



Newsletter 4 - December 2022

GO GOMER! Congratulations to all children who were nominated for a GFM Award and to those who were finalists which include: **JACK BROWN** (Sporting Achievement Award), **GRACE DOWNES** (Gosport Futures Teamwork Award), **LEAH GOULDING** (Gosport Futures Listening Award), **RUBY SMART** (Sporting Achievement Award). A big congratulations to our winners: **IONA HAMILTON** (Gosport Futures Creativity Award) and **JAMES HELBERT** (Gosport Futures Speaking Award) plus **CLARKE ARNOLD**, **REGGIE BATTEN** and **ROBYN FURLONG** who are now at Bay House. It was wonderful to see the children recognised at the live streamed GFM Awards last month. The school, along with our sister junior school, Rowner Junior, have made it to the final of the Education Today Awards for the 'Best Use of Technology'. We are delighted to have had our approach to technology recognised in this national forum and will let you know if we win. The GFM are also finalists for most Outstanding MAT and Community Engagement.

We love to hear about your children's success outside school too. Please inform us so that we can record them here. We will continue to celebrate individual successes in our Friday Celebration Assembly.

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	Arrival to playground from 8:40 am	
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Start of school day: 8.50 am</td> <td style="width: 50%;">End of school day: 3:10 pm</td> </tr> </table>	Start of school day: 8.50 am
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Mondays	Y5 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"> Cricket Club: 3.15-4.15pm 	
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"> Upper School Football League Club: 3.15-4.15pm Service Club - (all year groups): 3.15-4.15pm 	
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 Lego League Coding Club (Y4/Y5): 3.15-4.00pm 	
Thursdays	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir practice: 8:15 - 8:45 Lower School Multi-skills Club: 3.15-4.15pm 	
Fridays	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school	
Thursday 01	Christmas card post boxes open - First names, surnames and class on envelopes please	
Friday 02	Last Home Learning Google Classroom set for the term.	
Monday 05	Christmas Lunch: Order deadline - midday 05/12/22 . If your child would like a Christmas lunch ordered please complete this Google Form	

Tuesday 06	<p>Y6 to Bay House - Theatre Production - Wizard of Oz: 13:30-15:45. Collection from Bay House playground - please see Google Form sent on 28/11/2022 with more information and for you to confirm collection arrangements. Please note: parents/carers can <u>not</u> drive onto Bay House site for pick up but can use the layby outside.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Y6 children who attend football club there will be no practice - Y5 only will continue with football club on this day.
Wednesday 07	<p>Gomer School Choir members who are joining St. Mary' s Junior Choir Singing Club at the Christmas Tree Festival on Sunday 11th December at midday, to take part in a joint rehearsal on Wednesday 7th December, 4.30 to 5.00pm if available. Attending this is intended as an extra rehearsal extending what they have been doing in Thursday morning Choir. Please still come on Sunday even if they can't make this extra Wednesday rehearsal.</p>
Thursday 08	<p>Rocksteady Concert at Gomer for parents of pupils who have Rocksteady lessons: 09:15-10:15.</p>
Friday 09	<p>Be Bright Be Seen Day - wear school uniform with bright accessories e.g. hi-vis items.</p>
Friday 09	<p>St. Mary's Christmas Tree Concert - Choir will be singing in the Christmas Tree Festival at St. Mary's Church with other local schools. Please note: only 1 ticket per family - no further tickets available. 2:15 performance start. (they are not available at the door).</p>
Sunday 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir Performing at St. Mary's Christmas Tree Festival 11:30 arrival, with a 12:00-12:30 performance (school uniform to be worn) Please note: only 1 ticket per family - other tickets might be available on the door. Choir Performing at Stanley Park 18:30 for a Community Carol gathering organised by Chris Dyke/Igloo Choir. All welcome.
Monday 12	<p>FROGJS Christmas Gift Sale - If you would like to shop with FROGJS please send your child with monies for gifts priced at £2 or £3, in a named envelope or named purse, for each gift they would like to purchase. There will be a great choice of super gifts</p>
Monday 12	<p>Y3 Jólábókaflóð - Y3 children are to come to school in their onesies/PJs and bring their slippers. In the afternoon they will take part in an Icelandic book tradition where they will be immersed in stories and drink hot chocolate (squash or water options also)</p>
Monday 12	<p>Christmas Service Family Event: 16:00-18:30. Service children and their families are invited to the GFM Community Hub to take part in a range of Christmas activities, listen to the Royal Marine cadet band, have their photo taken with Father Christmas, enjoy food and drink... The list goes on!</p>
Tuesday 13	<p>We have no PE today. And, the Gosportarian Sleigh will be visiting so the children can say hello to Father Christmas in the morning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live Streaming of Nativity - Camels Arms: 14:00-15:00. Please access the live streamed Nativity via our website here In order to remain secure, we will email you the access code a few days before <p>If you can not watch the nativity live, you can watch it on playback</p> <p>Due to filming today, children are encouraged to come to school dressed in Christmas jumpers/tops or festive colour tops with their school skirt/trousers. Or, they can wear regular school uniform.</p> <p>We encourage the above outfit can be teamed with the following headwear to support the performance:</p> <p>Year 3 - Sheep - ears, hat Year 4 - King who rides a camel - tea towel style headdress or crown Year 5 - Accessory to give a sense of being an auditor/tax collector - glasses, hat etc Year 6 - Christmas/Festive Jumpers only</p>

