

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 SEPTEMBER: 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	
	Registration: 8.45 am	End of school day: 3:10 pm
Mondays	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - starting Monday 08 September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls Football Club (Y5/Y6): 3.10-4.00pm - Starting Monday 15 September (Google Form to follow) Gomer Growers with Mrs Carre by invitation: 3.10-4.00pm - starting w/b Monday 15 September (Google Form to follow) Lower School Counting Club (by invitation) with Mrs Shadbolt: 3.10-4.00pm - starting w/b Monday 15 September (Google Form to follow) 	
Tuesdays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - starting Tuesday 09 September Y5 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - starting Tuesday 09 September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service Club (all year groups): 12.00-12.50 	
Wednesdays	Y6 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - starting Wednesday 10 September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper School Netball Club with Miss Annison: 3.10-4.00pm - starting Wednesday 18 September (Google Form to follow) 	
Thursdays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school 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"> Choir practice (all year groups): 8:15-8:45 - starting Thursday 11 September Lower School Art Club with Mrs Wheal in 3LW: 3.10-4.00pm - starting Thursday 18 September (Google Form to follow) Whole School Citizenship Club with Mrs Fry: 3.10-4.00pm - starting Thursday 25 September (Google Form to follow) Whole School Drama Club with Mrs Gardner in 5EG: 3.10-4.00pm - starting Thursday 18 September (Google Form to follow) 	
Fridays	Y5 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Learning will be sent home every Friday, starting dates as follows: Y3 - starting Friday 19 September 2025 Y4, 5 & 6 - starting Friday 12 September 2025 	
Tuesday 02 September	INSET DAY - School closed to children	
Wednesday 03 September	INSET DAY - School closed to children	
Friday 12 September	Home Learning starts for Years 4, 5 & 6	

Tuesday 16 September	Y3, Y4 & Y5 Meet the teacher: drop-in to child's classroom 3.15pm-4.00pm
Thursday 18 September	Bay House Open Evening - Y6 Pupils & parents invited to attend. Please see details and booking form below
Friday 19 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Learning starts for Year 3 • Class 6GS - Cake Sale for whole school - 50p
Thursday 23 September	Y3 to St. Mary's Church Alverstoke, 13.30, for Baptism talk to support learning in RE: belonging.
Wednesday 24 September	Year 6 SATs Parent Meeting (SATs Chat): You are invited to attend either the 15:15 session or the 16:15 session (lasting no more than 45 minutes) . The meetings are <u>not</u> for the Year 6 children.
Friday 26 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 6KT - Cake Sale for whole school - 50p
Upcoming dates for October	
Friday 03 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class 5LL - Cake Sale for whole school - 50p • Zones of Regulation Day - Equipping children with the tools and language to be able to articulate and manage day to day emotions and feelings. Children to wear red, green, yellow and blue clothing/accessories to represent each of our emotional zones.
Friday 10 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Photos - individual: am (Y5 PE day - please wear uniform to school for photo) and bring trainers • Harvest Celebration - donations of tinned or packet foods welcomed • Class 5EG - Cake Sale for whole school - 50p
Thursday 16 October	International Day
Friday 17 October	Shoe Boxes collected - am
Tuesday 21 October	Flu Immunisation - whole school

A WARM WELCOME FROM YOUR HEADS Mrs Digby (Associate Headteacher - on site every day) & Mrs Mulhall (Executive Headteacher) working across King's Academy Gomer and King's Academy Rowner to you all and welcome to a brand-new school year! We are so excited to have you back and welcome new families to our community. We can not wait for all the learning ahead. There is so much to look forward to this term, from exciting new lessons to enjoyable activities that will help us all grow together. As always, we are here to support you every step of the way. We are keen to work together as a school community, and we know that when we all work as a team - children, teachers and parents/carers - amazing things happen! Remember, our door is always open. If you ever have any questions or worries, or just want to chat, we are here to listen and help. We are typically on the playground every day and if we are not Miss Sewell or Miss Tuckley will be. Let's make this term the best one yet! We look forward to seeing everyone in their school uniform on **Thursday 4 September promptly**.

