

Newsletter 11 - July 2021

GO GOMER! A big THANK YOU to all the parents/carers who gave time on Groundforce Day 2021. We had 40 adults working outside, at staggered Bubble times throughout the day - their efforts made a huge difference to our grounds. We are going to look at a termly session, as a consequence, because the help impacts positively on the grounds for the Gomer community.

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

DATES FOR JULY The dates below are for your diary and are also included on the electronic calendar; occasionally they are subject to change		
Ongoing	Y5 & Y6: 8.45am Y4: 8.50am Y3: 8.55am	Y5 & Y6: 3.05pm Y4: 3.10pm Y3: 3.15pm
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 & 4LF to bring swimwear to change into at BP	
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 01	Year 3 Beach School - Flora & Fauna: 9.30-11.30am	
Thurs 01→Wed 07	Sponsored Reading Event - see details below	
w/b 5 July	Year 6 Activity Week - please refer to separate activities letter for kit list etc (previously sent)	
Tuesday 06	Class 4LF Swimming Lessons (5 of 6): pm	
Thursday 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual Reports & new class sharing ● Book Fair - See below and separate letter to follow with further details ● Library stocktake - ALL books due back. Library only open for returns. 	
Monday 12	School Exercise Books being sent home - please send in a bag to help your child bring these home. Some books will be kept in school ready for September.	
Tuesday 13	Class 4LF Swimming Lessons (6 of 6): pm	
Wednesday 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Let's Do It Day - come to school in PE KIT ● Y5 Sports Festival: 1.00-3.00pm ● Deadline for all sponsored read money in please ● End of year celebration at GClub - party food, games and fun (in Bubbles) 	
Thursday 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Y4 Sports Festival: 10.00-12.00 noon ● Y3 Sports Festival: 1.00-3.00pm ● Year 6 Leavers Celebration: 2.00-4.00pm (this is now earlier than anticipated due to us only being able to staff the event with Year 6 Bubble staff). Children to come to school with their 'party clothes' to change into. 	

Friday 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Whole School Transition Day ● Y6 Sports Festival: 1.00-3.00pm
Monday 19	LIVE streaming of Year 6 Leavers Assembly: 4.00-5.00pm
Tuesday 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Whole school water play - have PE kit to change into and come to school in clothes/suitable shoes you are happy to get wet ● Last day of term - School closes at 3.15pm. We are looking to have a socially distanced 'line-up' of Bubbles for Year 6 to walk past and be clapped off site (replacing the pre-COVID tunnel). Y3, Y4 and Y5 will be spaced on the field at 3.05pm to clap the Year 6 children as they pass at 3.05pm. We will then dismiss Y5, Y4 and Y3 accordingly. ● GClub - change in session time: 3.00 - 4.30pm
Wednesday 21	INSET Day - School closed to children
Thursday 22	INSET Day - School closed to children
Monday 26 July - Friday 20 August	SUMMER SOCIALS for years 2, 3, 4 and 5, organised by Premier Education and held on the Gomer Junior site. 2 day or 3 day slots available, with or without lunch. A Google form will be sent out before the end of June with details and links to book your child onto these.
Thursday 2 Sept	Autumn Term Starts - INSET DAY - school closed to children
Friday 3 Sept	First day back for Y3 only (part of the transition offer)
Monday 6 Sept	Whole School Return to School

A WARM WELCOME to our final newsletter of the academic year. It has been another interesting year in which our community has demonstrated significant resilience and adaptability. The children have adapted to learning at home and school. Our period of online learning was phenomenal in terms of whole school engagement and parent/carer support for Virtual Gomer. The government has provided advice and guidance which we have had to apply to our own settings - often at short notice and changing regularly - and continues to do so. We have learned new terms that we now use normally: Bubbles, socially distanced, Oxford Vaccine, PCR and LFT tests... We have learned to respond to new situations in order to help keep the community safe. We have learned to appreciate our own personal development much more. We have been able to reflect upon and use essential character and life skills, such as staying positive, confidence, creativity, problem solving and teamwork. What a steep learning curve we have all been on for sixteen months and it continues. We remain vigilant to COVID matters which have not gone away. We thank you for your continued support, open dialogue and for being so appreciative of our efforts and offer.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS and CHOIR will not be scheduled for at least the first half of the Autumn Term. With unknowns we thought it best to communicate this to you now. We will be reviewing our position at the end of September and update you accordingly; with the hope that we can resume some clubs e.g football.

BREAKFAST & AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB (GClub) continues in September for pupils of Gomer Junior School. We have been asked if we can accommodate infant siblings but we are not looking to do so any time soon - if at all. In September, we will be using Tucasi to book and pay for GClub places. Once the session is full you will not be able to book so advance booking is recommended. More information, regarding Tucasi, will be sent to you in a separate email.

