

Learning Powers
 Thinking Determination
 Independence Motivation
 Creativity Collaboration



Newsletter 4 - December 2021

GO GOMER!

We raised an awesome £1,144.66 profit at the school fair. This is an awesome effort. A big THANK YOU to FROGJS for organising a brilliant fair, to Team Gomer (big and small) for prepping and attending the fair and to parents/carers for tombola items. We are also really grateful to local businesses and parent donations for enabling a fabulous raffle. We are looking to use some of the money for creating some wonderful outdoor 'Calm Zone' spaces. This was in response to feedback from a child in Year 5 who submitted a wonderful proposal for these.

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

DATES FOR DECEMBER: The dates below are for your diary and are also included on the electronic calendar; occasionally they are subject to change		
Ongoing	Y5 & Y6 - Arrival 08:45 Y3 & Y4 - Arrival 08:50	Y5 & Y6 - Departure 15:10 Y3 & Y4 - Departure 15:15
Mondays	Y5 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school (No PE during the last week of term) Y6 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school (No PE during the last week of term)	
Tuesdays	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school (No PE during the last week of term) Y6 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school (No PE during the last week of term) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service Club - fortnightly (please see dates on the electronic calendar) 	
Wednesdays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school (No PE during the last week of term) Y5 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school (No PE during the last week of term) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper School Netball Club: 3.15-4.00pm (Final session - Wednesday 08 December) Upper School Football Club: 3.15-4.00pm (Final session - Wednesday 08 December) 	
Fridays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school (No PE during the last week of term) Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school (No PE during the last week of term) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower School Multi-skills Club: 3.15-4.00pm (Final session - Friday 10 December) 	
Wednesday 01	Christmas post boxes open - First names, surnames and class on envelopes please	
Friday 03	Be Bright Be Seen - Wear school uniform with bright accessories e.g. hi vis items	
Friday 03	Last Home Learning Google Classroom	
06 - 10 December	Y5 Bikeability training	
Tuesday 07	Year 4 Christingle at St Mary's Church: 1.30 - 2.30pm - details previously sent	
Monday 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FROGJS Christmas Gift Sale - £3 per gift in a named envelope Wear Christmas performance outfit to school Live Streaming of Nativity - Hosanna Rock: 2.00 - 3.00pm 	
Tuesday 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elf Day - dress up as an elf or 'elforise' school uniform. Suggested donation of £1 to be donated to PIAM Brown Ward in Southampton which caters for children with cancer 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.00pm Cinderella Panto in classes - interactive live streaming. Children are welcome to bring a sweet treat into school to have in the interval • Service Club: 3.15 - 5.00pm - Christmas Activity
Wednesday 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Lunch • Christmas/Festive Colour Jumper Day with school trousers / skirt
Thursday 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocksteady Concert (concert to school pupils) • Y3 Jolabokaflokkur - come to school in pyjamas and bring slippers: 1.00 - 2.30pm • Christmas Performance Streamed: 2.00 - 3.00pm
Friday 17	<p>Last day of term – children to be collected at the following times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y5 & Y6 – 1.50pm • Y3 & Y4 – 2.00pm <p><i>Nb If you are unable to collect your child at their early finish time, please inform the office, via email and your child will be looked after accordingly. You will be able to collect them from the blue playground at the following times:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y5 & Y6 – 3.10pm • Y3 & Y4 – 3.15pm <p>GClub will not be operating for the afternoon session.</p>
Tuesday 04 January	Happy New Year - Spring Term Starts

ABSENCE REQUESTS For all term time absence requests (including medical/dental appointments) please complete the Absence Form. The School Office can provide you with this. For day to day absences due to sickness/lateness, please use the function on the homepage of the website. Please note, schools cannot authorise term time holidays unless exceptional circumstances dictate. We define exceptional as - rare, significant, unavoidable and short. For service personnel (all services) please provide a letter from your Line Manager/Divisional Officer/Commanding Officer to support any holiday absence request, confirming that no alternative dates for holiday were available to you.

