

Learning Powers
 Thinking Determination
 Independence Motivation
 Creativity Collaboration



Newsletter 1 - September 2022

GO GOMER! Well done to all children who completed the HCC Summer Reading Challenge. Yet to finish all the books? No problem - you have until 17 September to have them 'signed off'. Please contact the Discovery Centre.

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

The GFM are also keen to hear of your child's successes. We would like you to share their incredible individual stories of resilience, commitment, acts of kindness, their remarkable achievements through fantastic sporting, artistic and musical achievements, plus stories of youngsters involved in local and national community activity and projects. The GFM want to hear from you!

Proud parents, grandparents, carers, sisters, and brothers please share the success of your family member (or your friend). We have designed the form below to make it easy to submit a few lines, alongside any photos or videos:

[Share your child's successes with the GFM](#)

Let's share how brilliant the young people of Gosport are to further inspire us all!

DATES FOR SEPTEMBER: The dates below are for your diary and are also included on the electronic calendar; occasionally they are subject to change	
Ongoing	Arrival to playground from 8:40 am
	Start of school day: 8.50 am End of school day: 3:10 pm
Mondays	Y5 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - starting Monday 5th Sept Y6 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - starting Monday 5th Sept
Tuesdays	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - starting Tuesday 6th Sept Y6 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - starting Tuesday 6th Sept <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper school Football League Club: 3:15 - 4:15pm (from wb 12th) Service Club - (all year groups): 3.15-4.15pm - starting Tuesday 13th Sept
Wednesdays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - starting Wednesday 7th Sept Y5 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - starting Wednesday 7th Sept <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper School Netball Club: 3.15-4.00pm - starting Wednesday 14th Sept
Thursdays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir practice: 8:15 - 8:45 - starting Thursday 15th Sept
Fridays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - starting Friday 9th Sept Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school - starting Friday 9th Sept
Thursday 01 Sept	INSET DAY - School closed to children
Friday 02	School open to Year 3 ONLY (NO GClub)
Monday 05	GClub - breakfast and after school club starts Whole school return to school
Tuesday 06	Meet the Teacher - pop in to meet your child's new teacher: 3.15 - 4.15pm
Friday 16	Class 6AM - Cake Sale - 50p
Friday 23	Class 6RI - Cake Sale - 50p
Friday 30	Class 5LF - Cake Sale - 50p

A WARM WELCOME 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, as part of our transition, on Friday 2 September to help them familiarise themselves with the site and staff. Y3 children are to return in their regular school uniform (not PE kit) and are encouraged to be school ready by remembering: a smile - to be full of questions - prepared with a water bottle and sun hat - ready to tuck into a break snack, packed-lunch or school lunch - and, most importantly, not to worry - Team Gomer will help with 'everything'. Y4, 5 and 6 will start on Monday 5th. We request that Y3 children arrive from 8.40am, on the blue playground, via the Bury Hall Lane gate and are lined up behind their year group cone by 8.50am. Y3 have practised this on their transition days but Team Gomer will meet and greet the children and be available to parents/carers to answer any questions you may have. This will be really swift in order that children can start their Gomer learning journey promptly. Please arrange with the office if you require lengthier meetings.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS will be starting w/b 12 September. Please look out for an additional email in the first full week back, for more information. There is a charge of £10 per after school club, per term, to support resources, possible staffing and kit. More information about sport-based clubs under 'Football' below. Please use this [Google Form](#) to register your child's interest in a Sports Club (including football).

BICYCLE SHELTER is for whole school use. A polite reminder that the blue coloured racks are reserved for Big Team Gomer (staff). Children are reminded to cycle to school with a helmet and use a D-lock to secure their bicycle, through the wheel onto the bicycle rack and keep the key in a safe space in their school bag. Please do not cycle or scoot once you are on site and walk your bike to the rack.

