



Learning Powers
Thinking Determination
Independence Motivation
Creativity Collaboration Tolerance

Newsletter 7 – March 2021

GO GOMER! Well done to **RUPERT WATSON** who has submitted the most reading reviews on the reading league challenge. Awesome resilience to all children who attended our Critical Worker Provision at Brune Park. The children managed a new setting and structure incredibly well.

DATES FOR MARCH The dates below are for your diary and are also included on the electronic calendar; occasionally they are subject to change.	
Mondays	Y3 PE Day – Pupils to wear PE kit to school Y6 PE Day – Pupils to wear PE kit to school
Tuesdays	Y4 PE Day – Pupils to wear PE kit to school
Wednesdays	Y5 PE Day – Pupils to wear PE kit to school
Thursdays	Y3 PE Day – Pupils to wear PE kit to school Y6 PE Day – Pupils to wear PE kit to school
Fridays	Y4 PE Day – Pupils to wear PE kit to school Y5 PE Day – Pupils to wear PE kit to school
Thursday 04	World Book Day – Vegetable dress up. Please see details below. 9.00am – World Book Day Assembly
Friday 05	Gomer Online Assembly: 1.00 – 1.15pm. Please join our online assembly using the following stream link: https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/0f8227b9-a610-45e6-9071-e0e77dc270e4
Monday 08	Pupils return to school
Tuesday 09	GClub starts for children booked into Breakfast or After School sessions
Thursday 18	Rocksteady Lessons start again
Friday 19	Red Nose Day
Wednesday 31	Last day of Spring Term. School closes for the Easter Holiday @ 2.00pm
Thursday 01 April	INSET Day – School closed to pupils
Monday 19 April	First day of Summer Term

A WARM WELCOME to our March newsletter. We are looking forward to seeing your children in school from next week. Team Gomer would like to say a big THANK YOU for your significant support of our virtual school during the most recent lockdown. Your encouragement and appreciation has been much appreciated. Team Gomer would also like to say thank you for your sterling efforts in keeping the children safe and enabling the children to stay connected with the school and on track with their learning. The last few weeks have been challenging for many of us in different ways. We will now take the necessary time to readjust into the school routine.

BUBBLES will continue to operate in Year groups. Bubble integrity will be supported by the staggered arrival and departure times, staggered break times and year group play zones, toilets and designated bubble shared areas.

COVID-19 information, including Risk Assessments, continues to be comprehensive and is available to view on the website. Our Risk Assessments are currently being updated and will be available for to you review, in addition to information about self-isolating, catch-up premium and protocols, please visit the school home page and hover on the COVID-19 tab to see the full menu.

GCLUB will be available from Tuesday 9 March. We are not opening on Monday 8 in order that we can focus on the core part of the school day. We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your support. Please do ensure your child is booked into GClub via Arbor. Please remember, sessions are not confirmed until they are paid for.

MOTHERING SUNDAY is Sunday 14 March. FROGJS will not be providing a gift sale this year due to limitations of the recent lockdown.

MUNCH BOXES will be made available from Monday 8 March for every child. Please note, the kitchen has not been in operation during the most recent lockdown. Once we are settled back into a routine we will reintroduce our full menu. Please help Dee by pre-ordering your food for next week with the Google form. We have no food at present on site so your orders are required by 3.00pm on Wednesday 3 March. Dee has chosen food items she knows the children are keen on to help support their return to school.

MUSIC LESSON, start dates, provided by our peripatetic teachers e.g. Mr Noad and Mr Crosswell will start at different times this term. Mrs Gardner will be in touch to confirm these start dates. We can confirm that Mr Pilott will not provide vocal tuition until after the Easter holiday.

PLEASE REMEMBER (to help keep the Gomer community safe):

1. Before sending your child to school please check that they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms: high temperature, a new and persistent cough or loss of taste and smell.
2. If your child has symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), a high temperature, new and persistent cough or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), however mild, they will self-isolate for at least 10 days from when the symptoms started. In this instance we recommend you contact 111 for advice.
3. If your child has tested positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develops symptoms during the isolation period, please restart the 10 day isolation period from the day they develop symptoms.
4. If your child tests negative, please contact the school office to discuss your child's return to school.
5. If your child tests negative but is unwell, they are not to return to the setting until they are recovered.
6. On arrival at school please ensure your child enters and exit the school, adhering to current school protocols e.g. one-way system, specific entrances and staggered timings.

RED NOSE DAY will be supported by Gomer Junior on Friday 19 March. Children are invited to wear as much red as possible (red hair and faces are welcome too – just be 'back to normal' for the following week please). Children are welcome to accessorise their uniform with red if they are not keen on being in full non-school uniform. The purpose of Red Nose Day is to raise funds for Comic Relief and we would be delighted to send off a donation. You can do this by sending your child into school with a suggested donation of £1 on the actual day.

REPORTING ABSENCE Thank you for using the Attendance Form for reporting absence. Please continue to use this method to inform us of any absence. We are hoping to make this form available on the Gomer Junior School App. We will update you when this is accessible. For now, please visit <https://gomer.gfmat.org/for-parents/attendance-matters/> to access the form if you have yet to do so.

SECONDARY SCHOOL places for Y7 September 2021 were announced on 01 March. The admission packs for those children who are attending a GFM secondary school will follow shortly.