Please note, **children should be on-site at 8.40am** and are **required to be lining-up swiftly in order that they are ready to be led into class by the class teacher at 8.45am. Please do not be late** because it interrupts the start of your child's day. We will be monitoring any persistent lateness and will address this.

If dropping your child off, please remain on the blue playground when the children go into school. Do not accompany your child to their class door. Although some children may find this helpful, it upsets others that are trying to break this habit.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS will be starting w/b 15 September. Please look out for an additional email in the first full week back with a Google Form to express your interest. There is a charge of £10 per after-school club, per term, to support resources, possible staffing and kit. Struggling with this contribution? Please speak to the school office who can work this through with you. If an active club runs on a day that is not your child's PE day, they will need to bring a PE kit to change into. Due to available staff, Service Club will continue to run on Tuesday lunchtimes - more information to follow. We are looking to run sports clubs from October. More information to follow. We do not have a coach for a boys football team. Might you be interested in coaching a team? If so, please contact the school office.

ANNUAL ACADEMY IMPROVEMENT Our SATs results were above the national average this year. Regardless, we continue to strive for excellence. Our Academy Improvement Plan is a vital tool that helps us achieve this goal. It provides a clear roadmap for enhancing educational standards, fostering a positive and inclusive school environment and ensuring every child receives the support they need to thrive. By setting specific objectives and regularly reviewing our progress, we are committed to creating a dynamic learning atmosphere where every child can succeed and develop their full potential. Together, with the support of our dedicated staff, engaged parents and enthusiastic students, we are building a brighter future.

APPLYING FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE: YEAR 7 PLACES If your child is currently in Year 6, you will need to apply for a Year 7 place in a secondary school for September 2026. You can name up to three schools on your application. Applications for schools open on Monday 8 September. The deadline for applications is Friday 31 October. To apply for a secondary school place, you must apply through the Hampshire County Council website. See here: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess> We will be sending an additional letter explaining the process to you.

ATTENDANCE is important and we place a high priority on this. We are in the top 10% of highest-attending schools. We are keen to maintain this. Regular school attendance is an important part of giving your child the best possible start in life. It is important that both school and home work together on this. Our Attendance Strategy, in line with Government guidance, includes (but is not limited to) following up any absences (text messages, phone calls, home visits), attendance plans for any absences that frequently fall below 90%, referrals to the Legal Intervention Team and Children's Services (if applicable), never authorising requests for term absences unless due to exceptional circumstances and issuing fixed penalty notices for poor attendance and/or holidays taken in term time. Parents have an important part to play in their child's regular attendance and we appreciate your support with this.

100%	0 days off school
97%	5 days off across the school year
95%	10 days off across the school year
90%	20 days off across the school year
85%	30 days off across the school year

BAY HOUSE OPEN EVENING Year 6 pupils and parents are invited to attend the Bay House open evening on Thursday 18 September 2025. The school will be open from 4.15pm to 7.00pm with the Headteacher's presentations taking place in the Main Hall at 4.30pm, 5.30pm and 6.30pm. To help ensure they keep to the correct number of people attending the presentations, all parents/carers must select which presentation time they will be attending and how many people will be coming along. There is a limit of 4 people maximum per family. Please complete the booking form to confirm your attendance - <https://forms.gle/oLAMgWd6tjdrJPCc6>

BICYCLE SHELTER is for whole school use. A polite reminder that the blue coloured racks are reserved for Big Team Gomer (staff). Children are reminded to cycle to school with a helmet. They should also use a D-lock to secure their bicycle, through the wheel onto the bicycle rack, keeping the key in a safe space in their school bag. Please do not cycle or scoot once you are on site and walk your bicycle to the rack.

