



## Newsletter 3 - NOVEMBER 2023

**GO GOMER!** Well done to **ALEXANDER BEECH** who decided that he would like to shave his hair off to raise money for cancer research. He has so far raised £1035 (over double his target). We are very proud of Alexander and impressed with his commitment to fundraising for this charity. Well done also to **LEAH and HANNAH SPENCE** who ran the Great South Run last month.

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.

<b>DATES FOR NOVEMBER:</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>	<i>Arrival to playground from 8:40 am</i>	
	<i>Start of school day: 8.50 am</i>	<i>End of school day: 3:10 pm</i>
<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 (all year groups): 12.00-12.50</li> <li>Hockey Club (all year groups): 3.10-4.15</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>Football Club (Y5/Y6): 3.10-4.15</li> <li>Netball Club (Y5/Y6): 3.10-4.15</li> </ul>	
<b>Thursdays</b>	Y4 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choir practice (all year groups): 8.15-8.45</li> <li>Multi-skills Club (Y3/Y4): 3.10-4.15</li> <li>Citizenship Club (Y5/Y6): 3.30-4.30 - <i>This Club will involve parental support to take and collect their child from different venues.</i></li> <li>GFM Pantry: 3.00-3.30pm on the blue playground (stock dependent)</li> </ul>	
<b>Fridays</b>	Y3 PE Day - Pupils to wear PE kit to school	
<b>Tuesday 31 October</b>	Y6 - Application deadline for secondary transfer (Year 7) school places	
<b>Tues 31 Oct &amp; Wed 01 Nov</b>	Buy your ‘Glow Before You Go’ - Gazebo Gomer Infant playground: 3.00-3.30pm	
<b>Thursday 02 November</b>	FROGJS/POGOS Firework Spectacular: 5.30-6.30pm <b>Please note, we are aware the weather forecast is rather miserable. We have contacted the firework company who will advise on the viability of the event.</b>	

<b>Friday 03 November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Class 5AM - Cake Sale - 50p</li> <li>● Shoe Boxes collected</li> </ul>
<b>Monday 06 November</b>	Deadline for ordering signed copies of books by author Chris Bradford. To order books and have signed copies, please see information below and refer to the email sent on Wednesday 18 October for book titles
<b>Tuesday 07 November</b>	Ground Force Morning: 9.30-12.00 - 'gardening clothes' to be worn to school. <b>Please note, we have moved this from Thursday 2 November in the hope for better weather. The times you have pledged, on the Google Form (before half-term) still stand.</b>
<b>Wednesday 08 November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Open Morning - Prospective Year 3 Parents: 9.00-9.45am</li> <li>● Open Afternoon - Prospective Year 3 Parents: 2.15-3.00pm</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 10 November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Class 3EG - Cake Sale - 50p</li> <li>● Y4 Visit to Fishbourne Palace: 9.00-3.00pm - details to follow separately</li> <li>● Remembrance Gathering: 10.40-11.05am</li> <li>● Pupils welcome to wear Cadet, Scout, Brownie or Cub uniforms to school</li> </ul>
<b>w/b 13 November</b>	Anti-bullying week
<b>Monday 13 November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Author Visit - Chris Bradford: 13.00-15.00pm.</li> <li>● Tour of school for prospective Y3 parents/carers who cannot make Open Day: 4.15-4.45pm</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 17 November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Children welcome to wear Pudsey Accessories with school uniform</li> <li>● Class 3RW - Cake Sale - 50p</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 24 November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Class 4IA - Cake Sale - 50p</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 29 November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NO netball or football club</li> <li>● NO PE so children to wear school uniform to school</li> <li>● The Wizard of Oz on Ice (Primary Phase Visit): 13.00-15.40 (approx) - Please refer to information below for procedures regarding end of day timings/collection of pupils</li> </ul>
<b>Upcoming dates for December</b>	
<b>Friday 01 December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christmas Lunch Order Deadline - midday today. Please order <a href="#">here</a></li> <li>● Non-school uniform (Christmas Jumpers welcomed) in exchange for tombola/fayre donations</li> <li>● Christmas Card Boxes open - First names, surnames and class on envelopes please</li> <li>● FROGJS Christmas Fayre: 2.30-3.10pm (<b>pupils only</b>), 15.15-16.15 (<b>all welcome</b>)</li> <li>● Last Home Learning of the term set</li> </ul>
<b>w/b 04 December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent/Carer Learning Review Meetings. We will email you to book an appointment to talk with your child's class teacher.</li> <li>● End of Term Report Cards will be shared this week so you can discuss them during your review meetings</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 06 December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inclusion and SEND drop in session - Gosport Community Hub: 16.00-17.00</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 08 December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Class 4LW - Cake Sale - 50p</li> <li>● Flu Immunisation - Whole School</li> </ul>

