



## Newsletter 1 - 2021

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

<b>DATES FOR SEPTEMBER</b> The dates below are for your diary and are also included on the electronic calendar; occasionally they are subject to change		
<b>Ongoing</b>	Y5 & Y6 - Arrival 08:45 Y3 & Y4 - Arrival 08:50	Y5 & Y6 - Departure 15:10 Y3 & Y4 - Departure 15:15
<b>Mondays</b>	Y5 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Y6 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school	
<b>Tuesdays</b>	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Y6 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school	
<b>Wednesdays</b>	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Y5 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school	
<b>Fridays</b>	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school	
<b>Monday 06</b>	GClub - breakfast and after school starts Whole school return to school	
<b>Wed 08 - Fri 10</b>	<b>Y5 Stubbington Visit:</b> Wednesday 08: Arrival 10:0 - 10.15am Friday 10: Pick up time 1.00-1:15pm	
<b>Starting Wed 22 Weekly</b>	Upper School Football Club: 3.15 - 4.00pm Upper School Netball Club: 3.15 - 4.00pm Separate details to follow	
<b>Friday 24</b>	5LF Cake Sale	
<b>Starting Fri 24 Weekly</b>	Lower School Multi-Skills Club: 3.15 - 4.00pm Separate details to follow	
<b>Friday 01 Oct</b>	4LW Cake Sale	

**A WARM WELCOME** back to you all. We are really looking forward to an exciting Autumn Term. The school extends a particularly warm welcome to our Y3 children and their parents/carers. Y3 can look forward to having the school all to themselves on Friday 3 September to help them familiarise themselves with the site and staff. Y4, 5 and 6 will start on Monday 6th. We request that Y3 children arrive from 8.50, on the blue playground, via the Bury Hall Lane gate and are lined up behind their year group cone by 8.55am. We will have a coned off area for Y3 parents/carers to wait and wave off their children on Friday. Team Gomer will meet and greet the children and parents to explain a few matters. This will be really swift in order that children can start their Gomer learning journey promptly. As we continue to navigate our service in Covid times, we will continue to communicate school matters with you as quickly as possible. You will have questions – please just ask. Children may forget things – we will remind them. Together, we will learn and refine. If there are changes to be made, we will ensure you have ample time to process these.

**AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS** will be starting in a few weeks. Last term, we thought we were going to have to suspend them but we now have plans to start this term. Please check additional information about this which will be e mailed to you once plans are finalised.

**BREAKFAST & AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB** (GClub) continues in September for pupils of Gomer Junior School. Bookings need to be made seven days in advance of the date required. Please do not leave it too late. 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 (Scopay) 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 (Scopay), will have been sent to you in a separate email.

**CAKE SALES** are returning by popular demand. This adds to our community spirit. We ask that pupils in the identified class, on the calendar, bring cakes (nut free) into school for sale at a cost of 50p per cake. Monies raised from the sales is given to the class who chooses how to spend its funds e.g. additional wet play games. Donations of cakes are to be brought to school the morning of the sale in a named (if wanting it back) container. The sale will be accessible to the school, in an organised manner, at morning break. Participation and purchasing from the sales is completely optional.

**CHOIR** will also resume this term. We have missed our school choir and welcome back Mr Pilott who also leads our vocal tuition. Please check additional information about this which will be e mailed to you.

**CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME** Mrs Wilden was appointed our Assistant Head Teacher at the end of term and will be supporting the leadership of the school. Mrs Mulhall, our Executive Head Teacher is likely to be at Rowner Junior every Tuesday and Thursday. As always, our Associate Head Teacher, Mrs Digby is always at school when Mrs Mulhall is not. Mrs Wilden will continue to be class based for the majority of the week. She will, however, not teach the class on a Tuesday afternoon and one Wednesday every fortnight. We are committed to learning and teaching so are delighted to have appointed Mrs Lovisetto to teach the class when Mrs Wilden is not. Mrs Lovisetto is an experienced teacher who has previously worked at Gomer Junior School. She will be an asset to the team and we are delighted with her return.

**COVID** matters have our close attention. As we live with COVID we have adapted and have many measures in place to help keep us safe. The DfE continues to provide guidance and this informs our risk assessment. Priority actions include good hygiene, cleaning regimes and ventilation. Although it is not mandatory you will still see some staff wearing masks. Your choice around mask wearing will be respected. We will continue to limit people entering the building. COVID has presented challenges. It has also enabled us to implement a different approach which we have all benefited from e.g. online Parent/Carer meetings, staggered arrival and departure times and coming to school in PE kits. We will therefore be continuing with practice that has benefited the community in addition to staying safe - the main priority.

