

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 NOVEMBER: 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 - Girls Football Club (Y5/Y6): 3:10-4:00pm - Lower School Counting Club (by invitation) with Mrs Shadbolt: 3:10-3:45pm	
Tuesdays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Y5 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Service Club (all year groups): 12.00-12.50	
Wednesdays	Y6 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Upper School Netball Club with Miss Annison: 3:10-4:00pm	
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 - Choir practice (all year groups): 8:15-8:45 - Lower School Art Club with Mrs Wheal in 3LW: 3:10-4:00pm - Whole School Citizenship Club with Mrs Fry: 3:10-4:00pm - Whole School Drama Club with Mrs Gardner in 5EG: 3:10-4:00pm - Football Training (League): 3:10-4:00pm	
Fridays	Y5 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - Slipper Friday - A chance for children to swap shoes for slippers to wear in school - Home Learning sent home	
Monday 03 November	Cauliflower Card order deadline - Please ensure all orders are placed and artwork is returned to school for processing by 09:00 am.	
Wednesday 5 November	School Council Visiting the Mayor	
Thursday 06 November	PLEASE NOTE: NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS TODAY - GClub will run as normal - Y6 Height & Weight Measurement Programme - See email sent 15 October - FROGS/POGOS Firework Spectacular: 5:30-6:30pm - Flyer sent home	
Friday 07 November	Staff bake - Cake Sale for whole school - 50p - all proceeds go to Cancer awareness charity (3IA sale postponed to 21st Nov)	
Sunday 09 November	Gosport Remembrance at War Memorial Hospital	

w/b Monday 10 November	Anti bullying week. Children are welcome to wear odd socks to serve as a positive reminder that we are all different and should be proud of our uniqueness.
Tuesday 11 November	● Remembrance: Service Families invited to join us with refreshments: 10:30-12:00 ● Pupils welcome to wear Cadet, Scout, Brownie, Guide or Cub uniforms to school
Wed 12 → Fri 14 November	Y5 Stubbington Residential Visit
Friday 14 November	● Children in Need - Pudsey Accessories with school uniform are welcomed ● Class 3LW - Cake Sale for whole school - 50p
Sunday 16 November	Gosport Half Marathon - Children's Fun Run and Challenge Race - see details below
Thursday 20 November	Y6 Mary Rose Workshop - packed lunches required. School uniform to be worn with comfortable shoes & coats required.
Friday 21st November	● Class 3IA - Cake Sale for whole school - 50p ● Ground Force/Outdoor Learning Day - 'gardening clothes' can be worn to school.
Monday 24 November	Y5 Parent/Teacher Learning Reviews Online. Booking details letter to follow.
Friday 28 November	● Non-school uniform (Christmas jumpers welcomed) in exchange for tombola prizes ● Cake donations for the fair are very welcome today ● FROGS Christmas Fair: 2:30-3:10pm (pupils only), 15:15-16:15 (all welcome)
Upcoming dates for December	
Monday 01 December	Christmas lunch - order deadline by 12 noon please, everyone to complete please.
Friday 05 December	INSET Day - School closed to children
Tuesday 09 December	Y6 to KGA Bay House Performance - The Addams Family Musical: 1:00 - 3:45 pm (approx. finish) - for more information/to give permission click here .
Wednesday 10 December	Y4 Christingle at St Mary's Church: 1:45-2:45pm. Children will walk to the church from school. Please complete this Google Form to give permission and outline if you will be attending - we hope to see lots of you in attendance. Collection boxes for the Children's Society, will be sent home separately to be returned to school.
Thursday 11 December	Rocksteady Concert at Gomer for parents of pupils who have Rocksteady lessons: 09:15-10:15. Please enter via the school hall doors to sign in

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK is **w/b 10 November**. This year's theme for anti-bullying week is 'Power for Good'. At our school, we are committed to fostering an environment where every child feels safe, valued, and respected. We do not condone any form of bullying, and we believe that we all have the power to be kind and share the good, and that by doing this we can create a positive and supportive community for all. Throughout the week, our children will engage in thoughtful activities, discussions, and lessons, centred around the impacts of bullying and the importance of choosing to use their power for good. They will explore different forms of bullying and how their words and actions affect others, as well as discussing who they can talk to about concerns around bullying and other support available.