ADVENT CALENDARS Our families have donated 35 advent calendars this year and they have now been collected by the local charity Acts of Kindness. Thank you for your continued support with all our charities this year.

BE BRIGHT BE SEEN As Christmas draws near, the evenings and mornings are darker. Children are encouraged to wear bright clothing to and from school so they can be seen during these dark hours. Therefore on Friday 3 December, Gomer are taking part in a 'Be Bright Be Seen' day. Children are invited to wear bright accessories along with their school uniform. Remember - Be Bright Be Seen!

BIKEABILITY Year 5 start their professional cycling instruction w/b 6.12.2021. This is an annual activity because the school recognises that important cycling skills and understanding are developed in order that trainees will then be able to make journeys safely to school on quiet roads. For more detail please read the FAQ sheet e mailed to Year 5 Parents in October. **What your child will need for each training session:**

- A bike which is roadworthy and the correct size for them - a bike check will be carried out on the day 1 and any bike which is not roadworthy will have to be fixed for your child to continue on the course. A roadworthy bike must have the following as a minimum – 2 fully inflated tyres, with good tread, 2 working brakes, secure handlebars, with correctly fitting secure grips. Saddle must be secure.
- A cycle helmet - this needs to be the right size and a good fit.
- Weather appropriate clothing including gloves (sessions are between 1 and 2 hours and are outside).
- Some wet weather clothing e.g. a minimum of a shower or waterproof jacket, preferably some over-trousers too. The training will continue in light to moderate rain but will be suspended if there is a heavy downpour.
- Trainers to be bought in, to change into for cycling session
- The school will provide a High Visibility Jacket

If you have asked to borrow a bicycle from Pedal Power this will be available to your child from Monday.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE Our Christmas performance will be online this year. With the success of previous years' streaming, we have decided that this is the safest and most effective way to enable you to watch your children perform. Last year's online performance enabled even extended families from distant shores to access the streaming, which was great! Streaming will be from 2pm on Thursday 16 December. Further information and links will be emailed.

G-CLUB last session this will be the morning session on Friday 17 December. It will not be available at the end of the day on this date. Please inform the office by email if you are unable to collect your child for the earlier finish times on this day (detailed in the table above) and we will look after your child accordingly so that they are able to be collected at the usual times of 3.10 and 3.15. G Club will restart on Tuesday 4 January 2022

HOME LEARNING will be sent home for the last time this term on Friday 3 December. Ahead of this, and after too, please spend time learning the songs for the Nativity. No formal learning tasks will be sent home for any year group over the Christmas holiday but children can access their Google Classroom apps, Spelling Shed, Hit the Button, Times Table Rockstars etc and of course children can read - lots!

LIBRARY It would be lovely if you could send in a photo of your child enjoying their current library book, especially if they have made something from one of them e.g. baking a cake from a recipe book, teaching a dog a new trick, making an origami object, doing a magic trick, painting a picture, knitting a pattern, sewing some clothes, drawing, making crafts or just curled up reading in their favourite place etc. We are looking to update our book reviews corner, so we can add them here. Please email our librarian mkidd@gomer.gfmat.org We look forward to receiving and displaying them.

LOVE IN A SHOE BOX We were delighted to have collected 40 shoe boxes this year. These were gratefully received by our local Gosport Charity last month and will bring much love to children in eastern European countries.

PARKING SAFELY & WITH COURTESY helps the whole community. We are aware that it can be tricky to park around the school site. Wherever possible, please encourage children to walk, cycle or scoot to school. If it is not possible to walk or scoot all the way, please consider leaving home a little earlier so you can park a small distance away from school. Need somewhere to park? You can use the 'Park & Stride' facility at the Seahorse Pub if you are unable to find somewhere else. Parking and striding helps to reduce congestion which makes it safer around the school site and helps our neighbours. It has recently been reported that some of our neighbours are struggling with school related traffic at drop-off and collection time. Some parents/carers have also shared that it feels too busy outside the school gates. We would be grateful if you could show consideration to our neighbours when parking and travelling to school. Drives should NOT be parked over. Furthermore, parking and striding is great to help with social distancing.