BREAKFAST & AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB (GClub) continues for pupils of KGA King's Academy Gomer beginning Thursday 4 September. Bookings should be made at least 24 hours in advance. Please do not leave it too late! We will always try to accommodate last-minute emergency bookings - but please ensure you communicate directly with the school office about this. We have been asked if we can accommodate infant siblings but we are not looking to do so any time soon - if at all. In September, we will be using Tucasi (Scopay) to book and pay for GClub places. Once the session is full you will not be able to book, so advance booking is recommended. For more information and FAQs about GClub please see [here](#).

CAKE SALES are returning this Autumn Term (the only term we do this). We think the sales add to our community spirit. Participation and purchasing from the sales is completely optional. For those classes who are participating we gratefully ask that pupils in the identified class, donate cakes (nut free) into school for sale at a cost of 50p per cake. Money raised from the sales is given to the class who then choose how to spend its funds, e.g. additional wet play games. Donations of cakes (homemade or shop-bought) are brought to school on the morning of the sale in a named (if wanting it back) container. The sale is optional and will be accessible to the whole school, in an organised manner, at morning break (money bought in, in named purses advised). Any monies not spent by classes will travel with them into the new academic year and the sales provide a lovely 'Treat Friday' snack for those children who would like one.

CHARACTER EDUCATION helps any one school build and maintain a culture of values and character development. We were proud to be awarded a kitemark in October 2022. For more information about how this is integrated into our curriculum and how you can build on this at home, please visit our [school website](#). We continue to use our Friday Celebration Assembly to celebrate children of character, linked to our values of **Honesty, Faith and Courage** - look out for the new badges - they are fabulous!

CHOIR continues this term with practices on a Thursday before the start of school (first session Thursday 11 September). The choir has been sounding beautiful and we look forward to them participating in more events during the course of the year. All year groups are welcome to join.

COMMUNICATION To help us manage communication effectively and ensure your enquiry reaches the right person, all email enquiries should be sent to: **enquiries@kgagomer.uk**

When sending an email, **please include your child's year group and/or teacher's name in the subject line**. This allows us to forward your message quickly to the appropriate member of staff. Please note:

- Staff will not use their personal work email addresses to message parents/carers. Necessary replies to be parents/carers will be sent via the enquiries email address or through Arbor. If you are to reply to a teacher's Arbor message your reply will be sent to the enquiries email address.
- The year group email addresses previously used are being deactivated.
- We will continue to use the **Arbor App** for school communications. If you have not yet downloaded the app, please do so [via this [page](#)]. If you experience any difficulties, please contact the school office for support.

Also, a gentle reminder about morning drop-off: At the start of the school day, your child's teacher's priority is to welcome their class and settle pupils into learning. While we always value communication, this is not the best time for extended conversations. If you need to discuss something more than a quick 'hello' or passing message, please email instead or arrange an appointment with your child's teacher. We trust you understand that this helps every child start the day calmly and ensures staff can focus on teaching and learning. By using email for key information, you can be confident it will reach the right person. Please trust that we will be looking after your child.

FACEBOOK continues to provide a forum for current parents/carers to communicate. Please search for our 'secret/closed' parent/carer page. The purpose of our closed parent/carer group is to help everyone by posting informal parent/carer reminders (e.g. school visit tomorrow – wellies required), questions (e.g. When does term end?). The Facebook group has clear guidelines (please see pinned post), secure settings and is available to KGA Gomer parents/carers only. The group is a **positive** forum so we ask that any personal issues or concerns are taken to the school directly. The school monitors the group to ensure that members are respecting its ethos and contributing where necessary. The school does check-in with the page but infrequently, so if you want to bring something to the attention of the school please do this directly with the school office or a member of staff. Although the school operates an up-to-date calendar, website, text service (via Arbor) and provides letters (via email), the school is aware that some information does not always come home - Facebook can help with any queries. We also have a school public page in which we tend to blog daily during term time. **Please do like and comment on our Facebook posts on our school page too – we like knowing you are reading our posts which encourages us to try and do so daily.** Friends of Gomer School (FROGS) have a separate Facebook page which we also recommend you follow.

