



**GO GOMER!** Well done to **ARABELLA LONG**, who recently completed her Hampshire grade 2 on the British Gymnastics pathway. Arabella came 6th in vault and also placed 3rd in the beam category - against 30 other gymnasts across Hampshire. A further well done to **CHARLIE DICKENS** and **JUDE HARVEY-GUTTRIDGE** who took part in Endurance 10, a 10k hike across the Chilterns in Buckinghamshire. They showed amazing resilience and determination to complete it in very muddy, but unusually warm conditions.

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

<b>DATES FOR APRIL:</b> 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>Start of school day: 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>● Art Club (Y3/Y4): 3.10-4.00</li> <li>● Girls Football Club (Y5/Y6): 3.10-4.15</li> <li>● Calculation Club - Y3 (by invitation only): 3.15-3.50 - <b>Starting Monday 28 April</b></li> <li>● Gomer Growers (by invitation only): 3.15-4.00 - <b>Starting Monday 28 April</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>● Service Club (all year groups): 12.00-12.50</li> <li>● Lacrosse Club: 3.10-4.15 <b>Last session - Tuesday 01 April</b></li> <li>● Tennis Club (all year groups): 3.10-4.15 - <b>Starting Tuesday 22 April</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>● Netball Club (Y5/Y6): 3.10-4.15</li> </ul>
<b>Thursdays</b>	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Choir practice (all year groups): 8.15-8.45</li> <li>● Football Club (Y5/Y6): 3.10-4.15</li> </ul>
<b>Fridays</b>	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school
<b>Tuesday 01 April</b>	Last session for Lacrosse Club
<b>Wednesday 02 April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NO Brass lessons today</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 03 April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Choir Trial - All welcome: 8.15-8.45am</li> <li>● School Nursing Team Drop in: 9.00-10.00am</li> <li>● Arbor Report Cards sent home</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 04 April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Groundforce &amp; Outdoor Learning Day - Please <a href="#">click here</a> to confirm you are able to help</li> </ul>
<b>Early Finish</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Last day of Spring Term – School ends at 2.00pm</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>GClub will be available from 2.00-3.20pm for sessions booked by Tuesday 1 April</b></li> </ul>
<b>Mon 07 → Mon 21 Apr</b>	<b>Easter Break</b>
<b>Tuesday 22 April</b>	<b>Summer Term starts - pupils return to school</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Class 4LW - Swimming Lessons (1 of 6): pm</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 25 April</b>	Military Child Day - Children welcome to wear purple accessories with their uniform
<b>Monday 28 April</b>	Y4 Parent Teacher Online Learning Reviews - Booking details to follow separately
<b>Tuesday 29 April</b>	Y5 Parent Teacher Online Learning Reviews - Booking details to follow separately <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Class 4LW - Swimming Lessons (2 of 6): pm</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 30 April</b>	Y3 Parent Teacher Online Learning Reviews - Booking details to follow separately
<b>Upcoming dates</b>	
<b>Thursday 01 May</b>	BAE Roadshow at Bay House - whole school: 10.00-11.30am
<b>Friday 02 May</b>	Non-uniform Day to raise money for MS - £1 donation recommended. If your child prefers to be in a school uniform, that is welcomed.
<b>Monday 5 May</b>	<b>May Bank Holiday - school closed</b>
<b>Tuesday 06 May</b>	Class 4LW - Swimming Lessons (3 of 6): pm
<b>Friday 9 May</b>	VE Day Celebration: wear red, white and blue
<b>Mon 12 → Thurs 15 May</b>	SATs Week: daily breakfast before school and tests
<b>Tuesday 13 May</b>	Class 4LW - Swimming Lessons (4 of 6): pm

**A PROMPT START TO THE SCHOOL DAY** We understand that mornings can be busy and sometimes unpredictable—getting everyone out the door on time isn't always easy. That said, we do need to manage the start of the school day carefully to ensure a calm and settled beginning for all children. The school gate is opened by Mr Guest at **8:40am**, and children are welcome to come onto the playground from that time. Class teachers will bring children into school promptly at **8:45 am**. We are still seeing a small number of late arrivals. Please do your best to ensure your child is on the playground by **8:45 am** so they can walk in with their peers and begin their day feeling confident, calm and ready to learn. A prompt start not only supports your child's wellbeing and routine, but also helps prepare them for secondary school—where late arrivals often result in sanctions due to the need to manage much larger numbers of students. Thank you for your continued support and understanding. We know it's a juggle some mornings, and we really appreciate the effort you make to help your child begin the day in the best possible way.

