

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 MAY: 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 (Leaver Hoodie welcomed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Club (Y3/Y4): 3.10-4.00 • Girls Football Club (Y5/Y6): 3.10-4.15 • Calculation Club - Y3 (by invitation only): 3.15-3.50 • Gomer Growers (by invitation only): 3.15-4.00 - Starting Monday 12 May 	
Tuesdays	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Y6 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school (Leaver Hoodie welcomed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Club (all year groups): 12.00-12.50 • Tennis Club (all year groups): 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"> • Netball Club (Y5/Y6): 3.10-4.15 	
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): 3.10-4.15 	
Fridays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Slipper Friday - optional - see below	
Thursday 01 May	Whole School - BAE Roadshow at Bay House: 09.30-11.30am	
Friday 02 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-uniform day in support of MS - £1 suggested donation. Orange colour encouraged as this is the colour of the MS Society • Y3 PE day - please bring trainers to school so PE is an option without the need for changing • Y6 PE day - No trainers required. PE will be in the hall 	
Monday 05 May	May Bank Holiday - school closed	
Tuesday 06 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y3 Egyptian Day - Y3 pupils to attend school dressed as Egyptians • Class 4LW - Swimming Lessons (3 of 6): pm 	
Friday 09 May	Gomer Schools VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations: 2.15pm	
Mon 12 → Thurs 15 May	SATs Week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y6 SATs 'snack' Breakfast in The Globe: 8.20-8.40am - Mon-Thurs 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gomer Growers starting
Tuesday 13 May	Class 4LW - Swimming Lessons (4 of 6): pm
Mon 19 → Fri 23	Walk to School Week
Tuesday 20 May	Class 4LW - Swimming Lessons (5 of 6): pm
Wednesday 21 May	Lee Hayward Online and APP Safety - parent/child Information Session @ Bay House in the Lower Hall. There are two sessions to choose from: 16.00 or 18.00.
Thursday 22 May	Y6 Leavers photograph to be taken for the Portsmouth Evening News, smart hair and clothing please.
Friday 23 May	Deadline for ordering the Special Man Lunch - see info below
Mon 26 → Fri 30	Half Term
Upcoming dates	
Tuesday 03 June	Class 4LW - Swimming Lessons (6 of 6): pm
Wednesday 04 June	Sports Day (afternoon) - All children to wear PE kit to school Gates open at 1.00pm - Sports start at 1.15pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No after school netball club today
Tuesday 10 June	Class 4EC - Swimming Lessons (1 of 6): pm
Thursday 12 June	Class Photos
Friday 13 June	FROGS Special Man Gift Sale - £3 PER GIFT Special Man Lunch: 11.45-1pm

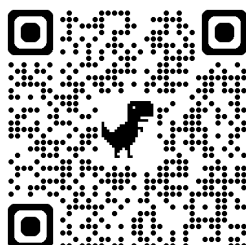
A COUPLE OF VACANCIES - Can you help spread the word please? Due to a few families moving out of the area, we now have a couple of vacancies in Year 5 and Year 3. It is really important that we keep our pupil numbers strong, as the government allocates school funding based on the number of children on roll. With budgets tighter than ever and funding not fully meeting the needs of schools, we are very keen to fill these places.

Do you know someone looking for a school place in Year 5 or Year 3? They may like to join us after half-term. If so, please encourage them to contact the school office – we would love to talk to them through the process.

Looking ahead to September 2025, unusually, we have one vacancy in our incoming Year 3 cohort. If you know someone who may not have applied because they live outside our catchment area but would still love a place, please let them know it's not too late to apply. These places are open to anyone with a child starting Year 3 in September. They can apply here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess/changeorlateapplication> It would be wonderful to fill this space in time for our transition programme, which begins after half-term.

AI-GENERATED PODCAST Once again, we have used AI to generate an audio version of this newsletter, making it a fun and bite-sized way to stay up to date with what's happening in May. 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](#) or scan the QR code.



