

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



## Newsletter 5 - January 2022

**GO GOMER!** Well done to **ROBYN FURLONG** who has just received an award from cadets for making the most progress in her brass group. She is doing so well! Well done also to **OLIVIA HODSON-MARRIOTT, MARY MARTYN** and **CHLOE THOMPSON** who were all awarded their Brownie Gold Awards in December. A big WELL DONE and GO GOMER to the **whole school** for enabling us to win the Hampshire Walktober Competition. Our JRSOs continue to motivate the school community and the community respond accordingly.

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

<b>DATES FOR JANUARY:</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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service Club - fortnightly: 3.15-4.00pm (please see dates on the electronic calendar and the information below)</li> </ul>	
<b>Wednesdays</b>	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Y5 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upper School Netball Club: 3.15-4.00pm      <b>Starting: Wednesday 5 January</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Fridays</b>	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower School Multi-skills Club: 3.15-4.00pm      <b>Starting: Friday 14 January</b></li> <li>Upper School Football Club: 3.15-4.00pm      <b>Starting: Friday 7 January</b></li> </ul>	

**A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR** to you all. We do hope you are well and rested after the holiday. The children have settled quickly into the school routine. Please help your children with this routine by ensuring that they are at school promptly to start the school day, have the relevant kit and are collected promptly too.

**CONTACT INFORMATION** Please note that it is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that the school has up to date contact telephone numbers for your child in case of any emergencies. Please contact the school office if you need to update us. Thank you.

**COOL MILK** For those parents who order milk for their child(ren) from Cool Milk please note that there will be a slight increase in the cost of their milk from 23p to 24p per child per day from 01/01/22.

**COVID-19** continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education remains. If you or your child has ANY COVID-19 or possible COVID-19 symptoms, ensure you are accessing a PCR test as soon as possible. We also strongly recommend that if your child is displaying COVID-19 symptoms they do not attend school until a negative PCR result has been recorded. LFTs are not suitable for children who are displaying symptoms and are designed to be used regularly to pick up symptomless cases. To help reduce risks, insistence on hand hygiene, rigorous cleaning schedule, fogging, bubbling, staggered breaks, start and departure times and continually well ventilated spaces remain strategies which are commonplace at Gomer. Before the holiday, we saw a rise in COVID-19 cases at Gomer. Although we are not permitted or required to give you details of individuals who have tested positive, we would like to share with you that there are continued confirmed cases (these children are at home) but not at a rate that has to be reported to Public Health England.

**INSET** days for 2022-2023 are in the process of being finalised and we will confirm these next month.

**OFFICE/RECEPTION** remains open until 4.30pm Monday → Thursday and 4.00pm on Fridays.

**PRE-LOVED TOYS AND GAMES** you no longer want would be welcomed by GClub if they are in full working order, in good condition and have all the pieces.

**READING** is important. Please, please, please ensure your child is reading regularly and where appropriate, to you. We have systems in place to encourage children to choose a variety of genres in addition to their banded book.

**REPORTING ABSENCE** is best achieved by using the function on the front of the website using the 'Attendance Matters' blue box. This is a really efficient method of communication for you and the school.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM** should still be of the winter variety until the Summer Term 2022. Thank you for your support with this. With the darker days ahead of us, we also encourage children to have an item of 'reflective glow' attached to their bag or coat if not already attached, to ensure they are visible when walking to school and home again. Additionally, bicycle lights should be considered for all children.

**SERVICE CLUB** resumes this term, after school on a Tuesday, but on a slightly different schedule to further support our COVID-19 Risk Assessment. Rather than having all children together they will meet alternate fortnights. Y3 and Y4 will meet for the first time this term on Tuesday 11 January and Y5 and Y6 will meet for the first time this term on Tuesday 18 January. This is to enable us to maintain lower and upper school Bubbles - we have less space in The Globe which is why we have changed the groupings. We may be able to have all the children together, after half-term, but will update you accordingly. Mrs Flanagan remains visible to all our Service Children throughout the week and she is available to talk with them away from the Service Club. She was delighted that the children liked their goody-bags last term.

**STAFF MATTER** Mrs Austin will now no longer be working on a Friday but remains contactable on Monday to Thursday (not Wednesday afternoons).

**TEXT/SMS MESSAGES** to contact school – please do not send messages to school via texts as the facility is not accessed regularly. Thank you.

**WELLIES** (or stout shoes) are very much welcomed in school if they are clearly named/identifiable. Wellies will be stored on the racks outside during the day but stowed inside overnight. We have had a lot of wet weather and when the field is wet, only those with suitable footwear can play on it. You may also like to send your child to school with a coat that you don't mind getting a little muddy, particularly if you have a child who enjoys using our 'mud kitchen'.

**YOU SAID/WE DID** We received a lot of wonderful feedback from our nativity – thank you. You outlined how much you like the traditional story with contemporary twists. The organisation and broadcasting takes considerable effort so your feedback is much appreciated. You have also shared disappointment that the December Rock Steady concert was not filmed. In order for the school to film children we need parental permission and we do not have this for every child at Gomer. We respect parental choice and manage this carefully. For example, those children who we do not have permission for were kept off camera for the filming of the Nativity but were present in the room to join in with the singing. This was not possible for the Rocksteady Concert due to the band set-up. Also, this year Rocksteady themselves did not have the capacity to film and have apologised for this. Some schools were not able to accommodate a concert at all so we were pleased that our Rock Bands had at least the opportunity to perform to their peers.