DONATIONS of spare PE kit and school uniform will be gratefully received to bolster our supplies when children forget PE kit and/or have an incident requiring a change of clothing. Please do save and hand-in your washed clothing, of good quality, in a plastic bag, to us, from September – many thanks. If you want to share this with us sooner, please bring them to the school office.

EMAIL ADDRESSES are required from all parents/carers for us to keep you up to date. It is really important that you share updated details in order that we can contact you. Please contact the office with any changes.

FAREWELL YEAR 6 who leave us at the end of term. You have been a delightful year group who we are going to miss very much. We are so proud of how well you have approached your secondary school transition. We are sad not to be saying goodbye to the children in our pre-COVID way but know that what has been planned will provide a lovely send-off.

LET'S DO IT DAY will be a first for Year 3 and Year 4 but remembered by Year 5 and Year 6 from 2019. On this day, the children participate in an array of activities including an indoor assault course, den building and completing a task to introduce themselves to their new class teacher. We'll be busy but will have lots of fun.

LIBRARY BOOKS are important to us and an annual stocktake is due. Please ensure that all books are returned to the library by **Thursday 8 July**. Please note, children will still have access to the online audio and ebooks on the Wheeler's Eplatform app - please contact us if you have not managed to set this up yet.

PERIPATETIC MUSIC LESSONS 2021/2022 will continue from September. Mrs Gardner will be in touch with families about these. After a price freeze for many years, the lessons are needing to increase to £70 per term which still represents superb value for money. If you would like your child to have a trial lesson, please do contact the school office.

QUEEN'S JUBILEE is in June 2022. To account for the extra days holiday, rather than having a reduced week after the summer 2022 half-term to account for the holiday, the Summer Term will end a day early. All calendar and INSET dates are available on the school website.

REPORTS for the academic year 2020/2021 will be available to you via Arbor on Thursday 8 July. If you have any queries regarding your child's report, please do contact the class teacher accordingly.

SCHOOL UNIFORM is important and we are grateful to our parents/carers for ensuring that children are dressed in the correct school uniform which includes clothes, shoes and hair. Children will no longer get changed at school for PE. They are to come to school on their PE days in PE uniform. Therefore, we are encouraging all children to have a Team Gomer Sports Jacket. Please also pay attention to tracksuit bottoms or leggings which should be Gomer blue, black, grey or navy for winter months.

SKOOLKIT is our stockist for our branded school uniform. Please note the Sports Jacket which is a new addition and ideal for PE days. Skoolkit has provided a good quality option for us. Supermarkets remain a good option for skirts, trousers, navy blue dresses and polo shirts. Skoolkit are offering 10% off all school uniform purchased from their Fareham store during Saturday 17 - Friday 23 July. Free delivery on all online orders placed between Saturday 31 July - Saturday 07 August using code **SUMMER2021** at the checkout.

SPORTS FESTIVALS will be provided for each year group. Please see the dates above. This is in lieu of a pre-COVID Sports Day. We are really grateful to the FROGJS who will be providing the children with an ice-lolly at the end of their festival. Each year group will have the exciting opportunity of a Sports Festival, focusing on the athletics they have been learning this term. They will compete against other children and be able to contribute to their house team's house points.

STAGGERED START & FINISH TIMES will continue from September to maintain a steady flow on our sites. We have learnt that reduced numbers on site has been calming to the start and end of the day in addition to reducing 'milling about' on the playground. Entering the site via the Bury Hall Lane gate, the children can access the playground 5 minutes before their start time and line-up on the playground ahead of being directed to their class. At the end of the day, parents/carers can make their own way to the relevant collection point and no more than 5 minutes before the end of the day. Therefore, we will be adhering to these times:

Year	Arrive from:	School start time:	Depart	Collected from:
Y5 & Y6	08.45	08.50	15.10	Y5: Outside classroom - Y6: by greenhouse in the allotment
Y3 & Y4	08.50	08.55	15.15	Outside classroom (3EG on the blue GMG)

STUBBINGTON has been booked for our current Year 4 pupils. They will be attending on 8-10 September. We are very excited because this will be a great start to Year 5 and we know they will have a brilliant time. 98% of the year group have already booked their place and we are hoping to reach 100%.

SUMMER SOCIALS - Due to the success of recent Half-Term Hangouts and last year's Summer Camps, invites for Summer Socials will be shared by the end of this week. Invites will first be going to families who are in receipt of free school meals (FSM) and will then be sent to other families from years 2, 3, 4 and 5. Summer Socials will be held on the Gomer Junior Site between 26th July and 20th August and will this year be run by a company called Premier Education. During

these sessions which run between 9am -3pm each day, children will be given the opportunity to socialise through sports, crafts and other wellbeing activities. A packed lunch can be provided for a small charge (FSM will be provided free to those eligible), although children are welcome to bring their own picnic lunches. We are hoping that the socials will be funded or heavily subsidised through Covid Premium funding from the government, however we will be able to confirm this shortly via the Google Form booking system.