ATTENDANCE Our attendance continues to be above the national average, and we are keen to maintain this strong record through to the end of term. Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring your child attends school daily and on time. Every day counts – and consistent, punctual attendance makes a real difference to your child's ability to settle into the day, their learning, and their overall progress.

As a reminder, term-time holidays are typically not authorised due to the impact they have on a child's learning. We provide dates for the academic year well in advance to help families plan their holidays around school commitments. Additionally, our INSET days at the end of the academic year offer a valuable opportunity for families to book getaways slightly earlier than other schools locally and nationally, often helping to make trips more affordable.

Just as school staff are not permitted to take holidays during term time, children should not miss school either. However, we recognise that there are occasions when families do choose to take a term-time holiday. We are grateful to families for their honesty in such circumstances and for acknowledging that these absences cannot be authorised. This openness ensures that children can return to school without feeling the need to explain their absence inaccurately.

BICYCLES are encouraged and very much welcomed in school. We have noticed that lots of the bicycles and scooters are not locked. Any such item is left at the owner's risk, hence us requesting you send your child to school with a lock. D Locks are recommended.

CALENDAR/INSET DAYS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026

Autumn Term 2025	Spring Term 2026	Summer Term 2026
<p>Start: Tuesday 2 September & Wednesday 3 September 2025 (INSET days)</p> <p>First day for children: Thursday 4th September.</p> <p>Half term: 27 October – 31 October 2025</p> <p>Finish: Friday 19 December 2025</p>	<p>Start: Monday 5 January 2026</p> <p>Half term: 16 – 20 February 2026</p> <p>Finish: Friday 27 March 2026</p>	<p>Start: Monday 13 April 2026</p> <p>Half term: 25 – 29 May 2026</p> <p>Finish: Tuesday 21 July 2026 (20/21 INSET days)</p> <p>Last day for children: Friday 17 July 2026</p>
<p>INSET DAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 02 September 2025 Wednesday 03 September 2025 	<p>INSET DAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friday 05 December 2025 Friday 13 February 2026 - KGA Professional Day 	<p>INSET DAYS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 20 July 2026 Tuesday 21 July 2026

COMMUNITY INFORMATION is added to our website with various events and information which may be of interest to you. Click [here](#) to view current information.

DROP-OFFS and goodbyes should occur on the blue playground each morning. Unless an alternative arrangement has been made with you and your child's class teacher, please do not walk with your child to their classroom in the morning. Once in Junior School, we aim to teach skills for independence in a variety of everyday scenarios - we value your support for your child to do this, where possible.

GOMER INFANT SCHOOL apparatus is ONLY for Gomer Infant children during the school day. We regularly remind children not to play on it. Please reinforce this when you are on-site at drop-off and collection time.

INTERNET SAFETY Lee Haywood, founder of Online Safety UK, will be delivering an engaging and informative session titled *Demystifying the World of Apps*. The sessions will provide current information about Apps and IT usage to ensure that your child and family are as safe as possible online. King's Bay House are kindly hosting the sessions and with thanks to all Bay House Cluster schools for working together to plan and pay for the sessions. There are two sessions available **Wednesday 21 May 2025 – 16:00 or 18:00** – both hosted in the Main Hall at King's Academy Bay House. Each

session will last no more than an hour and you will have the opportunity to ask questions. This is also an opportunity for our Year 6 pupils to have a pre-transition visit to their future secondary school

JOB VACANCY We are actively recruiting a **Clerk** for our Local Governing Body. As the essential link between our school and governing body, you'll play a key role in ensuring that our governance runs smoothly, effectively and in line with statutory requirements. Might you be interested or know someone who is?

Hours: 42 hours per year / 39 weeks per year – to cover attendance at 6 Governor Meetings (7 hrs per meeting for prep, attending meeting and post-meeting write-up). Please note, King's Academy Rowner has a vacancy too so if successful at interview you could Clerk for both schools if you would like the extra hours.

Salary: KGA Band 6, Point 12 FTE £29,605 (will be prorated).