STAGGERED START AND FINISH TIMES will continue from 8 March. With thanks to Gomer Infant School, who we have worked closely with to ensure the smooth running of our shared site and the safety of the Gomer community.

	Arrival	Departure
Year 3	8.55am	3.15pm
Year 4	8.50am	3.10pm
Year 5	8.45am	3.05pm
Year 6	8.45am	3.05pm

PLEASE:

- Avoid arriving early (or late) to avoid congestion on the playground.
- At the start of the day adults are to drop their child by their designated cone and **do not** walk round to the classroom. The class teacher will collect the children from the playground. You are encouraged not to wait on the playground with your child (LAPS will be supervising) but if you choose to wait please ensure you are standing a distance from the other children.
- Please adhere to our one-way system and if escorting a child to GIS please do not walk against the one-way system near the rear playground – parents/carers have been seen to ignore the 'no entry' cone.
- Adults are welcome to collect their children from near the classroom at the end of the day. You will be directed by a member of the LAPS Team as to when you can approach to the classrooms. Parents of children in 3LW are to wait on the blue gym to reduce contact with 3SC.
- For adults waiting in Pyrford Close, please ensure there is ample space for people coming around the one-way system to pass. Please do not congregate in groups.
- Please remember to be courteous to our local residents and do not park unsafely, in front of drives or dropped kerbs on the corner at the front of school. Cars should avoid entering Pyrford Close at the start and end of the day unless essential. Staff will move you on from the yellow zoned areas if you are parked there because it is illegal to park in these spaces.

SUMMER UNIFORM is welcome in the Summer Term. The school uniform list, agreed by the governors, stipulates school grey or black shorts, white shirt/blouse or polo as normal. Girls can wear shorts, culottes or a **DARK BLUE** gingham dress or playsuit. Also, please note - if girls choose to wear a **DARK BLUE** gingham blouse, this is to be teamed with the **DARK BLUE** gingham skirt too. Local supermarkets already have them in stock so you may like to purchase one now. PLEASE do look out for the **DARK BLUE** dresses. Summer is coming.....

TESTING FOR COVID is completed, by staff twice weekly, using Lateral Flow Test kits. The government are encouraging testing at home by parents and carers. This testing is independent of the school. Please visit here for more information https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=813f5236-80a6-4440-bd45-db9f6692837d&utm_content=immediately

THE OFFICE RECEPTION will be staffed with our regular times but you will still be unable to enter the building as we continue to reduce footfall in the school. There is a drop off and collection table by the front door and a member of staff will either come outside to talk to you or talk to you through the intercom.

TUCK SHOP will continue to be closed. We may be able to reintroduce this in the summer term.

WATER BOTTLES at Gomer Junior are required to be plastic. If you are unable to provide a plastic water bottle, we are selling the non-drip ones for 50p. Thank you for your understanding in this matter and we thank you for your continued support.

WINDOWS, of a new grey colour, have been fitted by the Music Room entrance and the Hall windows have been finished around the hall whilst you have been away. The school continues to look super smart. Mr Wilkins and his team have been busy inside and outside school. The tree that fell in the Christmas winds has been repurposed into an invigorated stumpery at the front of school and used for firewood also. We also have some new signage. We wonder if the children will notice other changes too? Look up under the skylights....

WINTER UNIFORM is to be worn to school on children's return. Your child may have had a growing spurt whilst in lockdown. If you have been unable to purchase correct sized uniform, please do contact the office – ideally, before the children return because it is easier to manage with less people on site. The LAPS Team have a large selection of good condition 'second hand' uniform which we can make available to you. Please just ask. On your child's PE day, children are to come to school in their school PE kit. Despite the recent sunny weather, it is still a little chilly so Gomer blue or dark (black, navy or grey) tracksuit bottoms can be worn with a PE t-shirt. If you are yet to order a PE 'jacket' children can wear their school jumper or cardigan on PE days.

WORLD BOOK DAY Did you know? *'Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success, more than family circumstances, parents' educational backgrounds or income.'* - Organisation for Economic Co-Operation & Development. We work continuously to encourage the children to read for pleasure to encourage the next generation of readers. Just 10 minutes daily shared reading benefits every child's future. On World Book Day we are keen to encourage the children even more to be readers, book owners and book borrowers – because no child should be without a book or miss out on shared reading. Every child is invited to bring a vegetable dressed as a book character to our live whole school BIG Google Meet on Thursday 4 March at 9.00am. Year groups have adapted their timetable and will use the day to immerse children into the exciting world of books. Book tokens are available in digital format and will be valid until 28 March. To download the token please access https://www.worldbookday.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/booktoken_PrimaryUK.pdf

YOU SAID/WE DID You have really seen the benefit of your children working electronically. More of you have recognised the positive impact of using a Chrome Book. Due to this, we will be sending you an 'expression of interest' form regarding our Chrome Book Scheme. Initially, this will be made available to our current Year 3 and Year 4 children and possibly our new Year 3 cohort (currently Year 2). The choice of years is determined due to the 24/36 month repayment scheme. Our Year 6 pupils will have the opportunity to be part of the scheme at either or our GFM secondary schools. We are currently unable to accommodate the existing Year 5, but if there is a significant demand we will see what we can do.