**AUTHOR VISIT** We are delighted to be welcoming children's author Chris Bradford into school on the afternoon of Monday 13 November. Information about the author can be found on his website - <https://chrisbradford.co.uk/> On the day, children will have the opportunity to meet the author and to have a book signed. If you would like to purchase any of these books please make payment, via cash, to the school office in a named envelope, with details of the books you would like to order. Orders should be made no later than **Monday 6 November 2023**, to ensure delivery in time for the event. Book orders will be delivered directly to school and given to your child on the day of the book signing - Monday 13 November.

**ANTI-BULLYING WEEK** is w/b 13 November. This year's theme for anti-bullying week is 'Make a noise about bullying'. Throughout the week, children will take part in a variety of activities about the impacts of bullying. On Friday 17 November, we will share how we are all unique, demonstrate that we will say NO! to bullying and will make a noise to stand up against it, by wearing the 'loudest' odd socks to school.

**CAKE SALES ARE BACK** and will continue again in November - we took a pause last month due to it being very busy. Thank you so very much for supporting the school with donations of cakes and to the children for buying each other's cakes. For families new to the school, this is something we do once only in the Autumn Term. Our young entrepreneurs have raised the following sums for their class:

<b>6LF:</b> £121.12	<b>6RI:</b> £111.20	<b>5SB:</b> £86.00
---------------------	---------------------	--------------------

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH** We will be having our Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 13 December. Children can choose from a traditional Roast Turkey Lunch (Red) or a Quorn Roast (Green), together with all trimmings and pudding. Please order [here](#) by midday, Friday 1 December and make payment of £2.80 via Scopay. Children are encouraged to wear Christmas or festive coloured jumpers, with their school uniform, for the Christmas meal.

**CITIZENSHIP CLUB** makes a return this month, led by Mrs Fry. Children have volunteered themselves to attend this club and we can't wait to see how this year goes, due to how much the children enjoyed themselves last year. On the 9 November the children will visit the local Coastguard. They will see a great view from the watchtower, hear about the work that the coastguard does and more! If your child has secured a place in this club, Mrs Fry will share a reminder/updates ahead of each Thursday's activities.

**COLD AND WET WEATHER** sees children needing a coat. Please ensure that you send your child to school wearing their hooded coat please. At drizzly break-times we still like children to have some time outside and without a coat this is problematic. Wellies are encouraged too, in order that the children can continue using the field and Den Pens - each class has a welly rack to store wellies. Please name your wellies!

**COUGHS and COLDS** A further reminder. In the coming months, there may be further seasonal illnesses. Please note school Calpol is for school-based incidents. Should your child need Calpol for pain relief, please ensure you have it given to them before the start of school and have sent it in with them (named and with related consent given to the office) in the event they require it being readministered during the school day. Schools do not have the resources to provide Calpol for known illnesses. Please also send your child to school with a **packet of tissues** to help with their runny noses or sneezes. Sometimes it is hard to know what to do when your child is possibly ill, so the following information might prove helpful when judging if your child is well enough to attend school:

- **Coughs and colds:** It's fine to send your child to school with a minor [cough](#) or [common cold](#). But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.
- **Covid:** If your child has mild symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, and feels well enough, they can go to school. However, if they have the following:
  - a high temperature
  - do not feel well enough to be able to get school or do their normal activities when they get there, then try and keep them at home until they feel better. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

**Vomiting and diarrhoea:** Children with [diarrhoea or vomiting](#) should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours). For further information and guidance on common childhood illnesses please [click](#) here to access the NHS website.

**CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION** has been made available by our local MP Caroline Dinenage. We have entered the competition before and a Year 6 pupil from Gomer won last year! The shortlisted finalists of the competition will have their work on display at a local venue and the winner will be invited to visit Caroline in Parliament. The winning design will also be used as Caroline's 2023 Christmas card. If you would be happy for your child's design, and information to be shared with our MP, please complete this [form](#) by Friday 10 November. Without your consent, we will not submit your child's design. Please note, Gomer Junior School are in no way affiliated with any political party. We have been invited as a community event.

