

# OLSM Newsletter

October 15 / 15 Tachwedd 24.

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



E-mail: [ourladystmichaels@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:ourladystmichaels@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

Website: [www.olsm.co.uk](http://www.olsm.co.uk)

Tel: 01873 735080 Fax: 01873 858778

Twitter: @olsmtweeters

## Abergavenny Town Remembrance Sunday

Many congratulations to our pupil leaders, Edie, Tanga and Benjamin who represented our school community last Sunday. You all did us proud.

## Year 3 swimming

The year 3 class swimming lessons continue next Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November. The leisure centre recommend that children bring the following items to their swimming lesson.

- One-piece Swimming costume or Swimming shorts (must be above the knee). Towel. Hair band or swimming hat (long hair must be tied back). Goggles (if they choose). Children must remove all jewellery before they swim, i.e. watches, stud earrings.

**These sessions are part of the curriculum and are not optional.**

**Please can the children wear their PE kit/jogging bottoms to school, to allow them to get changed more easily.**

## Reception class visit to the library

The Reception Class will be visiting Abergavenny Library on Tuesday morning next week.

The children will leave school at 9.15am to walk to the library. The session will last approximately 1 hour, then the children will walk back to school.

Please ensure that the children have suitable footwear and a waterproof coat on this day.

## PTA annual general meeting

Thank you to those parents and carers who were able to attend the PTA AGM this week.

The PTA now has 2 newly appointed co-chairs, Leanne Clark and Dr Thomas Edwards. Mrs Micaela McGurk has been appointed the PTA secretary and Mrs Kate Walsh will continue as the treasurer.

Following the meeting the PTA have arranged for the school Christmas Fayre to take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

## PTA Christmas fayre

The Christmas Fayre will take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. The PTA would like to ask the following-  
**Christmas Class Colours** - *We are politely asking families to donate items of their class colour to create Christmas hampers to be raffled at this year's Christmas fayre.*

**Reception- Green, Year 1 – Red, Year 2 – Purple, Year 3 - Orange/Yellow, Year 4 - Gold/Silver, Year 5 – Blue, Year 6 – Pink.**

**Items may be brought in from the first week of December.**

kind regards. Mrs Leanne Clark

## Pupil attendance

Today the children have come home with an attendance certificate for the period from the start of term until last week. Accompanying the newsletter this week are 3 attendance letters that relate to different child attendance levels. If your child's attendance is 95% or greater please read the 'green' attendance letter. If your child's attendance is between 85% to 94.9%, please read the 'amber' attendance letter and if your child's attendance is below 85%, please read the 'red' attendance letter.

MCC have now stated that continuous poor attendance, where families have not engaged with a school, could result in families being fined.

### **Afterschool childcare wraparound club**

The afterschool wraparound childcare club restarted last Monday. The session runs from 3.30 pm to 5.15 pm. The session costs £10 pound and includes a snack (a wrap/sandwich, fruit and a drink). Throughout the week the staff will follow a timetable of daily activities ranging from arts and craft, board games, and other themes. Please contact the office for more details. Booking is via ParentPay.

### **Class Masses for the autumn term.**

**Year 5 and 6 – Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00 am at OLSM church. Amended date.**

All class family members are welcome to attend these Masses.

### **Lunch bookings**

Please can we remind all families that even though all children are now able to have universal free school meals, **parents/carers must still book a meal for their child/children to receive the free school meal.**

As a school that runs its own kitchen, and receives monies for food delivery from MCC, we cannot select meals on behalf of families. Those families who have not booked their child's meal will be contacted by the school and asked to make their bookings by giving permission to provide their child a lunch via ParentPay or email. We want to avoid inconveniencing families, so please help us by booking in advance.

### **Class PE days.**

**Children may wear their PE kit to school on their PE days.**

Wednesday: **Reception / Year 1 / Year 2.**

**Tuesday: Year 5. Year 3** swimming. (Children may wear their PE kit to help them get changed)

**Friday: Year 6. And Year 4** (Please note the change of day).

### **Class assemblies for the autumn term.**

Reception class – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 10.20 am.

Year 6 – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 10.20 am.

