



Learning Powers

Thinking Determination

Independence Motivation

Creativity Collaboration Tolerance

Newsletter 5 – January 2018

GO GOMER! Well done to **JASMINE VIGNOLLES** in 3LW who raised £300 for a children’s charity by taking a dip in Stokes Bay on New Year’s Day. This is a brilliant achievement.

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

DATES FOR JANUARY The dates below are for your diary and are also included on the electronic calendar; occasionally they are subject to change.

Mondays	Drama Club - 3.30-4.15pm – weekly unless otherwise stated - £5 for the spring term Starting: Monday 8 January
Mondays	Netball Club – Y4/Y5/Y6: 3.30-4.15pm – weekly unless otherwise stated - £5 for the spring term Starting: Monday 8 January
Tuesdays	Chelsea Football Club: 3.30-4.15pm – finish time changed due to darker evenings Starting: Tuesday 9 January
Wednesdays	Y5/6 Mixed Football Training: 3.30-4.15pm – weekly unless otherwise stated - £5 for the spring Starting: Wednesday 10 January
Wednesdays	Art Club: 3.30-4.30pm with Sue Evans - £4 <u>per session</u> Starting: Wednesday 10 January
Wednesdays / Thursdays	gSTEM Typhoon Glider Club - Y4/Y5: 3.30-4.30pm - £5 for the spring term Starting: Wednesday 10 January & Thursday 11 January (dates as per letter sent home)
Thursdays	Choir: 8.15-8.45am - weekly unless otherwise stated - £5 for the spring term Starting: Thursday 11 January
Thursdays	Gomer Community LAPS Cuppa & Chat: 9.00-10.00am fortnightly unless otherwise stated. Please check the electronic calendar for topics.
Thursdays	Debate Club: 3.30-4.15pm - weekly unless otherwise stated - £5 for the spring term Starting: Thursday 11 January
Fridays	Service Club: lunchtime from 12.30pm – GMG (Gomer Multi Gym) and The Gateway
Fridays	Y4/5/6 Tag Rugby: 3.30-4.15pm Starting: Friday 12 January
Monday 08	Y3 Visit to Dorset County Museum, Dorchester: 7.50am-5.00pm (depending on traffic)
Thursday 11	Football Away Match -v- Peel Common, A Team only: 3.30-4.30pm
Friday 12	FROGJS Film Club - £3 to include snack & drink: 3.30-5.30pm – Details to follow
Friday 19	INSET – School closed to pupils
Monday 22	SATs Punctuation, Grammar & spelling GLC Meeting: 4.30-5.15pm. Any parent/carer from across the school is welcome to attend this GLC – it might be of interest to Y5 parents.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all. The term has started well and 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. Children who are regularly collected beyond the school day will be checked into Woodpeckers. You will be charged for this service accordingly. On the majority of occasions we are able to look after any child as a ‘one off’ but will not do this regularly. There are a variety of clubs your child can attend if you need some ‘wrap-around’ care.

CARING HANDS FOOD BANK provided some hampers for our community last term. They run a lovely café (anyone is welcome to attend and receive free tea and coffee). Recognising that budgets are stretched, for those children in receipt of free school meals, Caring Hands would like to continue to make **free food parcels** for our families in the holidays. If this would help your current circumstances, please talk to the LAPS Team who will talk to you discreetly about how a food parcel can be organised for you.

CAR PARKING space is for just that. To ensure the safety of the community, please remind your children not to walk through the car park. Even if accompanied by an adult, we would prefer you to use the paths so that the children are aware of the expectation at all times. Furthermore, the use of the car park is for staff and the parents/carers of children with a disability. The car park often has spaces first thing for Woodpecker drop offs but is certainly not available until 6pm (for Brownies etc) when school closes to Team Gomer.

END OF SCHOOL DAY moves to 3.15pm straight after the February half term. Following the November consultation, the LGC responded to your responses and wrote to you on 24 November 2017 providing a response to your feedback and an outline of the changes.

gSTEM CLUB starts again this term. This is a very exciting opportunity to build a glider. Please see letter sent home for more information.