FOOTBALL is very popular at Gomer. We are happy for the children to play at lunchtimes on their allocated day when they play fairly and kindly. We participated in the Gosport Football League last year and won. Are you a parent/carer who could volunteer to help coach the team? If so, please advise in order that our Year 5 and Year 6 players can take part. The coach will choose the day for practise - please contact the school office by Monday 8 September with your expression of interest.

FROGS are our awesome PTA. Two of our most active volunteers left FROGS when their children left last term. We are very grateful to the new members of the committee. They are already planning some fabulous events which are wonderful for socialising and raising much needed funds. Big Team Gomer generously give time to support many events. We are grateful to all parents/carers who do but typically see it being the same families who physically help at events. Please consider helping at one event this year either with the preparation, during the event or packing away. FROGS would be REALLY pleased to hear from you.

GCLUB are looking forward to welcoming back our GClubbers. Mrs Miles-Williams, supported by Team Gomer has lots planned. Please note, it is likely that Mrs Case will not be working in GClub this half-term due to a medical period of absence. We are sending her lots of love and look forward to her return.

HCC ILLEGAL PARKING NUMBER We have been given the phone number to report illegal parking incidents outside of the school. Illegal parking should also be reported to the police but also to HCC parking team on **0333 0068349**

INHALERS A reminder please to check your child's inhaler, if they have one, to ensure they are in date. We are aware that some use-by dates will have expired over the summer holidays.

HEALTHY SNACKS are welcome at morning break - not chocolate bars, crisps etc. Break snacks need to be stored in class trays, separately from children's lunch boxes - class teachers typically collect these at the start of the day. Please ensure snacks are nut-free and of a healthy/nutritious nature e.g. cereal bars, rice cakes, cheese cubes, vegetable sticks and fruit are appropriate. Crisps and chocolate biscuits should be reserved for lunchtime only.

LEARNING is at the centre of all we do. Our children are immersed in reading, writing and mathematics which is woven into a broad curriculum. Keen to know more about exactly what your child will be learning this term? Please visit our curriculum page [here](#). On this page you can see the overview for the whole school and visit your child's year group for more focused information regarding term-by-term learning. Your support with your child's school-based learning is invaluable. Quick ways to support your child make progress include hearing them read every day or you reading to them, multiplication recall and visiting key spellings.

LUNCH The cost of a school meal is £3.00 per meal. Please see the menu details [here](#). **IMPORTANT – Ending Y2 and starting Y3** Your child will have been automatically able to have free school meals up to now as part of the universal scheme. However, this ends when they leave infant school. If you meet the criteria and have not applied for FSM, your child will not receive them from Y3 onwards and meal costs will apply. If you think your child is entitled to free school meals you can apply via the Hampshire website <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants>

MEET THE TEACHER for Y3, Y4 and Y5 is scheduled for after school on Tuesday 16 September. This is an opportunity for your child to show you their new classroom, show you some of their books and for them to introduce you to their teacher. In order for us to prepare for this event please complete the [Google Form](#) to help the school have your child's books ready. Please arrive to the School Reception, no later than 4.00pm to sign in. Please be set to leave the school site at 4.15pm.

MUD KITCHEN/PEN DEN play is very popular. Might you have some pots, pans and/or kitchen utensils you no longer require at home? If so, please send them into school and we would love to make use of them in their Pen Dens. No glass please.

NUT FREE school. Please do not give your child nuts or any food containing nuts to eat in school (this includes Nutella spread). We have children on site with severe allergies.

PENCIL CASES are no longer required in school. We will be providing children with all the equipment they need. This aims to help you save a few pennies and keep working spaces neat and tidy in the classroom. Children were informed of this in the last week of term by their teacher and our new Year 3s were informed by letter.

PERIPATETIC MUSIC LESSONS 2025/2026 start this month w/b 8 September. If your child would like to sign up for music lessons, please contact Mrs Gardner who is our Music Leader or the school office. The competitive termly charges of £85 per term represents a minimum of 10 lessons - often the children have more but we do need to account for teacher absences - this still represents superb value for money. If you would like your child to have a trial lesson, please do contact the school office or have a chat with Mrs Gardner about the options.

