflower meadow is planned in just to the east of Solent Springs with the first phase of scarifying for planting completed. Pupils are invited to help sow the seeds and build a 'bug hotel'. The wildflower seeds will be mixed with sharp sand. Each child will have a bucket and scatter the mix on the scarified area using their hands and then they will walk over it so the mixture sticks in the ground. All are welcome to come along at **10am on Saturday 1st February** to join with us on this exciting project - bringing a small sand bucket will help!
2. In April, a photography competition is being launched inviting our pupils to take a photograph of what they think is special about the bay with cash prizes for the best in each year group: more details to follow.



FIELD FLAGS identify the state of the field each day and whether children will be allowed on it at break and lunch times. Green flags in corridors identify that the field is good for being one in all types of footwear. Amber flags identify that an additional change of footwear will be required if children wish to play on the field. Red flags indicate that the field is out of action. A 'change of footwear' helps us to avoid soggy feet, but also keeps puddles and mud out of the school building. A 'change of footwear' can include a different pair of sturdy shoes or trainers (PE trainers must be kept dry, and ready for the lesson) or wellies. These can be kept (if named) on the boot racks in classrooms, to save lugging them to and fro each day.

GOMER INFANT PLAYGROUND and play equipment must not be used by children from our school. This is at the request of the infant school which we fully support. Despite numerous requests via newsletter and in school children continue to ignore the 'rule' Please work with us to ensure your child is not using the play equipment at drop-off and pick-up times.

GOVERNOR VACANCIES We are currently seeking enthusiastic and committed co-opted governors (not parents) to join our friendly and proactive governing body here at King's Academy Gomer. Governors play a vital role in supporting the strategic leadership of the school, ensuring we continue to provide the very best education and opportunities for our children. This is a fantastic opportunity to make a difference in your local community, develop new skills, and be part of a team dedicated to the success and well-being of our school. We welcome individuals from all backgrounds who can bring fresh perspectives, skills, and enthusiasm to the role. If you know someone who would be interested, please:

- Visit our school website for more information about the role and how governors support our school.
- Speak to the school office if you have any questions or need further details.
- Contact our Chair of Governors, Nick Almond, directly to express interest or learn more about how you can get involved. **E mail:** nalmond@governor.kgahampshire.uk

Please help us spread the word! If you know anyone who might be interested in becoming a governor, we'd be delighted if you could encourage them to get in touch. Thank you for supporting us as we look to strengthen and grow our governing body.

HEALTHY SNACKS PLEASE are recommended for our 10.30am morning break. Healthy snacks such as fruit and raw vegetables or low-fat savoury snacks, like pretzels, rice cakes and popcorn are permitted, and preferred rather than crisps or chocolate - these need to be saved for lunchtimes. Sweets are not permitted.

INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION At King's Academy Gomer, we are proud to offer an internationally minded curriculum that helps our children learn about their local, national, and global neighbours. Most recently, we explored Chinese New Year, diving into its fascinating traditions and significance. This is just one example of how we bring the wider world into our classrooms. We believe that understanding and appreciating other cultures builds cultural awareness, enhances communication skills, and develops a deeper knowledge of the world. Within our curriculum, we already learn about a variety of countries, such as South America, China, France, and Spain, but we are always looking to expand and improve. To help us plan and enrich our curriculum, we'd love your input! In October, we sent a Google Form home asking for ideas, but we only received one response. If your family has a connection to a particular country or culture, or if you'd like to see a specific country included in our learning, please let us know by completing the [form](#). Your suggestions are invaluable, and we're eager to partner with families who can share their languages, traditions, or cultural insights. Together, we can provide our children with exciting and meaningful opportunities to become informed, empathetic global citizens.