<p>Wednesday 14</p>	<p>We have no PE today.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Christmas lunch - we shared a Google Form with you in the Step Into Christmas overview. Please complete by Monday 5 December if you have yet to. ● Christmas/festive coloured jumpers are welcomed and to be worn with white school polo top and school skirts or trousers.
<p>Thursday 15</p>	<p>We have no PE today.</p> <p>Children will be transported by coach to the New Theatre Royal to watch the panto, Sleeping Beauty. There is no cost to this visit because of prize monies and sponsorship from the FROGJS. Your child is welcome to bring £3.50 for an ice-cream in a named purse. They may bring a small packet of sweets (in a non-noisy wrapping) and drink carried in a small disposable bag or coat pocket. We will not be returning to school until 13:00 for lunch, so a substantial snack is also strongly recommended. Please complete this Google Form, providing your consent for your child to be taken to the theatre.</p> <p>Please note: Y4 will need to have a packed lunch with them (as they will be taken straight to St Mary's Church by coach after the panto, for their Christingle). They will eat their lunch in the Parish Centre. If your child is entitled to free school meals, please inform the school office by Thursday 8 December if you would like the school to provide a packed lunch.</p>
<p>Thursday 15</p>	<p>Y4 Christingle at St Mary's Church: 13:30-14:30. Please complete this Google Form to give permission and outline if you will be attending. And please return any spare change in collecting boxes, sent home on Monday 28 November.</p>
<p>Friday 16</p>	<p>We have no PE today.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Your child may accessorise their uniform or dress up as a Christmas Elf. There were lots and lots of full Elf costumes last year which looked fabulous! Suggested donation of £1 will be donated to the Alzheimers Society. Please note, children will be learning about Alzheimers in class before Elf Day. Additionally, you might like to donate via our JustGiving page (JustGiving has included 2.12.2022 on their event because that is National Elf Day - however Gomer Junior are firmly supporting it on 16.12.2022): <div data-bbox="850 1176 1018 1344" style="text-align: center;"> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Last day of term – School ends at 14:00 ● GClub will be available from 14:00-15:20
<p>Tuesday 03 January</p>	<p>Spring Term starts - Pupils return to school</p>

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.

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 9 December**, Gomer are taking part in a 'Be Bright Be Seen' day. Children are invited to wear bright accessories along with their school uniform. We are not asking for special items to be bought but to try and use existing items. But, for any child needing extra, brighter outerwear could be a helpful Christmas gift. Remember - Be Bright Be Seen! We urge children who are cycling to school to check their lights - this could make a super Christmas gift too if some are needed.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE Our Christmas performance will be 'live streamed'. With the success of previous years' streaming due to its accessibility and inclusivity for the whole community, we are all set. You can access the performance from our website [here](#) and parents/carers will be emailed on 12 December with the password to access the page on the website. Streaming will be from 14:00 on Tuesday 13 December.

FOOTBALL CLUB Next term will see the popular attendance to Y5 and Y6 school football training be refreshed and formalised into two groups - if there are the numbers. Thirteen children have been selected to represent the school football team and their parents/carers will have been emailed - these children will train on a Tuesday. If your child has not been chosen to play competitively for the school they will still have the opportunity to train with Mr Jordan on a Wednesday and we will aim to sort out some friendlies. If your child is in Y5 or Y6 and is interested in football training on a Wednesday, please complete this [Google Form](#) by **Friday 9 December** and we will update you before the end of term if your child has been allocated one of the fourteen spaces for the training with Mr Jordan. Shin-pads are a fab Christmas gift for our budding footballers.

