



GO GOMER! Well done to **THOMAS MUNNS** who attends the Junior Park Run at Stokes Bay. He received a wristband for completing 50 junior park runs (equivalent to an ultra-marathon). He has been keen to work towards this goal and was very pleased to have succeeded. What an awesome achievement, Thomas!

DATES FOR JANUARY: 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 Y5 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school (new day) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lower School Counting Club (by invitation): 3.10-3.45pm - First session 12/01/26 ● Y3 Counting Club (invitation only): 3:10-3:45pm - First session 12/01/26 ● Y6 Maths Reasoning Booster (invitation only): 3.10-3.45 - First session 05/01/26
Tuesdays	No PE Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Service Club (all year groups): 12.00-12.50 ● Lower School Art Club: 3.10-4.00pm - First session 13/01/26 ● Whole School Glee Club: 3.10-4.00pm - First session 13/01/26
Wednesdays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school (new day) Y6 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Y6 Reading Booster Group (invitation only) 08.15-08.45am - First session 07/01/26 ● Lower School Multi-Sports Club: 3.10-4.00pm - First session 14/01/26
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 - First session 08/01/26 ● Football Training (League): 3.10-4.00pm - First session 15/01/26
Fridays	Y5 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Slipper Friday - A chance for children to swap shoes for slippers to wear in school ● Y6 Arithmetic Booster Group (invitation only) 08.15-08.45am: First session 09/01/26 ● Home Learning sent home
Monday 05 January	First day of Spring Term - Pupils return to school
Friday 16 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be Bright Be Seen Day - Bright accessories welcomed with school uniform - see full details below ● 'Bike Dr' in school today - Please bring in your bike ● Security marking taking place
Tuesday 20 January	Young Carer's Group (invitation only): 3.15-4.15pm
Thursday 22 January	Class 6GS Parent/Teacher Learning Reviews - Online

Friday 23 January	Type Onesie Day - Fundraising event for Diabetes UK charity - see info below
Thursday 29 January	Class 6KT Parent/Teacher Learning Reviews - Online
Upcoming dates for February	
Thursday 12 February	FROGS Red Disco - £3.00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Y3 & Y4: 4.15-5.15pm ● Y5 & Y6: 5.30-6.30pm
Friday 13 February	INSET day - School closed to children
Mon 16 – Fri 20 February	HALF-TERM WEEK

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all. We are confident that the children will settle quickly into the school routine. Please help your children with this routine by ensuring that they are at school promptly to start the school day, have the relevant kit and are collected promptly too. Children are required to be on the blue playground, starting to line-up at 08:40 and ready to walk into school with their teacher at 08:45. We still have a few stragglers... Please be prompt.

BE BRIGHT BE SEEN We still have dark mornings and dark afternoons. Children are encouraged to wear bright clothing to and from school so they can be seen during these dark hours. Therefore, on **Friday 16 January** Gomer are taking part in a 'Be Bright Be Seen' day. Children are invited to wear bright accessories along with their school uniform. We are not asking for special items to be bought but to try and use existing items. Remember - Be Bright Be Seen! We urge children who are cycling to school to check their lights.

BLING YOUR RIDE competition will also be on **Friday 16 January, on the same day as Be Bright Be Seen**. This is open to all children at King's Academy Gomer as part of our Be Bright Be Seen Day. This is an opportunity to decorate your bike, scooter, wheelchair or bag (if you are walking) at home, and then ride it, wheel it or walk with it to school. You can use ribbons, coloured card, stickers, or anything else bright and colourful you have at home. The theme of the competition is **Be Bright Be Seen** and we want to see some really bright decorations. **Please ensure that the bike/scooter/bag is clearly labelled with your child's name and class**, so it can be identified for judging, as there will be prizes for the most creative and bright designs. **Please make sure that no decorations interfere with brakes, chain, pedals and wheels, and that all bikes and scooters will be safe to ride.** Good luck!

BIKE DR/SECURITY MARKING is taking place on **Friday 16 January** perfect timing for any bikes and scooters to be brought in that may have been gifted at Christmas. We have done this previously, so if you missed out last time, or have anything new - don't miss out!

DRINKS IN SCHOOL Carbonated drinks are offered only in limited contexts, such as Top Table and fundraising events (including the Christmas Fair), and alternatives such as water and squash are always available. All children are encouraged to bring a full water bottle each day, with regular opportunities to drink water. There is no expectation for pupils to choose a carbonated drink, and children are reminded to make choices that align with what they are allowed at home. We believe in promoting healthy choices, moderation and balance, while fully respecting parental preferences. If you would prefer your child not to have a carbonated drink, please remind them that home rules apply at school, just as they would elsewhere.

ELF DAY was a huge success - thanks to your generous donations, the school raised £315 for Alzheimer's Society! We are sure that the charity will be very grateful for this great amount of money, essential for them to continue driving groundbreaking research and innovation. Thank you, Team Gomer Elves.

END OF DAY COLLECTION REMINDER We kindly remind families that adults collecting children at 3.10pm should not enter the school site before 3.05pm. When you arrive, you are welcome to wait near your child's classroom until dismissal. While we greatly appreciate how prompt families are at collection time, arriving on site earlier than this can be unsettling for pupils and the wider school community. If you arrive ahead of time, we politely ask that you wait off the school site until 3.05pm, after which you may enter as usual. Thank you for your understanding and for working with us to maintain a calm and positive end to the school day.

FROGS FUNDRAISING With thanks to our super FROGS for raising the following funds at the following events and for your support of these events too. Watch this space in regards to how this money will be used to further support your child:

Christmas Fair raised £1318.67 and **Community Fireworks** raised £1236.75

Also, a thank you to the Co-Op on Privett Road who donated £150 to FROGS from their charitable fund.