**END OF TERM** report cards will be shared in the week beginning 4 December. In previous years we have shared these earlier, however we have decided that they will be more informative to you after the children have had two half terms in their current year group. You will have an opportunity to discuss these with teachers during the online learning reviews referenced below, in the same week.

**EPI-PENS** for those children who require them, please ensure they are in school and in date. Previously, we were able to obtain these for emergency school use but these are now hard to obtain and we no longer have them.

**FACEBOOK** continues to capture our daily blog. Please interact with our posts by 'liking' or commenting on them. Additionally, we do have our 'secret' parent/carer Facebook page which gives you the opportunity to ask questions 'out of hours' to one another. The school 'own' the page but please do not ask questions you are aiming directly of the school - for something only the school can answer or needs bringing to their attention, please communicate with the school office or your child's teacher.

**FIREWORK SPECTACULAR** is planned at Gomer Junior School on Thursday 2 November - thank you and the community for your support with this; tickets are nearly sold out! We are hoping we are able to go ahead (await confirmation from the company) so please be set with your tickets, a smile, 'glo', waterproofs and some layers. All food will be served in the hall and we are likely to all be viewing from the blue playground to help keep our feet dry and protect the field. Regardless of the weather, the display is always rather awesome. Prior to the event children will be discussing the importance of firework safety. Have your tea with us at the event where we will be selling hot dogs, chips, donuts, and hot and cold drinks from the servery inside the hall. To reduce waste, please feel free to bring your own hot drinks cup. Please be aware - the fireworks are loud, so younger viewers may wish to wear ear defenders and thick woolly hats. Additionally, alcohol and sparklers are not allowed on the school site. With thanks to Big Team Gomer (some Big Team Rowner too) for giving their evening to marshal the event. With thanks to the FROGJS and POGOS for sorting the refreshments for us.

**FROGJS** have been busy. The Spooky Disco, held on 19 October was a great success; dancing, costumes, games, tattoos and snacks were enjoyed by all who attended! **FIREWORKS** are scheduled for Thursday 2 November. Gates open at 5.30pm via the Gomer Infant red pedestrian gate. There are a few tickets still available for this event from the infant school gazebo. **GLOW BEFORE YOU GO** will be available to buy on Tuesday 31 October and Wednesday 1 November immediately after school in the infant school gazebo/playground. Please come along to stock up on this year's glowy items from our POGOS and FROGJS ready for the autumnal dark nights and firework show season. *There has been much work behind the scenes and we can't wait for this fabulous annual event.* The **CHRISTMAS FAYRE**, scheduled for **Friday 1 December**, is set to be another wonderful community event. FROGJS are currently planning this with school staff. A reminder that children are invited to wear non-uniform/festive jumpers on that Friday in exchange for tombola items e.g. chocolates, tins of biscuits, sweets, jars, snacks and treats. We are not doing a bottle stall and alcoholic items can't go on the tombola, as we wouldn't be able to give them to unaccompanied children. Prizes for the raffle and homemade or shop bought cakes will also be gratefully received (cakes on the day of the fayre). Might you own a business and be able to provide a raffle prize and/or know someone who would? This would be an awesome way to support the FROGJS and your school. Timings and arrangements for the day are as follows:

- **2.30-3.10pm – Pupils only** can access the fayre during this time - if they wish to do so. This provides every child the opportunity to attend the fayre and enables the school to dismiss the children at the end of the day safely, so that children can be reunited with their adult from their classroom. If spending, please ensure pupils have their money in a named purse or envelope. Please note, there will be a Calm Zone in place for those pupils who do not wish to take part. Toasties and hot dogs will be available for £1, cakes for 50p alongside a selection of 'pocket money' stalls, so change will be appreciated. Raffle tickets will also be available during this time.
- **3.10pm – Pupils** will be dismissed from their classroom door as normal. Please meet them as you normally would. If they are attending the fayre after the school day they can only do so if they are chaperoned by a parent/carer.

- **3.15pm – ALL WELCOME** to school for the fayre which can be accessed via the hall door. Stalls will be in the hall, and also in lower school classrooms, and the large year 5 classroom beside the library. The raffle will be held in the hall and tickets can be purchased on the day, if you have not done so beforehand.
- GClub will operate as normal. If children attending want to attend the fayre for longer, Miss Kimber will endeavour to arrange a chaperone for them after 3:15pm.
- **3.50pm** - classroom stalls start to close. Please either leave the site or make your way to the hall for the raffle.
- **4.00pm** - Please make your way to the hall where the raffle will be called. Please send in requests for your tickets ahead of the fayre to save time. You are however welcome to buy more on the day. You may also like to continue to buy some food and sweet treats from the hall to keep you nourished during the raffle.
- **4.15pm** Fayre closes after the raffle so please make your way offsite, avoiding the gym and play-trails.