On **Monday, 10 November**, children are **welcome to wear odd socks** to serve as a positive reminder that we are all different and should be proud of our uniqueness. We encourage parents and carers to continue these important conversations at home, reinforcing the message that every child has the right to feel safe and respected, both in school and beyond. Together, we can stand united against bullying by consistently choosing respect in our words and actions.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS Regular attendance at school is essential for every child's learning, progress, and well-being. The Department for Education (DfE) continues to emphasise that attending school every day possible gives children the best chance to succeed. We are proud of the high levels of attendance we maintain and thank families for working with us to make this possible. Our aim is for every child to achieve at least **95% attendance**, which aligns with national expectations. We are pleased to share that our attendance this half-term has been **above the national average**, and we are keen to keep this positive momentum going. You will receive regular updates about your child's attendance so that we can work together to spot any patterns or barriers early. We completely understand that children may need to stay home when they are genuinely unwell. There may also be rare, exceptional circumstances when absence is unavoidable, and we are always happy to offer advice and support. However, when attendance drops below **95%**, we are required to contact parents or carers to discuss how we can help improve this. Attendance below **90%** is considered *persistent absence* by the DfE and requires further follow-up to ensure children do not fall behind in their learning. Good attendance really does make a difference — helping children to learn more, build confidence, and feel part of our school.

CAKE SALES Thank you to all our families who have supported the sales with donations and for those children who bought their Treat Friday snack. Our young entrepreneurs have raised the following sums for their class:

5EG: £121.21	5LL: £99.42	4EC: £123.00	4LF: TBC
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CHARITY FUNDRAISING We are pleased to announce that King's Academy Gomer will be hosting an Elf Day on 19.12.25 (to support and learn about Alzheimer's Research). Children have the option to dress as an elf and/or wear some elf accessories. The dressing-up and donations are totally optional. They are a fun way to end the term, learn and offer support. Additionally, supporting charities is a powerful way to make a positive impact in our communities and beyond and important because it:

1. **Fosters Empathy:** Contributing to charitable causes or raising awareness helps us understand the challenges others face, cultivating compassion and empathy in our community.
2. **Makes a Difference:** Charities often address urgent needs, from providing food and shelter to supporting education and healthcare. Every contribution, big or small, helps create meaningful change.
3. **Builds Community:** Supporting local charities strengthens community bonds and fosters collaboration. Together, we can tackle issues that matter most to us.
4. **Inspiring Others:** When we give or share, we inspire those around us to do the same. Acts of kindness can create a ripple effect, encouraging a culture of generosity.

We would love to hear what charities our parents, carers and families think the school could support/raise awareness for later in the year. Although we would love to support all suggested charities, we are unable to do so, but will try to consider all ideas. Please let us know your thoughts [here](#).

In support of our community who have been affected by cancer, staff have chosen 'Breast Cancer Now' as the charity they would like to support. October has been Breast Cancer Awareness month and staff will be making cakes and selling them (on our usual Friday cake sale day) on the first Friday after we return from half term. Class cake sales will be postponed on this day to make way for the staff cakes for charity. If your child would like a cake, it will cost the usual 50p and we are hoping to be able to extend the sale after school for our community also.

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION will be made available by our local MP Caroline Dinenage. We have entered the competition before and a Year 6 pupil from Gomer won two years ago and a pupil in Year 4 last year! The shortlisted finalists of the competition will have their work on display at a local venue and the winner will be invited to visit Caroline in Parliament. The winning design will also be used as Caroline's 2025 Christmas card. If you would be happy for your child's design, and information to be shared with our MP, please complete this [form](#) by **Thursday 13 November**. Without your consent, we will not submit your child's design. Please note, King's Academy Gomer is in no way affiliated with any political party. We have been invited as a community event.

CHRISTMAS FAIR is scheduled for **Friday 28 November** and is set to be another wonderful community event. The children love preparing for this event. FROGS are currently planning this with school staff. A reminder that children are invited to wear non-uniform/festive jumpers on that Friday in exchange for tombola items e.g. chocolates, tins of biscuits, sweets, jars, snacks and treats. We are not doing a bottle stall and alcoholic items can't go on the tombola, as we wouldn't be able to give them to unaccompanied children. Prizes for the raffle and homemade or shop-bought cakes will also be gratefully received (cakes on the day of the fair). Might you own a business and be able to provide a raffle prize and/or know someone who would? This would be an awesome way to support the FROGS and your school. **Raffle tickets will be sent home in due course.** Timings and arrangements for the day are as follows:

- **2.30-3.10pm – Pupils only** can access the fair during this time - if they wish to do so. This provides every child the opportunity to attend the fair and enables the school to dismiss the children at the end of the day safely, so that children can be reunited with their adult from their classroom. If spending, please ensure pupils have their money in a named purse or envelope. Please note, there will be a Calm Zone in place for those pupils who do not wish to take part. Toasties and hot dogs will be available for £1, cakes for 50p alongside a selection of 'pocket money' stalls, so **change will be appreciated**. Raffle tickets will also be available during this time.
- **3.10pm – Pupils** will be dismissed from their classroom door as normal. Please meet them as you normally would. If they are attending the fair after the school day they can only do so if they are chaperoned by a parent/carer.
- **3.15pm – ALL WELCOME** to school for the fair which can be accessed via the hall door. Stalls will be in the hall, and also in lower school classrooms, and the large year 5 classroom beside the library. The raffle will be held in the hall and tickets can be purchased on the day.
- GClub will operate as normal. If children attending want to attend the fair for longer, Mrs Case will endeavour to arrange a chaperone for them after 3:15pm.
- **3.45pm** - classroom stalls start to close. Please either leave the site or make your way to the hall for the raffle.
- **4.00pm** - The raffle will be called in the hall. **Please send in requests for extra tickets, if required, ahead of the fair to save time.** You are however welcome to buy more on the day. You may also like to continue to buy some food and sweet treats from the hall to keep you nourished during the raffle.
- **4.15pm** Fair closes after the raffle so please make your way offsite, avoiding the gym and play-trails.

We look forward to seeing you here. We have stalls that require volunteers – please help if you can. In anticipation of your continued support, thank you for supporting your school. Some points to help the day run smoothly:

- Non-school uniform (Christmas jumpers welcomed) in exchange for tombola/fair donations (no alcohol please)
- Raffle tickets - **These will be sent home in due course.** Please return your ticket stubs with payment together with any unused tickets to the school office - the prizes are awesome if you have yet to see them!
- For those pupils in Year 3 who have PE today please ensure they (as a minimum) have trainers to change into.
- Children to bring money to school should they wish to spend on the stalls. Children are advised to bring it in a named purse or envelope, which will be collected by their teacher at the beginning of the day. Small change is recommended and appreciated.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH - Wednesday 17 December - Children can choose from a traditional Roast Turkey Lunch (Red) or a Squash, Spinach and Cream Cheese Filo Bake (Green), together with all trimmings and a Vanilla Christmas Shortbread. Please order [here](#) by midday, Monday 01 December (even if choosing to bring in a packed lunch) and make payment of £3.00 via Scopay. Children are encouraged to wear Christmas or festive coloured jumpers, with their school uniform, for the Christmas meal. With thanks to the FROGS, who will be treating the children to crackers. These will be eco-friendly crackers.

COLD AND WET WEATHER sees children needing a coat. Please ensure that you send your child to school wearing their coat. At drizzly break-times, we still like children to have some time outside and without a coat this is problematic. Wellies (or stout shoes) are very much welcomed in school if they are clearly named/identifiable. Wellies will be stored on the racks (thank you for buying these FROGS) outside during the day but stowed inside overnight. When the field is not too saturated in the wetter and wintry months, children with wellies will be able to play on the field. You may also like to send your child to school with a coat you don't mind getting a little muddy if you have a child who is enjoying our 'mud kitchen'.

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

COUGHS and COLDS A further reminder. In the coming months, there may be further seasonal illnesses. Please note school Calpol is for school-based incidents. Should your child need Calpol for pain relief, please ensure you have it given to them before the start of school and have sent it in with them (named and with related consent given to the office) in the event they require it to be readministered during the school day. Schools do not have the resources to provide Calpol for known illnesses. Please also send your child to school with a **packet of tissues** to help with their runny noses or sneezes. It's fine to send your child to school with a minor [cough](#) or [common cold](#). But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly. For further information and guidance on common childhood illnesses please click [here](#) to access the NHS website.

FACEBOOK continues to capture our daily blog. Please interact with our posts by 'liking' or commenting positively on them. Additionally, we do have our private parent/carer Facebook page which gives parent/carers the opportunity to ask each other questions out of hours. The school owns the page but please do not ask questions you are aiming directly at the school - for something only the school can answer or needs bringing to their attention, please communicate with the school office or your child's teacher directly.