To find out more and/or apply please visit our Vacancies Page on our website [here](#).

NATIONAL THANK A TEACHER or SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER DAY is Thursday 19 June. Team Gomer are grateful for each other, their KGA colleagues and for colleagues who teach and support their own children in and around Gosport. The Thank a Teacher campaign recognises ALL staff working in UK schools and colleges; school leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, and all support staff such as lunchtime supervisors, caretakers and cleaners. The campaign exists to celebrate the professionalism, passion and commitment of schools all around the country. So, if you would like to send a **free** card (anonymously or signed) to any member of staff working in any educational establishment, you can do so by visiting [here](#). And messages received are valued by the recipient very much.

OUTDOOR LEARNING/GROUND FORCE MORNING - PART 3 has been scheduled for the morning of Friday 27 June in preparation for the judging of Gosport in Bloom. Please [click here](#) to confirm you are able to help with your child. A very big thank you to all those families who helped with our last Ground Force Morning and for all the donated plants etc. We had a record amount of volunteers - 58! The school grounds were improved no end. Your help really does make a difference! We look forward to seeing as many families again soon for Part 3.

POLITE REMINDER Water bottles should be in school EVERYDAY and of the plastic variety. We are having to provide some to the children daily and just do not have enough spares. With the warmer months approaching please ensure your child is organised with their own bottle.

REPORTING ABSENCE Thank you to parents/carers who continue to use our website system to log their child's absence. A polite reminder to those who may be new to reporting absence or lateness, to do so via our [website form](#). This system allows messages to be accessed and forwarded to members of staff immediately. If you need to request a planned absence please ask the office for a form in order that this can be processed accordingly or find it on our Attendance Matters [website page](#).

SATs have been scheduled for Year 6 commencing the week beginning 12th May. 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 Y6 parents/carers in our annual reports (July) and liaise closely with secondary schools to inform them about Year 6. Year 6 children are invited to arrive at school each day from 8.10am for a SATs breakfast. Children are to arrive at The Globe where they will be provided with some breakfast options e.g. pain-au-chocolat, fruit, croissants, crumpets etc. If your child does not want to have breakfast with us, they are still able to join us at this time.

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

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

- Plan a relaxing weekend before the SATS
- Ensure your child gets plenty of sleep during SATs week
- Talk to your child about how they are feeling
- Find small things that can help your child relax during the week
- Make sure they are in school with plenty of time - rushing can add to feeling unsettled
- Remind them that they are awesome and SATs are only a snapshot of who they are

SEATBELT SAFETY The Road Safety Team are always shocked to hear how many children don't always wear their seatbelt. Below is a Sway link that the Road Safety Team have asked us to share with our school community. This highlights information about the use of booster seats as well as seatbelts and reminds parents of the seatbelt laws.

- [Seatbelt safety](#)

SLIPPER FRIDAY - a School Council success. We are thrilled to announce the results of our recent School Council Campaign – and it's official... Slipper Friday has won the vote! An impressive 162 children voted for the cosy and fun idea of wearing slippers every Friday, making it the clear favourite. As a result, slippers are now a permanent and optional part of our Friday uniform. Children who wish to take part should still arrive at school wearing their normal school shoes and then change into their slippers once in class. Slippers can either be brought in each Friday or left at school in a named bag on their peg – whichever works best for your family. This is a fantastic example of pupil voice in action and a lovely development in our school community. We are proud of our School Council for listening to their peers, campaigning thoughtfully and helping to introduce a new tradition that brings both comfort to the end of the school week.

SPECIAL MAN FROGS gift-sale is all set for the morning of Friday 13 June for all year groups. All gifts are priced at £3. The sale is totally optional.