TRANSITION is a major event not only for a young person but also for the family members that support their child. It is therefore our aim to ensure that the transition journey is enjoyable, informative and exciting. Transition will take account of COVID-safety measures and operate for no more than half a day only on Friday 16 July. We will do everything we can to support every child with transition. For some, this will be an exciting time. For others, this will be a time of nervousness. Whatever 'change' means for your child our established team will ensure that our continued offer is inclusive and will endeavour to meet need. Team Gomer are working on plans to help children familiarise themselves with their new teachers whilst managing Bubble integrity. Year 2 will be visiting us on the 16 July also, but each class will have one our only, outside, with their new class teacher. Our current Year 6 will be spending the morning at the Gosport STEM Centre completing a project (curriculum rather than a transition opportunity) in the morning and having their Sports Festival at the Cocked Hat fields in the afternoon. Mrs Guyett-Smith and Mr Merrifield remain in Year 6 and Mrs Bateman in Year 3. You will see that some of the teachers are changing year groups including Mrs Gardner who joins Mrs Bateman in Year 3. We welcome back Mrs Thurston from maternity leave who will be teaching her Year 5 class for four days a week with Mrs Carre teaching the class on a Wednesday. We also welcome back Miss Hannaway from maternity who will rejoin Year 6 as their Learning Mentor. Classes will be 'moving-up' to the following teachers:

3LW → 4VW (Mrs Wilden)	and	3SB → 4LW (Mrs Wheal)
4LF → 5TC (Mrs Thurston & Mrs Carre)	and	4RI → 5LF (Mrs Fry)
5EG → 6AM (Mr Merrifield)	and	5VW → 6RI (Miss Ingram)

TUCASI will be used from September for all payments e.g. visits and school meals. Additionally, it will be used for the booking of GClub. A timeline for moving to Tucasi:

- Arbor payments taken offline from 21st July 2021
- Credit and debit balances for clubs and lunches for Y3 to Y5 to be transferred to Tucasi w/c 26th July 2021
- Payments for Stubbington Study Centre will be transferred w/c 26th July 2021
- Link codes sent to parents/carers of Y2 - Y5 (current) w/c 9th August 2021
- Y6 leavers credit balances transferred to Bay House (if attending), unless the parent/carer specifically requests a refund w/c 1st September 21

WATERPLAY on the last day of term will be a first for Year 3 and Year 4 but remembered by Year 5 and Year 6 from 2019. On that day, the majority of children are to come to school in their PE kit and bring with them their school appropriate waterplay clothes e.g. swimming costume or t-shirt and shorts they do not mind getting wet. Every child will need a towel and can bring in their own named water toy if they have one e.g. water pistol. Children are to come to school in their water play clothes and shoes and bring a PE kit and trainers to change into. We will manage changing, after the session, so that classes are not mixed and blinds are pulled down to enable privacy. Our older children know they have access to the toilets.

WE LOVE BOOKS so we are hosting a sponsored reading event, from Thursday 1 to Wednesday 7 July, in association with Usborne Books and our local consultant. The event will be great to motivate the children with some summer reads and help raise money for new resources for the school library. The event will be rounded off by a Book Fair during the school day on Thursday 8 July. We are hoping that all children will participate and aim to raise some pennies in sponsorship during the week. Children are encouraged to bring £3 or £5 in a named purse or envelope for the Book Fair on Thursday 8 July where children can purchase a book party bag. Detailed letter and sponsorship forms to follow.

WISHING you all a wonderful and safe summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming you back in September. We have had to manage lots of uncertainties in the last few months. Right now, we are certain that the children will return to school in September, and we are certain that the numbers allowed on site, class sizes etc is still unknown. The government has said we will need to be aware of the situation with Covid 19, and measures necessary for socially distancing and good hygiene. We are uncertain therefore, what the provision will actually look like and certain we must plan for different eventualities. We remain committed to you and will update you as soon as we can.

Y6 ACTIVITY WEEK is set to be an awesome week and is in lieu of a Year 6 residential. Year 6 can look forward to a variety of watersports on Alverstoke Creek. When not at the creek, the children will be prepping their Leavers' Assembly which will be live streamed on Monday 19 July at 16.00 in a password manner - just as we hosted the Nativity. The children will also find themselves engaged with a variety of sports at school.

YOU SAID/WE DID Some of you have found Arbor 'clunky' to use for payments. We are moving back to Tucasi for payments. This also supports our Finance Team. Arbor will continue to be used for sharing key information about your child and if you have yet to do so we recommend that you download the free app.

Many of you have enjoyed the Summer Socials and Half-term Hangouts although expressed a wish that they include lunch and be available to all year groups. Using your feedback we have been able to arrange 4 weeks worth of these over the summer holidays with Premier Education. Years 2-5 will be invited and lunch will be made available as requested.