We look forward to seeing you here. We have stalls which require volunteers – please help if you can. In anticipation of your continued support, thank you for supporting your school.

**GCLUB** is our awesome breakfast and after-school childcare club. Ms Kimber, our current GClub Leader is soon to become a Learning Mentor so she will be handing over the leadership of GClub to Mrs Case, who some of you may recognise from Woodpeckers. We are very pleased that she will be joining Team Gomer on Monday 6 November.

**GOOGLE CLASSROOM** is a wonderful platform for pupil interaction with learning and guiding their learning too. We started using it in 2019 and it was an incredibly useful tool for Home Learning during the lockdown periods. **Polite reminder:** the Google Classroom platform is for **pupils** to log-in with **their** allocated password to access school resources during the day and for Home Learning after the school day. We encourage parents/carers to check the children's 'to do' lists to support their interactions whilst they are using it at home. Please refrain from interacting with your child's Google Classroom during the day and asking questions, to the teacher, in your child's name, about resources - this is not a reasonable way to interact with the classroom and any future comments will need to be deleted due to safeguarding protocols. However, should you need to make contact with Class Teachers about Google Classroom Home Learning please use the email facility for each year group - [Year3@gomer.gformat.org](mailto:Year3@gomer.gformat.org), [Year4@gomer.gformat.org](mailto:Year4@gomer.gformat.org), [Year5@gomer.gformat.org](mailto:Year5@gomer.gformat.org), [Year6@gomer.gformat.org](mailto:Year6@gomer.gformat.org). Alternatively, the school email address is always available - [enquiries@gomer.gformat.org](mailto:enquiries@gomer.gformat.org)

**GROUNDFORCE DAY AUTUMN 2023** has been set for Tuesday 07 November 2023. We love gardening at Gomer. So, the whole school will be participating in a range of gardening, landscaping and outdoor learning opportunities, at different times during the day. Adult support with helping with the grounds, independently or alongside your child, will be very much appreciated between **09:30-12:00**. Adults will be working outside and can work with other adults or their child. Please bring some tools with you to help - secateurs, rakes, spades etc would be really useful as we have a limited supply (we suggest they are named). On the day, all children are to come to school in clothes you do not mind getting dirty and should bring their wellies or suitable outdoor shoes. Please ensure Y4 and Y6 have trainers so PE can still be an option without the need for changing. Donations of good quality plants or bulbs would be very much appreciated. Please complete this [Google form](#) if you are available to help on the day.

**INCLUSION drop in sessions** will begin again on Wednesday 6 December at the Community Hub located at Brune Park School for an hour between 4pm - 5pm. These are free for any parent/carer to attend and are an opportunity for you to discuss any ongoing concerns/needs of your child, in an informal forum. Present will be all the GFM SEND Leaders and some staff from the Inclusion teams. In this session we will be supported by a keynote speaker from the Mental Health Support Team and this first session will have a focus on supporting anxiety, attachment and avoidance in our young people. Parking is free on site at Brune Park and refreshments will be provided. No booking required.

**LOCAL GOVERNING BODY COMMITTEES** have vacancies. The Gosport and Fareham Multi-Academy Trust (GFM) is seeking further volunteers to become members of the Gomer Junior Local Governing Body Committee to support and challenge school leaders as they implement the School Improvement Strategy. Governors are involved in conducting school visits and attending scrutiny meetings throughout the academic year. Local Governing Body Committees are significant in supporting the GFM's aim for every young person to receive the best possible educational experience. Members of Local Governing Body Committees will receive training, conduct school visits, speak to staff, students and parents, and successfully support the GFM to improve our schools for the whole community. We are looking for further volunteers within our community to become members to help school leaders to overcome challenges and provide solutions for academic success. We are particularly interested in applicants from diverse backgrounds. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact our Executive Head Teacher, Mrs Georgina Mulhall via: [enquiries@gomer.gformat.org](mailto:enquiries@gomer.gformat.org)



**LOST PROPERTY** is overflowing. Please, please put names in ALL items which come into school. We have dozens of jumpers and cardigans which have not been collected, none of which are named. We also have football boots, a cycling helmet, goalie gloves, a necklace, a watch and a multitude of other items which are currently in the reception area as there is now so much, it will not all fit in the lost property bin.