SPECIAL MAN LUNCH has been organised for **Friday 13 June**, so that children can share lunch with that 'special man' in their life - father, carer, grandparent, godfather, uncle, family friend etc. Please complete [this form](#) if you would like to take part in this event, by **Friday 25 May** (during half term week). Our delicious school meals are charged at £3.00 with payments for the adult meal only, to be made online via **SCOPAY, under TRIPS**. Alternatively, you can bring a packed lunch. Children's school meals can be ordered on the day as usual and paid for online into their own account. To accommodate our special visitors, we will have staggered lunch sittings as follows:-

Year 3 - 11.45am	Year 4 - 12 noon	Year 5 - 12.15pm	Year 6 - 12.30pm
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If you have a child in lower school and upper school, please attend the **YOUNGEST** child's sitting

All special men should arrive at 11:45, then please make your way to the blue playground, so we can sign you in. Special Men will be required to wear a visitor's sticker. Special Men will then be asked to meet their child outside their classroom door and then go off to play on the field until their year group is called in for lunch (see times above). Again after their meal, if they wish, Special Men can stay to play with their child/ren. Lunch will finish at 12.45pm and we ask that you leave the site at this time - signing out as you go.

To safeguard all our pupils, please be aware that **NO MOBILE PHONES** are to be out or used whilst on site. **NO** photos should be taken or any recordings made.

The menu for Special Man Lunch will be as follows:-

- Red Option - Fish Fingers with chips, peas or beans
- Green Option - Cheesy Bean Tortilla Toastie with chips (V)
- Jacket Potato - with beans and/or cheese (V) or tuna mayo
- Tomato Pasta - fresh homemade pasta sauce with wholegrain pasta (V)

All the above will also include a pudding of chocolate ice cream, fresh fruit or yoghurt.

Please note that meal choices **CANNOT BE CHANGED** on the day once ordered. If you are unable to attend, you may like to organise an alternative Special Male friend or relative to sit with your child.

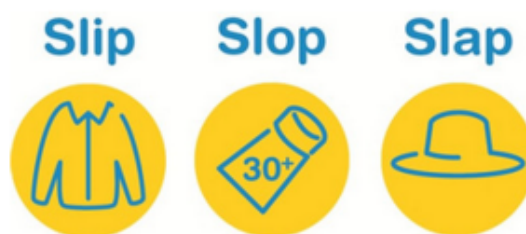
If we experience a wet play, we may have to ask 'Special Men' to leave after eating, due to limited space inside the school.

SUMMER UNIFORM is welcome this term and until October half-term. Please see the website for more details. Print and Sew, our uniform stockist, has a full range of items for you to purchase. Additionally, local supermarkets provide competitively priced white shirts, polo shirts and black skirts, trousers and shorts and NAVY blue gingham summer dresses/playsuits.

SUN SAFETY We are looking forward to the sun shining and children thoroughly enjoying being outside. To help keep them safe in the sun, please remember sun safety messages: 'slip, slop, slap'. Sun safety experts recommend:

- **Slip** on sun protective, pale clothing that covers as much of your body as possible.
- **Slop** on SPF 30 or higher water-resistant sunscreen, at least 20 minutes before sun exposure.
- **Slap** on a sun hat that shades your face, neck and ears. We do not mind what colour this is.

We have been made aware that some Nivea sun creams and possibly others, now contain almond oil and we do have some pupils in school with severe nut allergies - please bear this in mind when applying sunscreen for school and avoid these types - thank you.



SWIMMING for Year 4 is underway this term. Class 4LW currently have their swimming sessions at Brune Park with class 4EC starting on Tuesday 10 June. Please ensure the children have their swim kits (one-piece swimsuits for girls) in school plus a small snack and drink for after. Please ensure all towels and other items are well-named.

TEACHERS your child will be learning with, in their next year at King's Academy Gomer, will be shared in July, before transition. In July there are opportunities planned for your child to meet and work with their new teacher(s) and support staff, whilst learning a little about what life will be like in the new year group. If you feel that your child requires additional support to transition into their next year group, please make contact with their current class teacher or Learning Mentor (LAPS) to arrange this.