**ATTENDANCE SUCCESS** A big THANK YOU to our families for valuing school and supporting strong attendance. We're proud that our whole school attendance is 97%—well above the national average—and we're keen to maintain or even improve this. The latest [DfE research](#) (March 2025) highlights how important this is: children with 95–100% attendance in Year 6 were 1.3 times more likely to meet the expected standard in reading, writing and maths than those with 90–95% attendance. Missing just 10 days can reduce a child's chances by 25%. Every day in school counts. Thank you for helping your child to be here, ready to learn.

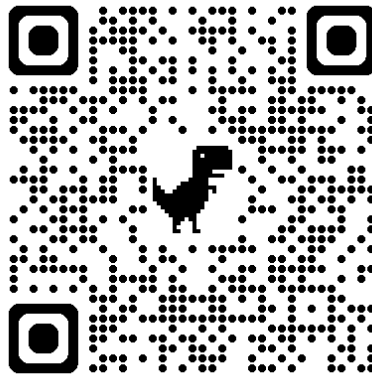
**ADMISSIONS** will announce our Y3 2025 cohort on Wednesday 16 April. Gomer continues to be a popular choice for local families and we look forward to welcoming our new pupils. If you know any Y2 parents who may be talking about admissions to King's Academy Gomer, please direct them to HCC admissions or KGA Hampshire admissions if they have any inquiries ahead of hearing directly from the school. We aim to make personal contact with our families in early May. We do have some information available on our website. Please see [here](#). To contact the KGA Hampshire Admissions Team please email [admissions@kgahampshire.org](mailto:admissions@kgahampshire.org)

Unusually, due to family house moves, we currently have vacancies in the following year groups:

Year 3	Year 5
3	2

Do you know anyone who would like to attend our lovely school? If so, please let them know and ask them to call us for a tour of the school and/or to apply for a place.

**AI GENERATED PODCAST** We continue to learn to use AI in creative and practical ways. To support our learning—and to make life a little easier for our busy families—we’ve transformed this newsletter into a podcast! Using AI, we’ve generated an audio version of the newsletter, making it a fun and bite-sized way to stay up to date with what’s happening in April. You’ll notice that the voices have American accents—this is because, at the moment, it is the only option available. We have also discovered that the AI has struggled with some of our dates. The podcast is designed to complement the written newsletter (not replace it), offering an alternative way to access key information. We hope you find it helpful. Please click [here](#) to access the newsletter which has been converted into a podcast.




**BAE ROADSHOW** Will be taking place at Bay House on Thursday 1 May. We attend the show annually to support our STEM enrichment and are grateful to Bay House for hosting the event. The whole school will be walked to the event which will be in the Beacon Arts Centre (in the Sports Hall).


**CHARTWELLS - SCHOOL LUNCH - NEW MENUS** You will be aware, following the email sent home on 21 March that from 1st April, Chartwells will be managing our school's catering services. Chartwells is a leading provider of school and education catering in the UK, serving thousands of pupils across the country. Their commitment to delivering nutritious, ethically sourced food aligns with our dedication to student well-being. **What This Means for Our School:**


- **Consistent Staffing:** Our existing kitchen staff will remain in place, ensuring continuity and familiarity for the children.
- **Exciting New Menu (see attached PDFs):** Chartwells will introduce a new and exciting menu after the Easter break, featuring a variety of dishes designed to appeal to young palates while providing the necessary nutrients for their growth and learning.
- **No Price Change:** Despite the enhancements to the menu, meal prices will remain unchanged.

We believe that this partnership with Chartwells will further enhance our students' dining experience. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Please ensure that Special Dietary Requirement forms are returned by the end of the term at the latest.


**HEALTHY SNACKS** Next week we will be hosting a Healthy Snack Assembly, where we talk about our favourite foods and snacks and the importance of eating a balanced diet. We will also discuss the school rule of bringing a healthy snack for break time, such as fruit, vegetables, popcorn, cereal bars, crackers, or yoghurt. Lots of these are featured on our website. In the assembly, children will be reminded that snacks such as crisps and chocolate should be reserved for lunchtime or after the school day. The reasons for this include:

 **Boosting Energy** – Healthy snacks provide a steady release of energy, preventing the sluggish feeling that can come from sugary snacks.