**LOVE IN A SHOE BOX** pamphlets went home before half-term. If you are supporting this charity endeavour boxes/carrier bags or contents are to be returned by **Friday 3 November** when they will be collected by Rotary. Please ensure the completed shoeboxes/carrier bags have £2.00 coins attached. Please also ensure that once wrapped, the box can still be opened. We recognise that these gifts can be costly to accumulate. Therefore, donations towards a box are also welcome, so that the children can make up boxes together. Items that would be useful to send in include: toiletries, small games, colouring items, socks etc. Thank you to families who have already sent these in. We will be celebrating this kindness on our website.

**ONLINE PARENTS/CARERS LEARNING JOURNEY REVIEW** meetings have been scheduled as below. Online has worked very well for the Gomer Community so this will continue this year. If you would like a face to face meeting on an alternative date, please contact the class teacher directly. End of term report cards will also be shared this week. Booking information will be sent home later in November.

<b>Timings:</b> 08.45am - 17.45 Please see the letter we will e-mail, mid-November, with booking details.			
<b>Year 5:</b> 04.12.2023 <b>&amp; Class 4IA</b>	<b>Year 6:</b> 05.12.2023 <b>&amp; Class 3EG</b>	<b>Class 3RW:</b> 06.12.2023	<b>Class 4LW:</b> 7.12.2023

**READING** is so, so 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.

**REMEMBRANCE** Ahead of our Remembrance day gathering the children will be creating a display in their classrooms and considering the symbolism of the Poppy. We are delighted to be supporting the Royal British Legion again this year. The Armed Forces conduct their role with courage and humility and often play down the sacrifice and bravery required to serve. The Royal British Legion is here to help members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, veterans and their families. They support serving and ex-serving personnel all year round, every day of the week. Your donations, for items for those who wish to, will help them continue their work. Children are welcome to wear the RBL items with the school uniform from Tuesday 31 October - Friday 10 November when we will be having our whole school remembrance gathering. With thanks to our Service Children who will be helping Miss Hall sell the items on behalf of the RBL. Poppies and other Royal British Legion poppy themed items will be on sale immediately after the half term break, should your child wish to purchase. These include poppy appeal bracelets for £1.50, snap bands, zip pulls, rulers and wristbands for £1, pencils, crayons, reflective poppies for 50p and traditional poppies for a minimum 50p donation. We have a few handmade poppy hair bobbles which cost £2.

**SCHOOL MEALS - NEW MENUS** are now available. Please click [here](#) to view these on the school website.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM** should now be of the winter variety until the Summer Term 2024 - so please pack away the summer dresses and shorts. 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.

**THE WIZARD OF OZ** on ice is being performed at our local ice-skating rink on Wednesday 29 November. With many thanks to Huhtamaki for their £1000 donation and FROGJS and FOR (Friends of Rowner), who have also donated considerably, for enabling us to make this event possible. We have been able to book all of the seats in the rink, in order that all children from Gomer and Rowner Junior can attend: a huge thank-you to all for making this pre-Christmas treat possible. We thought this would be a wonderful alternative to a pantomime which we all attended last year. On the day, children are to attend school as normal in their school uniform. They will have lunch at school and will be transported to the ice-rink by coach. The coach will then return to school around 3:40pm where they will be dismissed - we will update any significant changes in time via text on the day. Due to our return being after the school day, if you need to collect your child directly from the ice rink at 3.05pm, please inform the school office. For children returning home in a taxi, please have their taxi collection time rescheduled. If this is problematic, please arrange their collection from the Ice Rink at their normal GJS pick-up time. To help the school manage the logistics, the only school club that will operate is GClub.

**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. When the field is not too saturated in the wetter and wintry months, children with wellies will be able to play on the field. You may also like to send your child to school with a coat you don't mind getting a little muddy, if you have a child who is enjoying our 'mud kitchen'.

**YOU SAID/WE DID** We know some of you missed having text reminders. We stopped sending multiple text reminders about 18 months ago due to feedback that too many were being sent. To help keep text costs low, we are limiting the amount we send but will be sending a mid-month reminder email of activities and events, referenced on our start of month email. We had feedback that this bitesize communication was very helpful with supporting busy family lives. We are aware our newsletters are quite lengthy but knowing you value the detail we will continue with sharing these.