



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

### Newsletter 6 – February 2021

**GO GOMER!** Well done to **OLIVER BEECH and his brother**. They decided they wanted to virtually climb Mount Everest to raise money for the NHS. In two weeks, they have climbed over 1000 flights of stairs. They have just under 3000 left to go. They have set up a go fund me page and wanted to raise £100. They have currently raised over this and the donations continue to come in. We will keep you posted with how they get on.

<b>DATES FOR FEBRUARY</b> The dates below are for your diary and are also included on the electronic calendar; occasionally they are subject to change.	
<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 Gomer Online Assembly: 1.00 – 1.15pm. Please join our online assembly using the following stream link: <a href="https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/0f8227b9-a610-45e6-9071-e0e77dc270e4">https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/0f8227b9-a610-45e6-9071-e0e77dc270e4</a>
<b>Thursday 11</b>	Whole School Theme Day – Therapeutic Thursday – non-uniform welcomed
<b>Thursday 11</b>	Parent/Carer Review Meetings with Class Teacher – time slot booking info to follow
<b>Friday 12</b>	<b>INSET Day – No remote learning or Critical Worker Provision at Brune Park</b>
<b>w/b 15 Feb</b>	<b>Half Term Week</b>
<b>Wednesday 24</b>	9.30-10.00am - Whole School Virtual & Interactive Internet Legends Assembly

**ATTENDANCE MATTERS** and we are delighted that we have a 97.4% attendance to our live lessons which run at least three times daily. The government has been clear that junior school aged children should be provided with 4 hours of remote learning daily. We have met this requirement and recognise that some pupils choose to work beyond this and on some days, 4 hours is too much for others. The school has a duty to be able to account for children during term time (even in a lockdown) to ensure that children are learning and are safe. Just as if we were all at school, if there is a concern about attendance or a child’s safety, we will follow-up on this accordingly. Furthermore, the children worked so hard in the Autumn Term we are keen for learning gaps to be avoided – attending live lessons and completing most of the tasks will help your child’s learning journey and help them feel connected with the school, their friends and Team Gomer. Team Gomer have been really impressed with the quality of the work returned following the live lessons. Please continue to notify us of an absence by clicking on the blue box titled Attendance Matters, on the home page of the website. Use this form when your child is not able to attend the live lessons. If we have not heard from you and your child does not attend a live lesson you will receive a text reminder asking you to try and watch the lesson recording and complete the tasks. If a child does not attend the next live lesson you will receive a second text reminder asking you to contact us so we can work with you to help you help your child engage with their learning. We are keen to ensure that the children are safe, and we politely request that you keep us informed. We understand that home circumstances may impact on live lesson attendance.

**CONTACTING THE SCHOOL** Reminder - Please do not send text/sms messages to contact the school as this facility is not accessed regularly. Parents/carers wishing to make contact please access the school email address [enquiries@gomer.gfmat.org](mailto:enquiries@gomer.gfmat.org) or, to report absence, please access our attendance app <https://gomer.gfmat.org/for-parents/attendance-matters/>. You can also contact your child’s year group teachers directly, as follows:

• <a href="mailto:year3@gomer.gfmat.org">year3@gomer.gfmat.org</a>	• <a href="mailto:year5@gomer.gfmat.org">year5@gomer.gfmat.org</a>
• <a href="mailto:year4@gomer.gfmat.org">year4@gomer.gfmat.org</a>	• <a href="mailto:year6@gomer.gfmat.org">year6@gomer.gfmat.org</a>

**CONTACT TRACING** is a process we work through when we are informed of a positive case of COVID1-9. Ahead of contacting Public Health England we work through a process to ascertain if staff or children have come into contact with the individual with the confirmed case and the potential risk this may present. When we moved to the Brune Park setting we protocols in place to help maximize social distancing. Since the early January confirmed case we have learnt from this and enhanced our protocols further. We are very strict about social distancing and the children have designated areas, inside and outside, during the day. Unless 2m away, staff avoid 'face to face' contact and children are encouraged to do the same. We recognise that social distancing is something that does not come naturally to children and they require frequent reminders. The children are managing our environment well and because of adherence to our protocols, we have not had to close down the whole Bubble following our most recent confirmed case of COVID-19. Whilst we recognise that the children do not have the freedoms in the classroom they had, pre-COVID, our protocols are reducing the opportunity for COVID-19 to spread. To help us, we ask that children attending Brune Park are reminded at home about the importance of social distancing. With thanks to our parents for only accessing the provision when absolutely needed – this is reducing the risk also.

**CRITICAL WORKER PROVISION** Please note, there will be no Critical Worker provision at Brune Park on Friday 12 February due to an INSET day. Please also note, in line with DfE guidance, there will be no provision available during the February half-term break.

**FAMILY WELL BEING PACK** Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust have produced a Family Well Being Pack which is full of useful contact numbers/websites and resources that may parents/young people may find really useful. Please see our website post for details.

**GCLUB** If you are using childcare vouchers to pay for GClub please note these cannot be refunded but the monies will stay attached to the account and can be used when GClub is operational again.

**STUBBINGTON VISIT Y5** In light of the government's announcement that schools would not be returning until 8 March at the earliest, our provisional booking for the Stubbington visit has been cancelled. We are really sad about this. Currently, Stubbington Study Centre do not have any other dates to offer but have advised this may change. We have therefore agreed to be placed on their waiting list should a suitable slot become available.

**READING LEAGUE** Thank you to all the children that have downloaded the eBooks system, we have had a great response so far. Just to remind you, once a book has been read, please go to the Contact tab and submit a review. Children are welcome to review chapter by chapter to gain extra points. A number of parents have queried that their child would rather read a hard copy of a book, rather than online, this is of course to be encouraged as well. To add towards the league points though, once read, please log out a book (any title if yours is not listed), then log it straight back, then go to the Contact tab and submit a review.

**THERAPEUTIC THURSDAY** is set for Thursday 11 February and the 'regular' timetable will be suspended. This week is children's Mental Health week. We will continue to remind children about the importance of looking after our mental health and strategies for this. To build upon our existing well-being endeavours. We will be suspending our regular daily timetable. We are keen to end the half-term positively by providing the children with an opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate their successes whilst remote learning, how to maintain or work towards a positive mindset. On Wednesday 10 February children will be introduced to a range of activities they can look forward to on Therapeutic Thursday and will be given time to prepare. Ahead of the day, every child will receive an envelope of seeds through their letterbox with instructions on how to grow the seeds and suggestions for home-made containers. There will be a whole school assembly at 09.00 to launch and welcome everyone to Therapeutic Thursday. Children will then have the opportunity to access the staff led activities. Children at the Critical Worker Provision will be planned for and they are welcome to wear comfortable and practical non-school uniform. After the staff led inputs children will be encouraged to then spend the remainder of the day away from the screen and access activities to help them look after themselves - being outdoors, curling up with a book, making a healthy snack, planting their seeds, playing a board game etc. During the day the teachers will make contact with you – separate letter to follow.

**YOU SAID/WE DID** you were concerned about the amount of screen time our remote offer required. We have reinforced that there are many tasks children can complete by handwriting them rather than typing. These learning responses can then be uploaded with a photo/screen shot. Furthermore, if you are not wanting to access the eLibrary and have access to hard copies of books then please do read these – all reading is good reading. We have also introduced a no screen time period on Thursday 11 February and look to doing this on a Friday afternoon too.