BREAKFAST & AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB (GClub) continues for pupils of Gomer Junior School beginning Monday 5th September. Bookings should be made seven days in advance of the date required. Please do not leave it too late! We will always try to accommodate last minute emergency bookings - but please ensure you communicate directly with the school office about this. 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. For more information and FAQs about GClub please see [here](#).

CAKE SALES are returning this Autumn Term. 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. Money raised from the sales is given to the class who then choose how to spend its funds, e.g. additional wet play games. Donations of cakes (homemade or shop-bought) are to be brought to school on the morning of the sale in a named (if wanting it back) container. The sale will be accessible to the whole school, in an organised manner, at morning break (money bought in, in named purses advised). Participation and purchasing from the sales is completely optional. Y6 spent money they raised in the Autumn Term 2021 on enhancing their leaving do in July 2022! Any monies not spent by classes will travel with them into the new academic year.

CHOIR continues this term with practices on a Thursday before the start of school (first session Thursday 8 September). The choir has been sounding beautiful and we look forward to them participating in more events during the course of the year. All year groups are welcome to join.

CHARACTER EDUCATION helps any one school build and maintain a culture of values and character development. Recognising this as very important within the lives of our young people, for the past year, the GFM Primary Phase have been developing 'character development' opportunities and weaving this across our curriculum in order that they are taught, caught and sought. [The GFM Way](#) (a key part of our DNA and has been built around GFM values) channelled much of our work. For more information about how this is integrated into our curriculum and how you can build on this at home, please visit our [school website](#).

CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME We were delighted to hear that beautiful baby Rosa Bateman arrived safely in the summer holidays. She was a lovely surprise for Mrs Bateman because she arrived 5 weeks early - Mum and baby are doing very well. Mrs Bateman plans to pop into school at some point this term to introduce baby Rosa to Team Gomer (big and small). She wasn't due to start her leave until next week so we are looking forward to giving her some gifts. Congratulations also to Mrs Shadbolt who very recently welcomed her son into her family. We are really excited for her and can't wait to meet her beautiful baby boy. We are delighted to have appointed Mrs West (who was working in Y5 last year) to the Y3 team. We were also delighted to meet the wonderful William Wilden who popped in to see us at the end of term with his Mummy - Mrs Wilden. Miss Annison is all set to start teaching in Year 4 having spent time with us

last term. Miss Sewell and Miss Tuckley, were appointed as Assistant Head Teachers in the Spring Term, to work across the GFM Primary Phase (Gomer and Rowner Junior). Miss Sewell joins us from a primary school in Southampton and Miss Tuckley was teaching, alongside some leadership responsibilities, in Y6 at Rowner last year. Both colleagues have significant experience which will support the senior leadership of both schools. These colleagues will spend half their week at each school and Miss Tuckley will be teaching at Gomer on a Friday in Mrs Thurston's class. Mrs Mulhall, our Executive Head Teacher is likely to be at Rowner Junior every Tuesday and Thursday and alternate Wednesday afternoons. As always, our Associate Head Teacher, and SEND Leader Mrs Digby is always situated at Gomer Junior school.

FACEBOOK continues to provide a forum for parents/carers to communicate. The purpose of our closed parent/carer group is to help everyone by posting informal parent/carer 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 - Facebook can help with any queries. 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 which encourages us to try and do so daily.** Friends of Gomer Junior School (FROGJS) have a separate Facebook page which we also recommend you follow.

FOOTBALL is very popular at Gomer. We are happy for the children to play at lunchtimes when they play fairly and kindly. Children are encouraged to have shin-pads and a change of shoes for this play to reduce scuffed shins and shoes. We did not participate in the Gosport Football League last year. This is something Gomer have previously been very successful within. We are delighted that one of our parents and local Gosport Borough Coach, Mr Stuart Norris, will be coaching the Y5 and Y6 players, on a Tuesday, 3.20pm-4.20pm (see calendar for start dates). If this is not your child's PE day they will need to bring a kit to swiftly change into at the end of the day. All players will need shin pads and plastic studded boots. This will be a training session that will see competitive play at fixtures during the course of this term and next. We are hoping to have an A and B Team and have capacity for 20 children to attend the session. Please use this [Google Form](#) to register your child's interest in a Sports Club (including football).

