

OLSM Newsletter

September 6 / 6 Medi 24.

We live, we love, we learn, we grow in Jesus.



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Welcome back

It has been lovely to welcome back children in years 1 to year 6 this week and say hello to our new reception class pupils. Today saw our reception class have their first full day and they have all done wonderfully. We are all looking forward to a great and exciting autumn term.

ESTYN Report

Accompanying this week's newsletter is the ESTYN parent and carer summary for your attention. If you wish to see the full report, please visit the ESTYN website.

Meet the Teacher sessions

Parents and carers are invited to attend the Meet the Teacher sessions next week. Class teachers will introduce themselves and also present the class curriculum newsletter for the autumn term. These newsletters will then be sent out via email to ensure all families have this information.

Meet the teacher – 2 sessions to allow parents with siblings to attend more than one session.

Wednesday 11th September 3.40-4.10 session 1 (in classes)

Wednesday 11th September 4.20-4.50 pm session 2 (in classes)

Autumn term dates for your diary.

Parental consultations for the autumn term -

Tuesday 15th October and Thursday 17th October 2023 from 3.45 - 6.00 pm.

Lower phase Nativity-

Tuesday December 12th at 2.00 pm and Thursday December 14th at 2.00 pm.

Upper phase carol concert-

Monday 16th December at 6.00pm in OLSM Church.

Abergavenny Carnival information

We would like to invite families to enter the Abergavenny Carnival this year as a group of walking entries, to represent the school. For those that are interested, the theme will be OLSM Pollinators, and the idea is for the children to make and wear bee/butterfly wings, be a flower and wear something bright to represent the importance of pollinators to our everyday life.

If you are taking part, please meet outside The Grofield pub at 11.30 am. The procession will start at 12.00 and walk around the town finishing in Bailey Park.

Please be aware that this is a family led event where children are accompanied by their parents/carers. Families from Ladybirds nursery will also be present, and it is hoped that families from both our school and Ladybirds, will walk together.

An information sheet giving additional information accompanies this newsletter.

School/Parish car park

We are very grateful to our school families for continuing to follow the processes that have been established to make our school car park safe.

As last year the car park is permit only between 8.35-9.05 am and 3.00-3.45 pm.

Permits are only given for specific reasons and families are requested to apply to Fr Matthew if they feel they have a valid reason for a permit.

Class PE days

An email will be sent on Monday afternoon, informing our school families of the class PE days.

Breakfast club

Breakfast club runs from 8.00 am until 8.45.

The childcare element runs from 8.00 until 8.25 am and costs £2. The free breakfast runs from 8.25 until 8.35 am.

Families dropping off their children for breakfast club are able to use the school car park until 8.35 am.

The club is free for those who have been informed by MCC that they would have been eligible for Free School Meals.

Are you having financial difficulties?

Many of us are having to find additional money to pay for our basic needs currently. If you are having difficulties financially, you may want to contact Mr Evans who could help you to identify what support may be available. It is always better to ask for help than to feel alone and helpless.

Please remember potential help is always only an email or a phone call away.

Mr Evans can be contacted by phone weekdays from 9.00-3.30 on 01873735080 or via email-

vivianevas@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Alternatively, Monmouthshire County Council has useful information and links on the cost of living. The appropriate webpage may be accessed via-

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/money-matters/>

Additionally, please remember our New2You area in the school reception where many items are available free of charge.

Finally, the school is also a referral agent for the Abergavenny Foodbank, so if you find yourself in an unexpected financial emergency, we are able to ensure families can gain a 3-day emergency food parcel from the foodbank.

Healthy eating school

Our school is a healthy eating school. Therefore, please can you ensure that children only bring in water in their drink bottles. Likewise, only fruit or vegetables must be brought in for morning snacks or alternatively use the fruit tuck options available within the school. (see below)

Accompanying this week's newsletter we have also included an information sheet on examples of healthy packed lunches.

Fruit tuck

As a healthy school we only allow fruit for the morning break. If you have a child in the lower phase (R, Yr1, Y2) the school provides milk and fruit. We ask for a small fee, payable via Parent Pay to cover the fruit cost. Upper phase children (Yr. 3, 4, 5, 6) may bring in 20p daily to purchase their own fruit tuck.

No non-fruit/vegetable items are allowed for mid-morning break please.

WOW school

Today children watched a presentation regarding the Walk to School scheme. From Monday children will receive rewards if they actively travel to school. A letter accompanies this week's newsletter providing more information.

Class Saints

This Year we have decided to name the classes after different Saints. Therefore, from next week the year groups will be called after the following Saints.

Reception-Saint Francis, Year 1- Saint Clare, Year 2- Saint Bernadette, Year 3-Saint David, Year 4-Saint Teresa, Year 5- Saint Peter, Year 6- Saint Joseph.

Term dates 2024/2025				
Term	Start	Half term start	Half term end	Term End
Autumn	02/09/2024	28/10/2024	01/11/2024	20/12/2024
Spring	06/01/2025	24/02/2025	28/02/2025	11/04/2025
Summer	28/04/2025	26/05/2025	30/05/2025	21/07/2025

24/25 INSET days.

2nd & 3rd September 2024, 4th October 2024, 6th January 2025, 27th June 2025, 21st July 2025.

Parish information.

SUNDAY MASS TIMES – At 8am, 10am and 6pm in OLSM Church. Children's liturgy operates at the 10am mass.

BAPTISMS – If your child hasn't been baptised, why not consider approaching Fr. Matthew. Children of all ages, as well as infants, are welcome to receive the grace of Holy Baptism. Some conditions apply, but Fr. Matthew is more than willing to discuss the possibility. Contact him on 851051.

St. Michaels Centre - is available for booking for family events and functions, such as children's parties etc. Info available at www.stmichaelcentre.org.uk or 01873 857570. Or e-mail to saintmichaelscen@outlook.com

CWTCH ANGELS – COMMUNITY SHOP, at Hatherleigh, near Homemakers, off Union Rd West, with food items and household items for families in need. They have a lot of good food, baby equipment, clothes and other essentials all free. A small donation can be given but is not expected. No documents e.g. for benefits are required. Open weekdays 11.30 to 2.30 and on Sat and Sun between 10 and 12 tel 07982435560

LIVE-STREAMING - All services from Church continue to be live streamed on the parish website, in particular our Sunday masses at 8am, 10am and 6pm www.olsm-abergavenny.co.uk

ONLINE EVENING PRAYER – every day, apart from Saturday, at 5pm on both the parish Facebook page and the parish website - www.facebook.com/OurLadyandStMichaelChurch

CAR PARK PERMITS. - Thankyou to all parents for cooperating with the car park permit scheme introduced earlier in the year.

Could those parents who will no longer need to use the car park - whose children have left the school or whose circumstances have changed, please return the permits to Fr. Matthew or to the school office, or e-mail him at fr.matthew@live.co.uk The scheme will continue to operate for this academic year.