INTERNET SAFETY DAY helps us to reinforce our Online Safety approach and is something that we are passionate about teaching - empowering our pupils to manage their safety online. Tuesday 11 February, is Safer Internet Day, and to mark the day, we will be having a whole school assembly on Monday 10 February to remind our pupils why it is important to know how to keep themselves safe online. The online world is ever-evolving, and can be a truly fantastic tool, when used safely. Pupils will also take part in short activities in their classrooms, designed to encourage conversations and share experiences. Whilst it is important to us to educate our pupils, we endeavour to empower our parents and carers to be 'streetwise' about online safety. If you would like some more information, including lots of tips and conversation starters, then please visit the UK Safer Internet [website](#). Please also make sure you are reading and digesting the monthly online safety newsletter that is emailed to you at the beginning of each month.

LATE TO COLLECT We are aware that life happens, which can sometimes see some children being collected beyond the end of the school teaching day. We are grateful for parents who inform us, by phone, that they may be running a few minutes late. When this happens we ask your child to wait in the School Reception. Please note, if the collection runs past 5 minutes your child is likely to be moved into GClub where they can be supervised and entertained to avoid worrying about your late arrival. Please note, you will be charged for this service. Please note, the school office continues to close at 4:30 Monday - Thursday and 4:00 on a Friday. Please ensure your communications with the office are timely so that we know your whereabouts.

LINE UP is a system also being used in our secondary schools, to ensure children are ready to enter school appropriately, and are ready for learning. We have had a 'line-up' for years. Please support us to help pupils practise this process each morning, by encouraging them to stand behind their class cone in an orderly way on the blue playground. They can arrive from 8:40 and will be led in at 8:45. Children should not be running around on the picnic area or multigym, as they should not be using this time as playtime. Thank you for your support with this.

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS You will be aware of the Government's national drive to improve school attendance and our updated policy reflects this. At Gomer, we fully support this initiative and are proud to say that our attendance is currently above the DfE target, at an impressive 96%. We are keen to maintain or improve this figure because every learning day counts! Improving school attendance is everyone's responsibility, and by working together, we can ensure that every child has the best possible opportunities to thrive.

Did you know?

- In the most recent data, only 43% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected standards, compared with 84% of the **regular attenders**.
- For KS4, only 37% of persistently absent children achieved grade 9–4 in English and maths GCSEs, compared with 83% of regular attenders.
- Regular attendance doesn't just improve academic outcomes—it also helps to build positive peer relationships, which are vital for mental health and wellbeing.

We are incredibly grateful to our families for valuing school and working with us.

PARKING SAFELY & WITH COURTESY helps the whole community. We are aware that it can be tricky to park around the school site. A reminder please, that vehicles should NOT be parked over drives or non-parking areas. 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.

RED SILENT DISCOs - hope to see you here on Thursday 13 February! 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 crisps, a drink and sweets.

4:15 - 5:15 for years 3 & 4 and 5:30 - 6:30 for years 5 & 6.

SATS PARENT / TEACHER Q&A SESSION In May, all Year 6 pupils across England will sit their statutory SATs. These assessments are an important milestone in your child's education, reflecting the incredible hard work and progress they have made. To ensure you feel fully informed and equipped to support your child, we warmly invite all Year 6 parents to attend our **SATs Information Meeting** on **Thursday 27th February**. This session will provide a clear overview of the SATs process, as well as practical strategies to help your child feel confident and prepared. We are **keen for every parent to attend**, just as you prioritise attendance at parents' meetings. Your support makes a real difference in helping children achieve their best. We have scheduled a session at 15.30-16.30 on **Thursday 27th February**. Please make every effort to join us—we value your partnership in your child's success. Thank you for your continued support.


SCHOOL NURSING TEAM DROP-IN - Thursday 06 February - 9am to 10am. This is a service run by the Gosport & Fareham Nursing Team, giving parents the opportunity to drop in for advice or support around a whole range of concerns that they may have regarding the health or well-being of their child. If you would be interested in this service please let us know [here](#).