TRANSITION MATTERS and is a major event not only for a young person but also for the family members who support their child. It is therefore our aim to ensure that the transition journey is reassuring, informative and exciting. A move to a new school is a significant time for any family. For some, transition will be an exciting time. For others, this will be a time of nervousness. Our Year 2s will receive a warm welcome and opportunities to learn more about us, our approach and have opportunities to preview KS2 learning during the Summer Term. Our Year 6 will also be supported by us here at Gomer and their new schools after the May half term through a variety of activities. Transition days are planned for all year groups on 8 and 9 July; more details will follow nearer the time. Parents/carers of children in year 2 or 6 who require additional transition support, will be contacted individually.

VE DAY 80 ANNIVERSARY - 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 in 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 8th May, and we will be learning about this important event in school on the day itself. Please see below details of our event taking place on **Friday 9th May 2025**:

- Parents/carers from the infant and junior schools are invited to the Gomer Schools' site at 2:15pm, for a prompt 2:30pm start, on **Friday 9th May**, to join us to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. The children will be performing a dance and some of the younger years will be singing for us.
- All are invited to wear red, white and blue for the occasion
- If good weather, we will be on the field between the back of both schools; Parents/Carers are welcome to bring a picnic blanket (plus nut and alcohol-free snacks and drinks if they wish).

We look forward to seeing you here to commemorate this occasion with us.

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK NATIONAL EVENT - 19th to 23rd May 2025 Whilst we hope as many parents as possible leave their cars at home, we appreciate that many cannot avoid driving. To include as many children as possible, we would encourage these parents to 'park and stride' (using our designated park and stride location at the Privett Football ground). This week is a perfect opportunity for parents to discuss the Green Cross Code with their children as well as promote the health and environmental benefits of walking to school. Please remember, any child attending GClub, can, if they choose to, walk their 'steps' with Mrs Case - your child just needs to let her know and she will have the steps recorded.

YEAR 6 LEAVERS HOODIES are optional and can now be ordered as per the flyer previously sent by email on 22 April. The hoodies are priced from £21.50 and the Y6 leavers can order from various colours and sizes. This year, due to some polite lobbying from Year 6 (and their hard work this year) Y6 children are welcome to wear their hoodie, regardless of colour choice, as part of their PE kit from whenever you purchase one – please ensure that it is labelled with your child's name. Therefore, they will be able to wear them half a term earlier than usual!

YOU SAID/WE DID With thanks to the parents/carers who took the time to share their views through the recent Ofsted feedback. We understand that some of you would like to receive more information about what your child is learning in school. We recognise how important this is and are really pleased to see your interest in supporting your child's learning journey. Full details of your child's curriculum — including an overview for the year and termly updates have always been located on our website. Please click below to access this information:

[Whole School](#)

[Year 3](#)

[Year 4](#)

[Year 5](#)

[Year 6](#)

To enhance our communication, we will email you the Curriculum Overview by email to enable easy access to the available information.

Parent/Teacher Meetings We understand that some of you prefer face-to-face meetings with your child's class teacher. We moved to online during COVID and identified many benefits. Following feedback, last term, we trialled a hybrid approach with Year 6. While this offered flexibility, some meetings overran, meaning that parents waiting online missed part of their appointment. So, we have reverted back to fully online.

To help manage teacher workload, our meetings take place during the school day rather than in the evenings – a change we made some years ago. Space in school is also limited, so online meetings have helped us overcome this challenge. In fact, our data shows that online meetings have led to higher levels of attendance of parents/carers than face-to-face appointments, which supports our aim of ensuring teachers speak with as many families as possible. Where technical issues have occurred, we've followed up with a phone call. Additionally, Bay House uses the same online system for their parent meetings, so currently there is consistency in offer across KS2-KS4.

We have recently learned that some of you would like the opportunity to see your child's books – something that isn't possible during an online meeting. We welcome this and are arranging for books to be available for you to view after school at some point this half-term. We're still finalising the details, but will ensure the arrangements are manageable for the school and convenient for families. Additionally, the teachers maintain an 'open door' policy but can be busy. If it is not possible to talk to you at the start or the end of the day on the playground, then please check-in with the office who will make an appointment for you.

Thank you for your continued support.