

Learning Powers
 Thinking Determination
 Independence Motivation
 Creativity Collaboration



Newsletter 6 - February 2022

GO GOMER! Well done to **LIBERTY BUZZARD** who has qualified for the Hampshire County Swimming Championships. Along with Freestyle and medley relays, she has qualified for the 50m and 100m Butterfly in the 10-11 age group. Only the top 8 in the double age group get in so this is a huge achievement for her as she is still only 9! Dancers from Ker-Mel School of Dancing had their awards night and were all praised for their dedication to their ballet, tap, modern and competition dancing; **ELIZA GATERELL** received the Overall Achievement award for her 10 1sts, 5 2nd and 3 3rd places at dance competitions this year! **SOFIA DIGBY** was awarded the First Prize trophy in Junior Tap. Well done to **EDEN VIGNOLLES** who dedicates 5 to 10 minutes every day (weekends and holidays included) to improve her maths skills and understanding. She is applying herself to the best she can and never gives up. She has now reached the 1000 day streak badge in DoodleMaths! **We love to hear about your children's success outside school. Please inform us so that we can record them here.**

DATES FOR FEBRUARY: 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 Y6 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school	
Tuesdays	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"> Service Club - fortnightly: 3.15-4.00pm (please see dates on the electronic calendar) 	
Wednesdays	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"> Upper School Netball Club: 3.15-4.00pm 	
Fridays	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"> Lower School Multi-skills Club: 3.15-4.00pm Upper School Football Club: 3.15-4.00pm 	
Wednesday 09	Year 6 - Height & Weight Measurement (National Child Measurement Programme)	
Friday 11	Y3 Egyptian Day - optional Egyptian themed costumes / accessories welcome (PE in the afternoon)	
Tuesday 15	Y6 Parent/Carer Online Learning Reviews - Booking details to follow	
Friday 18	INSET Day - School closed to children	
21-25 February	Half Term	
Monday 28	First day back to school - Spring Term 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellness Activity - All pupils to wear PE kit to school Y5 Parent/Carer Online Learning Reviews - Booking details to follow 	
Wed 02 March	Y3 Parent/Carer Online Learning Reviews - Booking details to follow	
Thurs 03 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Book Day - Vegetable and child dress-up - see below Y4 Parent/Carer Learning Reviews - Booking details to follow 	

ARBOR APP & ARBOR PORTAL gives you access to your child's dashboard and account. You are able to access the Arbor Parent Portal either directly via the website or via the Arbor Parent Portal app which you can download via your app store. Many of you already do this but for those who have yet to, please see the attached document explaining, step by step, how to access your child's information via Arbor.

CRISP PACKET PROJECT: embrace the waste! The Crisp Packet Project is a charity that reuses crisp packets by making survival items for the homeless and other vulnerable members of the national community. Crisp packets contain single-use plastic, and most are not recyclable because of the mix of materials. Rather than letting these packets end up as landfill and plastic pollution, the Project recycles them. The packets are waterproof and the foil lining reflects body heat. Making them an ideal material for blankets, bivvy bags (waterproof and heat reflecting bags that can be put over sleeping bags), backpacks and lots of other survival items. 16 million empty packets are thrown away each day! They take up to 80 years to decompose! The Project recycles them. We have learnt this recently:

- 5 crisp packets can make a small bag
- 45 crisp packets can make a survival blanket
- 150 crisp packets can make a bivvy bag (sleeping bag cover)

Throughout February, in collaboration with other schools within the GFM, we are asking you to **collect your empty and washed, foil - based crisp packets**. Please cut them open then wash and dry them. Please then bring them to the crisp box collection point (outside office). For more information, read through the stories on www.crisppacketproject.com. We are hoping to organise for the School Council to work alongside the Brune Park Committees Team, to help fuse the packets together to make some blankets.

COVID-19 continues to impact our community. However we are committed to learning and teaching, so we are doing all we can to keep classes open. Currently, we are managing this with class teachers teaching online whilst children are supported in class by teaching assistants. The children are responding positively to this and the staff are doing an amazing job under challenging circumstances. We commend all children who are learning remotely and wish those well who just need to rest-up right now. Due to the current landscape, we are asking that if your child has possible COVID-19 symptoms, that you ensure you are accessing a PCR test for them as soon as possible. LFTs are designed to be used frequently to pick up symptomless cases. We advise regular use of these, particularly if your child knows, or thinks they may have been in the close proximity of a family member or friend with Covid, for example.

HEALTHY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME - FAMILY FIRST The UK's best family magazine is now free to all parents & guardians. Please click on the link below to access the magazine:

<https://familyfirst.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d972561f47037a6befb25debb&id=7b979af2c8&e=496acebad7>

HEALTHY SNACKS PLEASE! Mrs Wilden recently led a whole school assembly to discuss the importance of a healthy, balanced diet. The children explored the nutritional value of food, identifying the red, amber and green colour coding system. The School Council had raised an awareness within our recent personal development review that some children's snacks at break, were beginning to be unhealthy. We have recommended that suitable snacks are fruit and raw vegetables, or low sugar savoury snacks, like pretzels or rice cakes, rather than crisps or chocolate. They conducted this survey for the whole school:

- How many children bring a snack to school? 89
- Who packs your snack? Special adult: 72 Pack own: 12
- Would you be interested in a snack bar at break at school, where you could buy healthy snacks between 20-50p? Yes:15

The School Council and Mrs Wilden will be developing ideas about how to reinstate the snack shop, considering what should be sold and how it is sourced.

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION Reminder - Please do not send text/sms messages to contact the school as this facility is not accessed regularly. Parents/carers wishing to make contact please access the school email address enquiries@gomer.gfmat.org or, to report absence, please access our attendance tab on our website <https://gomer.gfmat.org/for-parents/attendance-matters/>. You can also contact your child's year group teachers directly, as follows:

year3@gomer.gfmat.org

year4@gomer.gfmat.org

year5@gomer.gfmat.org

year6@gomer.gfmat.org

YEAR 6 ACTIVITIES WEEK is set to be awesome! A 2 night London stay is being planned, in addition to water sports activities which will be hosted in our locality. An email was sent to our Year 6 families last week. Please ensure you have completed the Google Form and paid the deposit by **February 11 2022** to secure your child's place.

WELLNESS ACTIVITY the school's prize for winning Walktober 2021 has provided us with a wonderful wellness activity for each class. So, all pupils need to wear PE kit to school on Monday 28 February - this will be an extra day in PE kit for Year 3 and Year 4.

WORLD BOOK DAY '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. We have lots of exciting activities planned including a Big Booky Breakfast (more details nearer to **March 3rd**). Every child is invited to bring to school a vegetable dressed as a book character with the associated book in hand. If children would like to dress themselves **and** a vegetable they are welcome to do so - both dress-ups are not obligatory. Year groups have adapted their timetable and will use the day to immerse children into the exciting world of books. Book tokens will be made available to your child on the day.. More information to follow...

YOU SAID/WE DID Our phone message was a little out of date. Thank you for letting us know. We have now updated this and there is no longer the option to leave a message regarding absence or lateness on the phone due to you needing to report an absence here: <https://gomer.gfmat.org/for-parents/attendance-matters/>