SPECIAL LADY LUNCH (advance warning) has been scheduled for **Friday 28 March** so that children, if they wish, can share lunch with that 'special lady' in their life – grandparent, mother, godmother, auntie, family friend - whoever that special lady might be. These lunch events have been very successful in the past and we hope to see many special ladies joining us again this year. Due to catering matters at school, our children's Special Ladies are asked to bring their own lunch if they would like to eat. Special Ladies wishing to join this event should complete [this form](#). Once your child and their special lady have eaten, the special lady is invited to stay and play outside if the weather is fine. However, if we experience a wet play, we may have to ask Special Ladies to leave after they have eaten, due to limited space inside the school.

TIMES TABLES are really important. Memorising times tables makes it far quicker and easier for children to work out maths problems in their heads. Moving beyond using their fingers to work out answers, they'll be able to use their knowledge to quickly solve any multiplication questions. Please encourage your child to log into TTRS to practise their times tables weekly at least. This is particularly important for Year 3 and Year 4. Year 4 have a national assessment in June. The test requires them to answer each question in 4 seconds. TTRS is part of their weekly home learning tasks and can be found on Google Drive. It has been proven that those children who practise regularly feel more confident in maths lessons in general.

UNIFORM SUPPLIER CHANGE From Easter, we are delighted to announce that **Print and Sew on Stoke Road** will become the new supplier of King's Academy Gomer school uniforms. This change has been made with our families in mind, as Print and Sew is a truly local business, offering high-quality uniform items at a lower cost. While we transition, **Skoolkit** still has King's Academy Gomer items on sale for anyone wishing to purchase them. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Skoolkit for their excellent service over the years and their commitment to supporting our school community. We are excited to support a local business, and we hope this change benefits our families by being more convenient and affordable. Thank you for your continued support as we make this positive move.

VICTORIAN DAY After half-term, on Tuesday 25th February, our **Year 4** children will be travelling back in time to experience a day in a Victorian school! They will take part in a strictly structured school day, sitting in rows, with boys and girls segregated and participating in different activities, just as they would have in the 19th century. To help bring this immersive learning experience to life, we are encouraging children to dress in Victorian-style clothing. There's no need to buy anything new—a little creativity can go a long way! Many items for a Victorian school outfit can be found at home or in charity shops.

 Boys could wear:

- A plain white or light-coloured shirt
- Dark trousers (rolled up slightly for an authentic look!)
- Waistcoat or braces (if available)
- Flat cap or simple dark hat

👧 Girls could wear:

- A long, plain dress (or a skirt and blouse)
- A pinafore or apron (a pillowcase with holes cut for arms can work!)
- Plain, dark-coloured tights or knee-high socks
- Hair in plaits or tied back with a ribbon

If children prefer not to dress up, they should come in regular school uniform. We can't wait for our Year 4 pupils to experience this exciting step back in time and learn about school life in the Victorian era!

WORLD BOOK DAY this year is on Thursday 06 March and as always we are keen to encourage the children to be enthusiastic readers, book owners and book borrowers. We have lots of exciting activities planned for WBD. If children would like to dress themselves or one of their dolls/teddies/characters as a character from **a book** on this day then they are welcome to do so. Dressing up is not obligatory and school uniforms can be worn if your child does not wish to dress up. Year groups have adapted their timetable and will use the day to immerse children into the exciting world of books. Book tokens will be made available to your child on the day. **More information to follow...**

YOU SAID/WE DID Thank you to everyone who took part in our recent parent survey. We noted that some of you feel we do not offer enough school clubs. We are proud to provide a variety of clubs, all run by our dedicated school staff who generously volunteer their time. As these clubs are school-led, there is a small weekly charge (£1 for resources) —significantly lower than what an external provider would charge (£4-£6). In addition to our clubs, we also offer GClub, our competitively priced wrap-around care. Our club offerings vary slightly each term to keep them fresh and engaging for the children. Below is our current selection:

Monday	Art Club, Boosters, Counting Club, GClub, Girls Football Club & Gomer Growers
Tuesday	GClub, Service Club & Lacrosse Club
Wednesday	GClub & Netball Club
Thursday	Choir, GClub and Football Club
Friday	GClub

We have looked into external providers but at this time, we do not have the space to accommodate them nor the resources to manage in-house.