ROTARY/SHOE BOX APPEAL We have been asked to support the Rotary Shoe Box Appeal again this year and the pamphlets will be sent home, as soon as we receive them, regarding this charity collection. If you would like to participate with this optional charity activity, please sellotape, to the top of the box, a donation of **£2.00** towards transportation costs. We are being given 50 self-assembly boxes if you require a shoe box. If you would like one of these, for the purpose of gifting a box, please come to the school office. We recognise that these gifts can be costly to accumulate. Therefore, donations of individual items are as welcome as complete boxes, so that the children can make up boxes together. Items that would be useful to send in include, toiletries, games, colouring items, socks etc. Boxes or items to be received in school **by Friday 10 October (morning)**. You are welcome to send complete boxes, contributions for a box or money to support the P&P ahead of this time.

STUBBINGTON STUDY CENTRE for Year 5 has been scheduled for November. A kit list will be sent home later this month to help you prepare. Please remember, as previously communicated, you will be required to drop your child at the centre on Wednesday 12 November at 10.00am and collect them at 13.00 on Friday 14 November. Parent/carers transport has helped to keep costs down. We are very grateful to the staff who give their time voluntarily to support this overnight trip.

START OF DAY Every day children are welcome on site from 8.40am, on the blue playground. Children are to be lined up behind their year group cone, so they can walk into school, with their teacher at the start time of **8.45am**. If you are walking into school after 8.50am this will be considered late. So, please ensure your child arrives to school promptly everyday, by 8.45am. We need to make a swift start to each day in order that children can start their Gomer learning journey promptly.

TUCASI (SCOPAY) is used for all payments e.g. visits and school meals. Link codes have been sent to all families, so please check your emails. Additionally, it will be used for the booking of GClub - we are delighted to see that lots of sessions have been booked (children cannot attend unless they have been booked in).

UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS We look forward to welcoming our pupils in their smart uniforms at the start of term. The vast majority of the community adheres to our uniform policy - thank you. To ensure you have the correct uniform please check the [website information](#). If children are not wearing the correct uniform we will be reminding you and may ask you to come to school with the correct uniform for your child. Children need to have their hair tied back if it is long enough. If this is forgotten this will need to be sorted in school. Please ensure all uniforms are clearly named. Children should not wear any jewellery (with the exception of watches) apart from a single or pair of **stud earrings** in pierced ears. The school cannot accept any responsibility or liability for mislaid personal jewellery. To help keep your child safe, earrings need to be removed for PE lessons. We suggest they are not worn at all on PE days.

YEAR 6 SATS MEETINGS are scheduled for **Wednesday 24 September**. The Year 6 team will be running two SATs meetings for parents and carers of Year 6 children on this date. You are invited to attend **either the 15:15 session or the 16:15 session (lasting no more than 45 minutes)**.

It is **essential** that all parents/carers attend one of these meetings. The meetings are not for the Year 6 children. The sessions will:

- Explain the **robustness of the SATs process** as overseen by the Standards and Testing Agency (STA)
- Outline what SATs entail and the expectations for pupils
- Share what your child will need to do in preparation
- Provide guidance on how you can best support your child at home.

Research is clear that **children are more likely to succeed when parents engage with their learning**. The Education Endowment Foundation notes that *'parental engagement in children's learning is consistently associated with positive outcomes'*.

Your attendance will ensure you are fully informed and equipped to support your child through this important stage in their education. Please let us know your attendance [here](#).

WATER BOTTLES are encouraged in class. We ask that these are not hard screw top metal bottles and required to be plastic, ideally with a sports type top to avoid spillages. Please name bottles clearly and have them washed daily. Even in hot weather last year, children were not being sent to school with bottles - we do not have a spare supply of these so please organise these from home.

YOU SAID/WE DID We welcome feedback. Throughout the school year, we will use this section of the newsletter to tell you we have responded/changes etc to keep you posted.