HOME LEARNING is valued at Gomer and we believe that learning doesn't stop at the end of the school day. Home learning plays a vital role in consolidating what children have learned in the classroom and, at times, preparing them for what lies ahead. While we are proud of the effort many children and parents put into completing tasks at home, we have noticed that some children are not consistently engaging with their home learning. Children learn alongside 29 others in the classroom, so any additional help at home gives them an advantage, allowing them to thrive.

Why Home Learning Matters:

- Practising learning that has taken place in school, using tools like Times Table Rockstars, Spelling Shed (Years 3 and 4), and Bedrock (Years 5 and 6) helps the learning from school to 'stick'.
- Pre-learning activities provide children with a head start, building their confidence in upcoming lessons and building their interest in what they are learning about.
- By managing their time and completing tasks, children build valuable life skills of organisation and responsibility that will serve them well in school and beyond.

How Parents/Carers can help We thank parents/carers who are already supporting their children with home learning. Your involvement is making a real difference! For those who may find it challenging to find the time, we encourage you to prioritise this. Even small steps, such as reading together or supervising online learning for 10 minutes a day, has a significant impact on how much a child can remember and learn.

MAT OF THE YEAR As you will be aware, we are part of King's Group Academies (KGA). King's Group Academies has been named 'Multi Academy Trust (MAT) of the Year' at the National School Awards. At the Awards Ceremony, KGA was recognised for exceptional growth and transformative outcomes for children.

Judges noted the academic success of individual academies in KGA, whilst simultaneously growing from 9 to 15 academies. They recognised that KGA was able to elevate educational standards across the board. The award commended KGA's International Dimension programme, which sees us partner with over 35 schools across the globe. It noted the KGA's forward-thinking Digital and AI Strategy and the many wellbeing initiatives and a dedicated focus on safeguarding and inclusion.

Nick Cross, CEO said: "This award is a testament to the collective dedication of our children, colleagues, volunteers and leaders. Winning 'MAT of the Year' is not just an award for past achievements; it is validation of our foundational belief: that every child deserves **Opportunity and Success on a Global Stage**. It recognises the unwavering commitment of our colleagues who embody our values of Honesty, Faith, and Courage every day. We are incredibly proud, and our work continues. This success fuels our mission to innovate and expand our impact for future generations of learners."

PRE-LOVED TOYS AND GAMES in good condition and have all the pieces, would be welcomed by GClub or classroom teachers for Wet Play. Thank you in advance.

STAFF MATTER and it is with a mixture of sadness and excitement that we share that Mrs Austin, as she begins her thirtieth year at King's Academy Gomer, will be leaving us at the end of this term to begin her retirement. Mrs Austin has been an invaluable member of our team and will be missed enormously by staff and pupils alike. While we are very sad to see her go, we are also delighted for her as she embarks on her well-deserved life as a '*lady of leisure*'. We will, of course, be wishing her every happiness in this next chapter.

TEMPORARY FREEZING WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS Please see the letter emailed home on Monday 5 January.

TYPE ONESIE DAY On **Friday 23 January**, we are inviting children and staff to come to school in onesies, oodles or PJs. This idea was brought to us by a student to raise funds for a diabetes charity and the student council voted for this as one of their chosen charities. A suggested donation of £1 will go towards supporting Diabetes UK <https://www.diabetes.org.uk/>
Children can bring in their donation to school or access our [Just Giving Page](#).

The day will be used to raise funds for important research, as well as to raise awareness of this lifelong condition. Dressing-up is optional.

YOU SAID/WE DID Thank you to all the 24 parents and carers who took the time to complete our recent survey. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us understand what we're doing well and where we can improve. Here are some key takeaways:

What Parents/Carers Feel We Are Doing Well:

A caring, supportive environment

- The vast majority of parents report that their child feels safe, included and valued at school.
- Many comments praised staff for nurturing children's confidence, resilience and personal development.
- Several parents shared powerful examples of how their children have grown in confidence and happiness.

Strong relationships and dedicated staff

- Staff were frequently described as caring, approachable and committed to children's best interests.

Opportunities beyond the classroom

- Parents/carers say they value the wide range of clubs, trips, residentials, performances and events, including Christingle, nativity performances and STEM opportunities.
- Affordable after-school clubs and wraparound care were praised for supporting working families.
- Flexible approaches for pupils with SEND, including optional participation in some events, were especially appreciated.

Curriculum and learning

- Many parents feel the school offers a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Computing, technology and creative opportunities were highlighted as strengths.
- School trips were described as well-organised and enriching.

Areas Parents/Carers Would Like Us to Improve:

Communication

- Reduce the volume and length of emails and newsletters.
- Parents asked for clearer, more concise communication, with key information easier to find.
- Several parents would like communication to be more tailored to their child's year group.

Supporting parents to support learning

- Some parents, particularly in Year 6, would appreciate more guidance on how to support learning at home (e.g. maths methods and SATs preparation).
- Some parents of children with SEND asked for more frequent updates about progress and support.

Organisation and notice

- Parents suggested a year-group or child-specific calendar to reduce confusion.
- A few parents commented on the number of non-uniform or themed days and the impact this can have on families.

Our Commitment Moving Forward

We are grateful for your honesty and engagement. In response, we will:

- Review how we communicate with parents to ensure messages are clearer, more concise and better targeted by year group. We have started this already by sending a SATS email to Y6 parents only and have reduced this newsletter. You are encouraged to access the website for key information.
- Improve visibility of learning by exploring more opportunities for parents to see children's work and understand how learning is taught.

Your partnership is vital to our school community. Thank you again for your continued support and for helping us make King's Academy Gomer the very best it can be for our children. Thank you once again for your valuable feedback. Together, we will continue to make our school a place where every child can succeed and feel valued.