FIREWORK SPECTACULAR is planned for **Thursday 6 November** - thank you and the community for your support with this; tickets are selling fast. All food will be served in the hall and we will be viewing from the blue playground, picnic area or grass in front of the bicycle shelter. Regardless of the weather, the display is always rather awesome. Prior to the event children will be discussing the importance of firework safety. There are some tickets still available for this event. You can send your form into the school office or buy from the infant school gazebo after school. You may also like to purchase some '**GLOW BEFORE YOU GO**' accessories (available directly after school on the infant and junior blue playground, on Thursday 6 November). These items are great for the autumnal dark nights and the fireworks show season. Please do have your tea with us at the event where we will be selling hot dogs, pizza, doughnuts, and hot and cold drinks from the servery inside the hall. To reduce waste, and for improved safety measures, please bring your own lidded hot drinks cup. Please be aware - the fireworks are loud, so younger viewers may wish to wear ear defenders and thick woolly hats. Additionally, alcohol and sparklers **are not** allowed on the school site. With thanks to Big Team Gomer at the infant and junior school (some Big Team Rowner too) for giving their evening to marshal the event. With thanks to the FROGS and POGOS for sorting the refreshments for us. There has been much work behind the scenes and we can't wait for this fabulous annual event.

FROGS Friends of Gomer School is our parent-teacher association, who work tirelessly to support and enrich our young people's school experience. During the last academic year they hosted discos, supported school shops, and held fairs and events, which the community really enjoyed and which also raised money for the school. They are holding their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday 18th November at 9.00am, and would welcome more volunteers to attend this meeting or offer a small amount of time to support their efforts. If you are interested in being a member of the committee or helping at a FROGS event, please email our enquiries line enquiries@kgagomer.uk

GOSPORT HALF MARATHON - Children's Fun Run and Challenge Race On Sunday 16 November, alongside the Gosport Half Marathon, Gosport Road Runners are once again hosting their exciting children's races at King's Academy Bay House. It's a brilliant way to get active, join in a community event, and represent our school.

- Fun Run (Under 12s) – 1km at 9:00am (parents welcome to run alongside)
- Challenge Race (Under 17s) – 2km at 9:15am (for older children or those wanting more competition)
- Mass warm-up with Bootcamp UK at 8:45am

Every runner receives a race number, digital finishing time, medal, and goodie bag. Trophies are awarded to the top three boys and girls in each race.

 Plus – there's a £500 prize for the school or club with the most entrants, to spend on sporting equipment!

Entry: £3 per child (spaces are limited).

 Enter now: gosporthalf.org  Enquiries: funrun@gosporthalf.org

GROUND FORCE/OUTDOOR LEARNING - DAY 1 has been set for **Friday 21 November 2025**. We love gardening at Gomer. So, the whole school will be participating in a range of gardening, landscaping and outdoor learning opportunities, during the day. Adult support with helping with the grounds, independently or alongside your child, will be very much appreciated between **09:00-10:30**. Adults will be working outside and can work with other adults or their child. Please bring some tools with you to help - secateurs, rakes, spades etc would be really useful as we have a limited supply (we suggest they are named). On the day, children are welcome to come in wearing gardening clothes. Please complete this [Google Form](#) if you are available to help on the day.

LEARNING REVIEWS for Year 5 have been scheduled for **Monday 24 November**. A booking form will be emailed home shortly, allowing you to select a 10-minute appointment online. These important meetings will provide a valuable opportunity to discuss where your child is excelling and identify areas for development. It is essential that every parent makes an appointment, as these reviews play a key role in ensuring we work together to support the children's academic progress.

Learning Reviews for Year 3 and Year 4 will be scheduled for the Spring Term. We look forward to seeing you at this

crucial time in your child's education.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AT GOMER – Learning for Life At King's Academy Gomer, our **Personal Development curriculum** helps children grow into confident, kind and responsible citizens. Across all year groups, pupils learn about **relationships, health, safety, citizenship, and economic wellbeing**, developing the knowledge and skills they need for life beyond the classroom.

- **Year 3** explore friendship, kindness and respect, online safety, healthy lifestyles, and understanding community and democracy.
- **Year 4** focus on courtesy, empathy, and diversity, as well as privacy, managing emotions, and valuing their local community.
- **Year 5** build on this by learning about self-respect, online relationships, puberty, rights and responsibilities, and managing money wisely.
- **Year 6** prepare for transition to secondary school by learning about respect, diversity, mental wellbeing, decision-making, human rights, and financial awareness.

Our engaging lessons, workshops, and visits, such as those from our financial education visitor Chris, ensure learning feels relevant and empowering.



Read the full Personal Development overview for 2025–26 on our school [website](#) to see how each year group's learning connects to our values of Honesty, Faith and Courage.

READING plays a vital role in every child's growth, academically, socially, and emotionally. We ask all families to make sure their child reads regularly and, where possible, takes time to read aloud at home. Reading together not only strengthens fluency and confidence but also opens up rich opportunities for conversation and curiosity about the world. At school, we continue to encourage children to discover a wide range of genres alongside their banded books: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and beyond, so they can develop both their comprehension skills and a genuine enjoyment of reading. If reading is not yet part of your child's daily routine, we warmly encourage you to begin today. Setting aside even a short time each day makes a difference. Children who read regularly are better equipped to succeed across all areas of learning. Regular reading makes a lasting difference, and your support at home truly matters. Thank you for helping to make reading a valued and enjoyable part of your child's daily routine. Together, we can nurture a lifelong love of books.