 **Improving Concentration** – Nutritious foods help keep the brain sharp, making it easier to focus and absorb new information.

 **Supporting Growth & Development** – Essential vitamins and nutrients from healthy snacks contribute to overall well-being.

 **Encouraging Good Habits** – Choosing healthy options at school helps build lifelong healthy eating habits.

 **Improving Mood** – A balanced snack can prevent hunger-related irritability, helping children stay positive and engaged in learning.

Many schools encourage healthy snacking, and we do this in the best interests of your child's well-being. We appreciate your support in ensuring that your child brings a healthy snack each day. We have also noticed the fantastic use of sustainable packaging by many of you when sending in snacks—thank you for helping us reduce waste while promoting healthy choices! Thank you for supporting your child.

**INTERNET SAFETY** We take our pupils' online safety seriously. E-safety is taught in every year group at an age-appropriate level and extends to supporting safe use at home. The internet offers amazing opportunities for children to connect, learn and create—but it also comes with risks. Technology moves fast, and while children may be confident online, they still need guidance and protection. Regular conversations with your child are key. A few simple actions at home can make a big difference in keeping them safe online. For example:

- monitor the time they are spending online
- regularly check what they are viewing
- Have the computer/use devices in a communal area where it is easier to monitor what your children are viewing. Do not let children have webcams, or similar, in their bedroom. Remember any image, sound or text can be copied and viewed by everyone.
- Regularly discuss online safety and go online with your child. Communication is key to 'staying safe online'. Encourage your children to tell you if they feel uncomfortable, upset or threatened by anything they see online.
- Keep virus and firewall software up-to-date. Enable your 'browser safe' search option and/or consider using internet filtering software, walled gardens and child-friendly search engines. Critically view all content as some websites are not what they appear.

We have also committed to monthly parent newsletters to support you in navigating online safety. The Bay House Cluster school will be hosting an Online Safety Parent/Carer/Pupil Information session with an external advisor on **Wednesday 21 May** after school. There will be two sessions and it will be hosted by Bay House. More information to follow.

**KEEPING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY SAFE PARKING CONSIDERATELY - PARKING CONSIDERATELY** As a school, we are committed to keeping our children, families, and neighbours safe. With this in mind, we ask all parents and carers to park safely and respectfully when dropping off or collecting children from school. Please avoid parking on corners, such as the corner of Pyrford Close near the school gate, or across dropped curbs, which are essential for wheelchair users, pushchairs, and those with mobility needs. Reversing along Ladram Close is also extremely dangerous – let's work together to keep all pedestrians safe. If you need to drive, please consider leaving home earlier, parking a little further away, and walking the last part of your journey. This 'park and stride' approach not only helps reduce congestion around school but also gives children a chance to get some fresh air before the school day begins. We also remind you that idling engines (leaving your engine running while parked) is not only harmful to the environment but is also illegal in many areas, including outside schools. Please switch off your engine while waiting. After the Easter break, our Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) will be out on patrol, helping to promote safer and more respectful parking habits. If you are spotted parking unsafely, you may receive a friendly reminder ticket – let's aim for a ticket-free term!

Thank you for helping to keep our school community safe and considerate for all.

**MILITARY CHILD** April is the month of the Military Child. To celebrate our military children, staff and pupils are invited to wear purple accessories with their uniform on **Friday 25 April** to show their support for Service children across the country.

**MS AWARENESS WEEK** The week beginning Monday 28th April marks the start of MS Awareness Week. During this time, we'll be taking the opportunity to learn more about Multiple Sclerosis (MS)—a lifelong condition that affects the brain and spinal cord. It can cause a wide range of symptoms, including fatigue, vision problems, and difficulty walking. MS affects over 130,000 people in the UK, and there is currently no cure.

As a school community, we are proud to support awareness and understanding of MS, while also helping to raise money for the MS Society, a charity that funds vital research and offers support to those affected by the condition. To mark the week, we'll be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 2nd May. Children are invited to come to school in their own clothes in exchange for a £1 donation, which will go directly to the MS Society.

Thank you in advance for your support in helping our children become compassionate, informed citizens—and for supporting such an important cause.