FROGJS have been super busy and organised our amazing fireworks with the POGOS and worked with Team Gomer (big and small) to host an awesome Christmas fayre. Due to your support of our homemade, pocket-money stalls, and super raffle, we made a staggering £1594 profit. This is wonderful for a two hour fayre. Thank you to all of you for helping us make it possible with your donations, time, raffle ticket purchases and sending your child to school with pocket money. The fireworks also made a profit of £824. The FROGJS always seek to make the events accessible and enjoyable for the children - the additional funds are a huge and welcomed bonus. We have asked the FROGJS to help fund some outdoor play: toys and areas for den building and storage of materials e.g. sticks. The children love our grounds so we are keen to formalise play zones for different year groups. Watch this space for updates about this exciting development... The FROGJS are incredibly diligent about ensuring money raised in any one year is spent on the children with us now.

GCLUB's last session will be on Friday 16 December, 14:00-15:20. GClub will restart on Tuesday 3 January 2023.

HOME LEARNING will be sent home for the last time this term on Friday 2 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, Times Table Rockstars etc and of course children can read - lots! A book would make a great Christmas present!

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, doing a magic trick 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.

ORDERING LUNCH ONLINE - Coming Jan 23 We recently reached out for your support to pilot the new online meal ordering system on Scopay and are pleased to confirm, following a positive response, that we will be piloting this from January 23. The online option will be open to all and you will be able to select your child's chosen meal choice, in advance, online. This will not only help to reduce food waste but also help our catering team better plan when ordering. Children's meal choices will be displayed daily in the classroom as a reminder of their choice for that day. Please be assured that your child will still be able to choose their meal choice on the day in the classroom, should you or your child not wish to order online or you simply forget. Menus will still be emailed and displayed on the website as usual and you simply select the colour meal choice. For pupils who bring in packed lunch you can select the 'packed lunch' option.

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. This 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. Drives should NOT be parked over. 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.

TOYS are to remain at home and not brought into school, with the exception of those children who have special permission to do so due to exceptional circumstances. Please be advised that Pokemon cards are now not welcome in school due to children becoming upset after 'trading' regrets.

VANDALS have damaged Year 4 windows on two occasions over the last few weeks. This has made us sad because it is not pleasant for the children, it causes work and costs for the school and it is just not right. The Police have been unable to identify the perpetrators despite having been able to share CCTV footage. We think the rear of the school, facing Privett Gardens, has been targeted because individuals are crossing over from the park. When you are out and about at night, if you see anyone suspicious or a torch light near the school site (Gomer Infant too) you are encouraged to call the Police on 101 and report a possible disturbance. Many thanks for your help with this - we are hoping this mindless vandalism will stop.

WELLIES are very useful to have at school - without these, 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 having heard that some parents/carers are disappointed that we are 'live streaming' the nativity, rather than enabling the children to perform to a face-to-face audience, we thought it might be helpful for us to share our rationale. COVID was the catalyst for the live streamed nativity and something we had found more benefits from than we had anticipated, which include:

- **Inclusivity** - every child can be involved and perform 'live' because the pressure of an audience for some (e.g. those with ASD and anxiety disorder) is removed. Live streaming enables the whole school to watch the performance also which is special.
- **Accessibility** - any adult or child linked to a Gomer Junior pupil can watch the nativity - live streamed or on play-back. For working families, blended families or those living some distance or working overseas, they can still be involved. We were only ever able to invite about 250 people to the previous performances. We still have the email from the grandparent who watched from Scotland and was so pleased to see her granddaughter sing live.
- **Cost** - we use in-house resources so we can make the nativity accessible to all, without having to pay a company to do so.
- **Time** - in an already busy curriculum and children's busy schedules the approach is manageable for us
- **Safety** - as we live in a 'post-COVID' landscape we have learnt that some adults are not comfortable in large gatherings for health reasons or they are keen to keep vulnerable family members safe.
- **Well-being** - our previous format (pre-COVID) was a huge undertaking. With our duty of care to our staff we need to ensure that workloads are manageable - especially at the time of the term and year when energy levels are low and the curriculum continues to demand rigour. An afternoon performance is limited because of the availability of working parents. An evening performance demands too much staff time.
- We live in a technological world and embrace this. We aim to balance the use of tech but place value in it due to some of the reasons outlined above.

We will consider the parental/carer feedback when making decisions next year.

You also said you were unhappy with the volume of email traffic that was not Gomer Junior related. We will continue to send GFM related emails because we are part of the GFM - please just ignore them if they are not relevant. We will however, stop sending you marketing materials from local clubs and organisations and look to adding them to a Google Drive which we will link to the website. When this is active, we'll let you know so you can access it if you are interested in seeing what is happening in and around Gosport.