HOME LEARNING for Y3, Y4 and Y5 will be sent home for the first time on Friday 12 January and for the last time on 23 March. As normal, these children will not be set home learning over the holiday periods. Y6 will be provided with Home Learning on 5 January and will be provided with some optional holiday learning opportunities.

OUR LOCAL OFFER provides information about services that are available for children and young people who have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities. On the site, http://www.hantslocaloffer.info/en/Main_Page you will find a wealth of useful material that can help you access the right services and support for you and your family. Additionally, our SEND Policy and SEND Report can be read at <http://gomerjuniorschool.co.uk/local-offer/> we encourage you to read this information. Please contact Mrs Digby if you have any questions about this.

PERIPATETIC MUSIC LESSONS continue to provide a service for many of our children. Interested in flute and brass? We currently have several places available. Please contact Mr Potter to secure a taster session ahead of committing to the term. As always, music tuition does need to be paid for at the start of the term.

SATs will be completed by Y6 in the Summer Term. We are keen for your child to be as prepared as possible and we aim to maintain a balanced curriculum alongside ensuring your child manages the testing process. As a school, we view the testing as a 'snap shot' of what your child can do. The testing does not outline the array of skills your child has. However, SATs are a statutory part of our system and the results are used as a baseline for your child's flight path to GCSEs. Therefore, we take a keen interest in preparing them accordingly. The parents/carers who attended the SATs Gomer Learning Community (GLC) last term were surprised at the sophisticated level at which the children have to perform in order to reach age related expectations. They were pleased to have received further advice on how to support school based learning. The Y6 team is running another session on Monday 22 January 2018, focussing on Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling. We recommend that ALL Y6 parents/carers attend and those who do attend will be given a FREE study guide which children can work in at home to further help them with their SATs attainment. **Any parent/carer** from across the school is welcome to attend this GLC – it might be of interest to Y5 parents. Due to the positive response we are going to provide the SATs GLC for Y5 parents/carers at the end of the Summer Term 2018 so that you are fully aware of the requirements of the Y6 curriculum. The presentation PowerPoint has been uploaded to the website so that you can access it away from the GLC.

SCHOOL UNIFORM is a big part of our community identity and we are grateful to parents/carers for respecting and adhering to the policy so that the children look smart. We have noticed a few multi-coloured socks and head-bands/bows creeping into school, in addition to leggings and skinny jeans which do not form part of our policy. Please address this so that we can continue to be proud of our continually smart appearance. It is not unusual for our appearance to be commented upon when we are out and about. Go Gomer! It is rather chilly at present and your child is encouraged to have a tracksuit in school for outdoor PE. Skoolkit do provide 'Gomer blue' tracksuit bottoms but any dark coloured tracksuit is encouraged.

STAFF MATTER and we are very excited for Mrs Garland who is expecting a baby in May. 3KG were told directly by Mrs Garland. We strive hard at Gomer to ensure continuity in our provision and are delighted that Mrs Carré will be teaching the class for four days and Mrs Gardner for one day when Mrs Garland starts her leave which is likely to start around the May half term. We will update you accordingly. We will be looking to recruit a full-time teacher for September 2018 to account for Mrs Garland's maternity leave. Mrs Duffy has officially joined Team Gomer and her Y5 class will now be known as 5MD.

STUBBINGTON 2018 sees Y5 spending a week at the Study Centre in February – just before half term. Final payments for this residential visit are due by 16 January 2018 when the 8 month payment window closes. Please do ensure that your account is settled. If this is problematic please do liaise with the school office to talk about a payment plan.

YOU SAID/WE DID In the Ofsted Parent View feedback, received in November, some parents/carers said that they were unaware of how we deal with issues around bullying. We recognise that this is likely to your child not being exposed to bullying which we are pleased about. We hosted an anti-bullying week in November and shared this on the website – your children wore odd socks to launch this. Issues of e-safety in relation to online-bullying will be explored, again, this term. **As a school, we have a zero tolerance of bullying.** You may like to refer to our policies for further clarification about our practice.