REMEMBRANCE We are delighted to be supporting the Royal British Legion again this year. The Armed Forces conduct their role with courage and humility and often play down the sacrifice and bravery required to serve. The Royal British Legion is here to help members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, veterans and their families. They support serving and ex-serving personnel all year round, every day of the week. Your donations, for items for those who wish to, will help them continue their work. Children are welcome to wear the RBL items with their school uniform from Monday **3 November - Tuesday 11 November** when we will be having our whole school remembrance gathering. Children are welcome to wear the uniform of any military cadets, brownies, scouts etc that day. Our Service Families have received additional communication about this gathering which we are keen to involve them with. With thanks to our Service Children who will be helping Miss Hall sell the items on behalf of the RBL.

Poppies and other Royal British Legion poppy-themed items will be on sale immediately after the half-term break, should your child wish to purchase them. These include poppy appeal bracelets for £1.50; snap bands, zip pulls, rulers and wristbands for £1; pencils, crayons, reflective poppies for 50p, and traditional poppies for a minimum 50p donation. The suggested donation list will be placed on our website once we have received it.

SCHOOL UNIFORM should now be of the winter variety until the Summer Term 2026 - so please pack away the summer dresses and shorts. Thank you for your support with this - and for investing in the new logo too. With the darker days ahead of us, we also encourage children to have an item of 'reflective glow' attached to their bag or coat if not already attached, to ensure they are visible when walking to school and home again. Additionally, bicycle lights should be considered for all children.

SECONDARY SCHOOL applications close on **Friday 31 October**. You can apply [here](#). If an application is not made you will be classified as 'late' and might then not get your first choice.

SCHOOL MEALS - NEW MENUS are now available and start in November. Please click [here](#) to view these on the school website. The roll option will not be available for the remainder of this term or the Spring Term.

SMOKING & VAPING We would like to kindly remind all parents, carers, and visitors that **smoking and vaping are not permitted anywhere on our school site**. This includes outdoor areas such as the car park and playground. As a junior school, we are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for our children, staff, and visitors. Smoking and vaping on school grounds is not only against our school policy, but it is also **against the law**. We ask for your full cooperation in respecting this rule, ensuring that our school remains a smoke-free and vape-free zone at all times. Together, we can set a positive example for our children and contribute to a healthy, clean environment for everyone. Thank you for your understanding and support.

STAFF MATTER It is with both happiness and sadness that we announce a few staff changes taking place over the coming weeks. At half-term, we will be saying goodbye to **Mrs Draper**, who has been a valued Teaching Assistant at KA Gomer for 7 years. During her time with us, she has supported children across the school with great care and dedication. In the past 18 months, she has also successfully completed a qualification to further enhance her support for pupils with dyslexia. Mrs Draper will be continuing to work within the KGA, but leaves us to take up an exciting new role as a Deputy Head of Year in the Sixth Form at KA Bay House.

At the end of term, **Ms Sewell** and **Mr Merrifield** will also be moving on. Ms Sewell joined us in September 2022 as an Assistant Headteacher working across both KA Gomer and KA Rowner. In that time, she has made a significant impact as our Raising Standards Leader, supporting two Ofsted inspections, leading numerous PTA events, teaching across the school, and sharing her passion for mathematics. We are delighted that she has secured a well-deserved promotion as Deputy Headteacher in a school much closer to home.

Mr Merrifield started his teaching career with us in 2019. From the outset, his enthusiasm and creativity shone through. He has championed our PE and Science curriculum, and has led innovative projects involving technology, perhaps most memorably our online Nativity! He now leaves us to focus full-time on his growing business, GoSport, which continues to go from strength to strength.

It goes without saying that we will miss all three colleagues greatly. We thank them for their hard work, commitment, and positivity, and we wish them every success and happiness in their next chapters. We are certain they will take with them many fond memories of their time at Gomer.

Looking ahead, **Miss Hannaway** will be increasing her TA working hours and will be with us all week after half-term and onwards. **Mrs Carre** will be increasing her hours in year 4 following Mr Merrifield's departure, and another established member of staff will instead teach in Year 6 during the afternoons when **Mrs Guyett-Smith** is not in school. **Mrs Case** is set to return to us following her medical leave after half term. We have missed her lots and can't wait to have her back with us.