**MUSIC LESSONS** for this term will begin w/b Tuesday 22 April 2025.

**OUTDOOR LEARNING/GROUNDFORCE DAY - REMINDER** We are hosting two more 'Ground Force Days' this year and the next is **Friday 4 April**. The whole school will be participating in a range of gardening, landscaping and outdoor learning opportunities, at different times, throughout the morning. Adult support with helping with the grounds, independently or alongside your child will be very much appreciated. We get so much done, with thanks to you for your support. Thank you to those who completed the Google form in March (now closed) to pledge some time to help with this event. Key information:

- If you can help and did not complete the form please telephone the school office.
- On arrival at school please sign-in and get a visitors sticker
- Adults will be working outside and can work with other adults or their child.
- As normal, Mrs Carre will be coordinating us for the morning whilst Mr Merrifield is with the class. And Mr Guest will be with the children all morning too.
- Your own tools are welcomed - secateurs, rakes, spades etc would be really useful as we have a limited supply (make sure they are named).
- Donations of good quality plants would be very much appreciated.
- Children are to come to school in clothes you do not mind getting grubby or paint on and should bring their wellies or suitable outdoor shoes. Or you might like to just send in an apron.
- Please ensure Y3 have their trainers so PE can still be an option without the need for changing.
- This is going to be a lovely way to end the term and help us get the grounds ready for the summer. Thank you.

**SATS** have been scheduled for Year 6 by the government. We were pleased so many families attended our last SATs Information Session. The school is committed to ensuring pupils make progress throughout their learning journey at Gomer and can account for this accordingly. We will share attainment information with parents/carers in our annual reports (July) and liaise closely with secondary schools to inform them about Year 6 accordingly. Year 6 children are invited to arrive at school each day from 8.20am for a SATs breakfast. We will send reminders about this next month.

Date	SAT
Monday 12 May 2025	Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar – Paper 1 Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar – Paper 2
Tuesday 13 May 2025	English Reading
Wednesday 14 May 2025	Maths Paper 1 (Arithmetic) Maths Paper 2 (Reasoning)
Thursday 15 May 2025	Maths Paper 3 (Reasoning)

**How you can help your child with the build-up to and during SATs week:**

- Encourage your child to complete some CGP book work during the Easter Holiday
- Ensure your child gets plenty of sleep
- Talk to your child about how they are feeling
- Make sure they are organised and ready for school each day - rushing can add to feeling unsettled
- Remind them that they are awesome and SATs are only a snapshot of who they are

The children have worked exceptionally hard and deserve to do well. Their commitment to learning, resilience and positive attitude have shone through and we are incredibly proud of them. As SATs approach, we are keen to ensure they maintain these positive mindsets so they can approach the assessments with confidence, do their absolute best and take pride in all they have achieved.

These assessments not only help us measure progress but also prepare pupils for the expectations and routines of secondary school. The skills and knowledge they have developed—along with their growing independence—will support a strong and successful start to Year 7. We are here to support every child and family throughout this period. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like further guidance in the weeks ahead.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL CAMPAIGNS** On Friday 4 April we will reveal the winning School Council campaign! Our fantastic Student Council members have been working hard to represent their peers and campaign for change. Will it be the much-anticipated *Slipper Fridays* or the exciting *House Team Treat* that takes the crown? We can't wait to share the result with you. The winning idea will be announced on our school website also, along with details of the change the Student Council will be bringing in after the Easter break. Watch this space!

**SCHOOL SUMMER UNIFORM** is now welcome for the Summer Term. Local supermarkets already have dark blue items in stock but you may like to double check our uniform list before you purchase. In the Summer Term **DARK BLUE gingham** dresses or playsuits are allowed. Pale blue items are to be avoided because they **are not** on our uniform list. The Summer school uniform list also stipulates that formal shorts or skirts can be worn, with short short-sleeved white shirt, blouse or polo. Children wanting to wear sandals in hotter weather must do so only when also wearing socks - this is for health and safety reasons. PE Uniform continues to be our blue PE tops and unbranded **black** shorts or sport trousers (black joggers or leggings) with trainers and white or black socks.