PARKING SPACES FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES Please identify to the school office if you need to use the school car park to drop off your child/children due to a registered disability. A couple of families already need to do this and we are aware of them, however there have been parents/carers unknown to us using the disabled parking spaces which has prevented the safe drop-off of others. A call to the school office if needed please, will help us to enable safety for all.

POLITE REMINDER - WATER BOTTLES Please check that your child has their NAMED water bottle with them when they come to school each day. We have an increasing number of pupils coming to the office asking for a water bottle. We have a very limited number of 'spare' bottles and these should be used for absolute emergencies only. For the health and safety of our community please ensure all children bring their own. Thank you.

COVID SAFETY MATTERS In light of the Government's announcement over the weekend, concerning face coverings in schools, shops and public transport face coverings will be worn in communal areas in our school by staff and visitors. This is something the majority of Team Gomer have been doing already this term so the children are very used to seeing adults with masks. We limit visitors into the school building. However, any parents/carers or visitors entering the school will now need to wear a facemask unless they are exempt. Please continue to encourage good hand hygiene. The one way system is still in place at Gomer Junior, so please enter through the Bury Road Gate and leave by exiting from the Pyrford Close car park gate (please don't walk through the car park).

STAFF MATTERS and we are always sad when we have to say goodbye. Christine Maclellan has been a cleaner at Gomer for just over 5½ years. She has helped keep us tidy and clean and been an asset to the team. She leaves us to start her retirement and we wish her every happiness. Miss Humphreys has only been with us a short while. In that time she has shown considerable commitment to the school and supported many children in upper school. She leaves us to join her partner in his business - we wish her every success in her new venture. We are delighted to welcome to the team, Miss Smees. She joins the upper school LAPS Team full time from Monday 6 December. Miss Hannaway, who works part-time, will continue to do so but in a new role as a Teaching Assistant. She has been working very closely with Miss Smees to ensure a thorough hand-over in order that Miss Smees can support Year 6 and others in the school in the Learning Mentor role. We are delighted that Mr Guest is now our Site Assistant. He is an asset to the team. Ms Williams joined GFM Catering very recently and is now based at Team Gomer as our School Cook. She joined Mrs Elgie who is a fabulous Catering Assistant.

TERM DATES for the academic year 2022-2023:

Term	Start Date	End Date
Autumn Term 2022	1 September 2022	16 December 2022
	Half term 24 October - 28 October 2022	
Spring 2023	3 January 2023	31 March 2023
	Half term 13 February - 17 February 2023	
Summer 2023	17 April 2023	21 July 2023
	Half term 29 May – 2 June 2023	

The next academic year starts on Thursday 1 September 2022 however is an INSET for all teachers and support staff. Children will not attend on this day. GFM Year 3 and Year 7 pupils and learners in the Lower 6th will start on Friday 2 September 2022; all other year groups start their Autumn term on Monday 5 September. Further INSET days will be confirmed in our January newsletter.

WELLIES are very useful to have at school - without, the children can not go on the school field in wetter and/or colder months. Please send your child to school with a named pair of wellies or a stout shoe so that they can play on the field. Children are welcome to take them home for the weekend. Not got a pair? This might make for a good Christmas gift idea! Any spares you may have at home are always welcome if no longer needed - these can be added to the boot racks outside classes.

WISHING you all a very happy and safe Christmas Holiday. Wishing you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year also. It has been a busy term and we are delighted with all that the children have achieved.

YOU SAID/WE DID We do value your feedback and like to update you on how we have responded to this. So, please do share with us.