



**Learning Powers**  
 Thinking Determination  
 Independence Motivation  
 Creativity Collaboration Tolerance

**Newsletter 5 – January 2021**

**GO GOMER!** The whole community have demonstrated considerable collaboration, determination, resilience and tolerance this week – as a result we deserve to feel rightly proud. We really are a school which is ‘learning today for the challenge of tomorrow.’

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

<b>DATES FOR JANUARY</b> The dates below are for your diary and are also included on the electronic calendar; occasionally they are subject to change.	
<b>No GClub until further notice. This will be reviewed in a fortnights time.</b>	
<b>Mondays</b>	Y3 Virtual PE Day Y6 Virtual PE Day
<b>Tuesdays</b>	Y4 Virtual PE Day
<b>Wednesdays</b>	Y5 Virtual PE Day
<b>Thursdays</b>	Y3 Virtual PE Day Y6 Virtual PE Day
<b>Fridays</b>	Y4 Virtual PE Day Y5 Virtual PE Day
<b>Monday 11</b>	Critical Worker Provision relocated to Brune Park School

**AN INCREDIBLE WEEK** for a variety of reasons! Thank you for your continued support at this challenging time. Your understanding about our closure to pupils, on Tuesday 5 January, gave Team Gomer time to respond to the government’s announcement that we were to move to a second national lockdown. As an organisation, the GFM are always keen to use the time available to respond in order that we can provide the best possible offer for the children and look after our staff. Team Gomer used their time on Tuesday 5 January to launch Gomer as a virtual school which has been responded to superbly, in regards to attendance, and your positive feedback.

**AWESOME ATTENDANCE** has been noted. We have been incredibly impressed with the attendance to our live lessons this week. So, the class league has started! As a whole school, 97% of the school attended their live lessons this week - a big ‘well done’ to all the children and adults involved in making this happen. From next week, we will be sharing an attendance league, with the children, on a Friday. Please remember, the most important thing is that children are safe and settled. We are naturally keen to ensure that the children continue with their learning journeys. We are understanding that it may not always be possible to attend a ‘live’ due to the juggling act of other children, work, sickness, internet issues and ‘everything else’ that is happening at home. We encourage our families to try and watch the recorded lesson, to stay connected and comment below it, in order that the teacher knows the child have accessed the learning.

**BRUNE PARK** will be accessed, from Monday 11 January, by our children of Critical Workers. A letter has been sent to parents/carers today about our relocation. If you have any questions, please email the school office. We were located at Brune Park in the last lockdown which is where all GFM primary and secondary pupils, of Critical Workers, are located. The government is very clear that onsite provision is for parents/carers who are ‘critical workers’ and have **absolutely no other** option. If there are non-critical workers at home, or a critical worker who can work from home, they should be arranging the childcare or a support Bubble can be formed. **We need to prioritise places for those who absolutely require it.** We are really grateful to our Critical Worker parents for using this prudently. It helps us keep numbers onsite manageable and as safe as possible. We also recognise that work circumstances can change. If your shift changes, for example, please let us know so we can continue to work together.

**DON'T WORRY – BE SAFE – BE HAPPY** This week has seen the whole community having to adapt to a lockdown very swiftly. This has a variety of implications for every family. During these unprecedented times, we are committed to continuing to provide care, education and support to all of our learners. We remain flexible and understanding of your different circumstances. We are registering the children daily. The attendance at live lessons and submission of work helps us to do this. If circumstances at home stop you from logging on, please do not worry. However, please do touch base with your child's teacher updating them so we know that you and your child are ok.

**FREE SCHOOL MEALS** will continue. Currently, the guidance from the DfE to schools is: *'Schools should also continue to provide free school meals or food parcels for pupils who are eligible for benefits related, free school meals who are not attending school.'* The food parcels provided thus far, follow the guidance that has been provided to schools which enables parents and carers to prepare simple and healthy lunches for their children at home across the week. We will continue with the hampers which are to be collected weekly from Brune Park. We will update you with a collection day and time very soon. We are aware that there may be reviews from the government and we will ensure that we update you as we receive these. In the meantime if you have any concerns or are experiencing financial hardship please do not hesitate to get in touch, please email [fsm@gfmat.org](mailto:fsm@gfmat.org) and a member of the team will get back to you.

**GOMER IS LIVE** and it has been wonderful to see everyone at home and those in our Critical Worker Provision, engage with their virtual school this week – demonstrating significant resilience, independence and creativity. In brief, the children have been awesome all week! One Y4 parent said, *'Absolutely brilliant teaching, pre and follow-up tasks and guidance, materials, love, care and support. My hat off to all the teachers and leadership who have made this happen.'* The teachers have planned for four hours of learning a day. This does not mean the children will be with their teacher or at a screen for four hours but children will be given sufficient coverage of the curriculum. The teachers will signpost resources to you, should you wish to extend this learning further.

**HELP** is something we must ask of each other when we require. We are aware that it has been a challenging week for a variety of reasons. In the current pandemic the term 'home schooling' (not something we have said as a school) has previously put pressure on families. We haven't asked you to 'home school' the children in the sense of following the National Curriculum. The teachers and support staff are going to do the teaching. We ask you to help create an environment that children can attend the live teaching or watch the recordings of the 'lives' and complete the tasks provided by your teacher. It is important that we are realistic about what we can all achieve at home. So, please do not put pressure on yourselves to get through everything if it is difficult. With this in mind we think a priority is that you and your family stay safe and are physically and mentally well.

**PLANNING & PREPARATION TIME** will be provided to the teachers on a Friday afternoon. Therefore, they will not be available for live teaching, Google meets, phone calls, emails etc. The timetable will reflect the teachers' position and the afternoon session will not need adult support. We hope this assists the children and yourselves with winding down for the weekend.

**STAYING CONNECTED** is really important to us. Our daily live teaching has enabled the children to see their teachers and friends which is something we know everyone missed in the last lockdown. In addition to this, the LAPS Team have made contact with the children who receive social and emotional support during the school day. This will continue and we are reviewing our strategies for doing this. Children can access the LAPS email (in their Google Classroom) if they need to make contact with a Learning Mentor.

**TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNET** access is vital at the moment for remote learning. We are aware that this has presented challenges for some of our families. We will be in-touch, early next week, to ascertain who is having difficulties, in order for us to assess how we can help.

**YOU SAID/WE DID** Thank you for informing us that Virtual Gomer is a 'game changer'. Thank you also for telling us you think Team Gomer are awesome. Team Gomer replied by saying 'right back at you!'