**SCOOTERS AND BICYCLES - A SHARED SAFETY REMINDER** We love seeing so many children and families choosing active travel to get to school – scooters and bicycles are a brilliant way to start the day! However, to keep *everyone* safe, we kindly remind you that scooters and bicycles must not be ridden on the school site. This includes all children, adults and accompanying toddlers. Please push your wheels from the gate to the bike/scooter racks.

As we share our site with Gomer Infant School, this is a joint message for the whole Gomer community. By working together, we can ensure our site remains a safe and welcoming space for all.

**SWIMMING** A reminder that Year 4 swimming lessons take place this term. Each Year 4 child will participate in six sessions. They will receive tailored group lessons based on their ability. Please ensure you have completed this [Google Form](#), to help us initially group the children based on their current ability. Please ensure the children have their swim kits (one piece for girls) in school on a Tuesday and a small snack and drink for after. All belongings should be clearly named and carried in a plastic carrier bag or swimming bag. No large sports bags please. All children must bring a suitable coat/jacket to keep them warm after they have been swimming on these days even if the weather is mild. They are welcome to bring an extra drink and snack for after swimming. Children are to continue to wear their PE kit on their swim day and will change into their swimming clothes at Brune Park. Long hair should be tied up. The Easter break is an ideal opportunity to get organised with swim kits! Additionally, if your child is not water-confident, the Easter Holiday is an ideal opportunity to make use of your local leisure facilities. Brune Park has family swim sessions which you may like to check out.

<b>4LW</b>	<b>Tuesdays:</b> 16 April, 23 April, 30 April, 7 May, 14 May, 21 May
<b>4IA</b>	<b>Tuesdays:</b> 4 June, 11 June, 18 June, 25 June, 2 July, 9 July

**TREE REMINDERS** You will have noticed that our cherry trees have been removed from the picnic area. As beautiful as they were they had become rotten so were becoming unsafe and were removed to keep us all safe. We are looking to resurface the picnic area and hope to plant a cherry tree elsewhere on the school site. Fortunately, we have lots of other trees to admire.

**VE DAY - SAVE THE DATE** This year marks 80 years since VE Day (Victory in Europe Day), which commemorates the end of the Second World War in Europe on 8th May 1945. It is a time to remember the courage, sacrifice and resilience of those who lived through the war, and to celebrate peace. VE Day will be marked across the country on Thursday 8th May, and we will be learning about this important event in school on the day itself. We will then be using the afternoon of Friday 9th May to celebrate the 80th anniversary with the children.



As part of our celebrations, children are invited to wear red, white and blue to school on Friday 9th May. We will also be inviting families to join us for the final part of the afternoon to take part in the children's celebrations. We are working closely with the infant school to coordinate the event and will share more details after the Easter break. In the meantime, please save the date—we look forward to celebrating with you!

**YEAR 6 LEAVERS HOODIES** are optional and can be ordered soon (flyer will be e-mailed home separately). The hoodies are priced from £21.50 and the Y6 leavers can order from a range of colours and sizes using a local supplier, Print & Sew who are based on Stoke Road - they are now also our new uniform supplier. Y6 children are welcome to wear their hoodie, regardless of colour choice, for the **second part of the Summer Term** (after half-term) as part of their PE kit – please ensure that it is labelled with your child's name.

**WATER BOTTLES** Please could plastic water bottles (not metal) be sent in every day with your child. More and more children are coming to the school office to say they have forgotten their bottle and we have very few spare! With the warmer weather ahead it is really important that children remain hydrated.

**WISHING** all of Team Gomer, big and small a restful and safe Easter break. The weather may be a little chilly but we are hoping for some sunny days to help us enjoy time outside. We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 22 April (the Monday is Easter Monday).

**YOU SAID/WE DID** We are incredibly proud of our children—not only for their achievements in school, but also for the charitable work many take part in outside of school. It's not unusual for our pupils to take the initiative to raise money for good causes, and we are delighted by their compassion and community spirit. In school, we carefully manage the number of charity events we promote. We do this out of respect for our families—many of whom already support charities outside of school—and to ensure we remain mindful of financial pressures.

That said, when children take part in fundraising activities, we do try to support them in a balanced and fair way. For example, some of our pupils are currently fundraising for charity through Cubs. To help, we are planning an optional after-school cake sale on the blue playground, led by the children's parents and facilitated by the school. More details to follow soon.

If your child is involved in a fundraising activity and you'd like our support, please do let us know—we're always happy to help where we can.