HEALTHY SNACKS are encouraged at morning break. These need to be stored in class trays, separately from children's lunch boxes. Please ensure snacks are nut free and of a healthy/low fat nature e.g. cereal bars, rice cakes, rice crackers, cheese box, vegetable sticks and fruit. Crisps and chocolate biscuits should be reserved for lunchtime.

LEARNING is at the centre of all we do. Our children are immersed in reading, writing and mathematics which is woven into a broad curriculum. Keen to know more about exactly what your child will be learning this term? Please visit our curriculum page [here](#). On this page you can see the overview for the whole school and visit your child's year group for more focussed information regarding term-by-term learning.

LUNCH continues to be provided by GFM Catering at the cost of £2.50 to those children not in receipt of FSM. We maintain this price for the Autumn Term and have not increased it as other providers have e.g. H3CS. You DO NOT need to pre-order lunches. Children will need to know what they would like from the kitchen on the morning they will be having it. Menus are available on our [website](#) and we start Friday 2 September with Week 1. We will start w/b 5 September with Week 2. The summer menus will be updated in October. 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 placed onto the year-group blue trollies at the start of the day and then will be stored in the hall. We operate a **NO NUT** policy, so please do not send children into school with any food containing nuts (including nutella and certain cereal bars).

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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PARENT PARTNERSHIP We need you! The Gomer Junior Parent Partnership was established in September 2014. It stopped during times of COVID and we are keen to re-establish the forum. The Partnership will meet once a half-term which will be led by one of our Assistant Head Teachers, Miss Tuckley. The dates for the meeting are shared on the school electronic calendar which features on this [website](#). Each meeting has a clear agenda. If you have items you would like to be discussed at one of the meetings (even if you can not attend as one of our representatives), please share this with the office team or speak to one of the Parent Partnership representatives. Interested in joining? If so, please complete this [Google Form](#). Our first meeting will be on Thursday 6 October at 2pm in The Globe.

PERIPATETIC MUSIC LESSONS 2022/2023 start this month. If your child would like to sign up for music lessons, please contact Mrs Gardner who is our Music Leader or the school office. The competitive termly charges of £70 per term represents a minimum of 10 lessons - often the children have more but we do need to account for teacher absences - this still represents superb value for money. If you would like your child to have a trial lesson, please do contact the school office or have a chat with Mrs Gardner about the options.

STUBBINGTON STUDY CENTRE is looking forward to welcoming Y5 in the Spring Term. Please check that you understand the payment schedule. The Y5 team will be in touch before the end of term with all the information you need. To help with costs, it may be that you use Christmas to gift some of the items on the kit list if you do not already have them e.g. wellies and waterproofs. We are hoping for mild weather but recognise it might be chilly. We are very grateful to the staff who give their time voluntarily to support this overnight trip.

TUCASI (SCOPAY) is 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 our stockist for items with the school logo and are all set up to help you - local supermarkets have lots of stock too. 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 - this is very popular and branded with Team Gomer on the back. 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 uniforms are 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. Even in hot weather children were not being sent to school with bottles - we do not have a supply of these so please organise these from home.

YOU SAID/WE DID Some parents were disappointed that Y3, Y4 and Y5 did not have a summer disco. Our fabulous Friends of Gomer Junior School (FROGJS) need parent/carer support to help with the planning and running of such events which are in addition to the school curriculum. FROGJS regularly ask for help but have had limited responses. The school are keen to support all FROGJS events which are enjoyable and raise valuable funds for the school. Big Team Gomer give their time to support the events but FROGJS would value as many families as possible giving a little time, at some point in the year, to make events such as discos possible. Please check-out and follow the FROGJS Facebook page.