**FACEBOOK** continues to provide a forum for parents/carers to communicate. The purpose of the closed parent/carers group is to help everyone by posting informal parent/carers reminders (e.g. school visit tomorrow – wellies required), questions (e.g. When does term end?). Although the school operates an up to date calendar, app, website, text service and provides letters, the school is aware that some information does not always come home. The Facebook group has clear guidelines (please see pinned post), secure settings and is available to Gomer Junior parents/carers only. The group is a **positive** forum so we ask that any personal issues or concerns are taken to the school directly. The school monitors the group to ensure that members are respecting its ethos and contributing where necessary. We also have a school public page in which we tend to blog daily during term time. **Please do like and comment on our Facebook posts on our school page too – we like knowing you are reading our posts.**

**GOSPORT MARINE FESTIVAL** will feature canoeing, kayaking, and trips out to sea will, as usual, but so will a whale – inflatable, not real, of course – and it is all for free. Further information about the festival can be found at: [www.gosportmarinefestival.co.uk](http://www.gosportmarinefestival.co.uk) The booking line can be accessed by either clicking through from the festival's website or by going to: [bookwhen.com/gosportmarinefestival](http://bookwhen.com/gosportmarinefestival).

**HEALTHY SNACKS** are encouraged at morning break. These need to be separate from lunch boxes. Please ensure snacks are nut free and of a healthy nature e.g. cereal bars and fruit are sensible and popular choices.

**LUNCH** continues to be provided by our own kitchen team at the cost of £2.50 to those children not in receipt of FSM. You do not need to pre-order lunches. Children will need to know what they'd like from the kitchen on the morning they will be having it. Menus are available on our [website](#). We currently offer two different hot meals at lunch time, with at least one of these each day being vegetarian. Please let us know of any specific dietary requirements so that our kitchen team can work with you to ensure your child is appropriately catered for. Their menu choice will be taken each morning by their class teacher. Alternatively, children can bring a packed lunch in a clearly named lunch box. These will be collected from class on blue trollies at the start of the day. We operate a NO NUT policy, so please do not send children into school with any food containing nuts. **Y3** can look forward to a special welcome menu which they chose during transition.

**MEDICAL** Please see the attached letter regarding chicken pox. This action is really important for the health of a child who is currently receiving treatment for a serious condition.

#### **NEED TO MAKE CONTACT WITH A TEACHER?**

year3@gomer.gfmat.org	year4@gomer.gfmat.org	year5@gomer.gfmat.org	year6@gomer.gfmat.org
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**PERIPATETIC MUSIC LESSONS 2021/2022** start this month. With thanks to everyone who has already signed-up. 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.

**STAGGERED START & FINISH TIMES** will maintain a steady flow on our sites. We have learnt, in the past year, that reduced numbers on site have 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	<b>Y5:</b> Outside classroom - <b>Y6:</b> by greenhouse in the allotment
Y3 & Y4	08.50	08.55	15.15	Outside classroom (3EG on the blue GMG)

**STUBBINGTON STUDY CENTRE** is looking forward to welcoming Year 5 on Wednesday 8 September. We are very excited because this will be our first residential in some time and a great start to Year 5 - we know they will have a brilliant time. Please check the kit list for the visit. This was sent home last term. We are hoping for great weather and are grateful to the staff who give their time voluntarily to support this overnight trip.

**TUCASI (SCOPAY)** is now being used for all payments e.g. visits and school meals. Link codes were sent to all families in August, so please check your emails. Additionally, it will be used for the booking of GClub - we are delighted to see that lots of sessions have been booked (children cannot attend unless they have been booked in).

**UNIFORM** is important because we recognise that a consistent uniform approach increases children's identity and self-esteem, impacting positively on behaviour. It also puts the children in the right frame of mind for working, whether in school or learning online via Google Classroom. Additionally, it ensures that pupils are not differentiated from one another because of the clothes they wear to school. **Skoolkit** are now our stockist and are all set up to help you, plus local supermarkets have lots of stock too. We updated the Summer Term newsletter with information about the new improved quality zipped PE sweatshirt which can be purchased from Skoolkit. Children are to wear their PE kits to school on their PE days and will be required, on cooler days, to wear a school jumper if you choose not to wear the zipped PE sweatshirt. To ensure you have the correct uniform please do check the [website information](#). We look forward to welcoming our pupils in their smart uniforms at the start of term. Please ensure all uniform is clearly named. For health and safety reasons long hair needs to be tied back whilst children are in school.

**WATER BOTTLES** are encouraged in class. We ask that these are not hard screw top metal bottles and required to be plastic, ideally with a sports type top to avoid spillages. Please name bottles clearly and have them washed daily,

**YOU SAID/WE DID** Summer Socials were a great success - using your feedback from the Easter Socials, to improve their services Premier Education enabled over 600 free spaces to be allocated to children from all year groups, over 4 weeks on the school site. After lockdowns and reduced social opportunities in the past 18 months, this was a welcome opportunity for many children and parents/carers.