### **School clubs**

School sports clubs have started. Football for Year 5 and 6 on Mondays, Netball for years 4, 5, and 6 on Tuesdays and Running club for Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 on Wednesdays.

Book club- Lower Phase Tuesday 12.30-1.00 (Lunchtime) and Upper Phase Fridays 1.00-1.30 (Lunchtimes)

**Please note that all sports clubs will stop from December until the Spring Half term due to the dark evenings.**

### **Book club books. Still missing!**

A great number of books have still not been returned by children who attend the lunchtime book clubs.

Please check at home for any outstanding books so they can be returned for the benefit of other children.

### **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.**

### **School/Parish car park**

Please can all school families remember the following- **As last year the car park is permit only between 8.35-9.05 am and 3.00-3.45 pm.** 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. 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. **Finally, please remember that there is no entry via St Michaels Road.**

### **Autumn term dates for your diary.**

#### **School Christmas Disco-**

Thursday 28th November 2024. Lower Phase 3.45 – 4.45 pm and Upper Phase 5.00 – 6.00 pm.

#### **Lower phase Nativity-**

Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup> at 2.00 pm and Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup> at 2.00 pm.

#### **Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December

#### **Upper phase carol concert-**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm in OLSM Church.

#### **Christmas Lunch Day-** (Christmas Jumpers can be worn on this day also)

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

#### **Christmas Fayre** - Times to be confirmed next week.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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-

[vivianeans@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:vivianeans@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.

### **Parking on the side streets**

When parking and walking to school, please be mindful of where you park and ensure you park safely. We have been asked to remind school families to be mindful of other pedestrians and local residents when parking to drop off their children.

**MCC have informed us that Parking Wardens will be patrolling the area over the next 2 weeks.**

**Welsh phrase of the fortnight-18.11.24 -29.11.24)**

**To support your pronunciation of the words below you may find this website useful-**

**[Welsh pronunciation dictionary \(forvo.com\)](http://forvo.com)**

Lower Phase/Progression step1/2

**Ga i ... os gwelwch yn dda?**

**(Can I have a ... please?)**

**Answer: Dyma ti- Here you go!**

**pensil coch, glas, gwyrdd, du etc**

**pen**

**rwber**

**glud**

**ddiod/dwr**

Upper Phase/Progression step 2/3

**Ga i fenthyg ... os gwelwch yn dda?**

**(Can I borrow a ... please?)**

**pensil coch, glas, gwyrdd, du etc**

**pen**

**rwber**

**pren mesur**

**glud**

**llyfr**

**Year 5 End of Topic celebration**

Year 5 families are invited to attend the Year 5 End of Topic celebration at 10.30-11.15 am on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

The class will hold a World War 2 style Tea party, with music, dancing and a nice cup of tea and maybe a biscuit or piece of cake. All year 5 family members are welcome.

**OLSM School Christmas Disco**

The Friends of OLSM PTA have arranged for our Christmas Disco to take place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

Lower Phase 3.45 – 4.45 pm and Upper Phase 5.00 – 6.00 pm.

Additional information will be made available in future school newsletters.

Children in the Lower Phase will be able to wear their disco clothes to school on that day.

**Term dates 2024/2025**

**24/25 INSET days.**

6<sup>th</sup> January 2025,  
27<sup>th</sup> June 2025,  
21<sup>st</sup> July 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 |

**Parish information.**

**CAR PARK** – A reminder that in order to drive onto the car park between 8.35am - 9.10am and 2.45-3.45pm each school day a car park permit is required. These are only given for the reasons of health, disability, special needs etc. Please do not use the car park during these times if you do not have a permit. If you have a permit, please display it clearly in your car. If you have a permit, please display it clearly in your car. E-mail Fr. Matthew on [fr.matthew@live.co.uk](mailto:fr.matthew@live.co.uk) for info.

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

**SPUC/LIFE CAMPAIGN MEETING** – Next meeting, this Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 7pm in St. Michaels Centre. To watch a recording of a talk entitled Palliative care, not "Assisted Dying" from Dr Dominic Whitehouse – He addressed almost 200 people recently, on the issue of palliative care and his concerns regarding assisted suicide. The webinar was held jointly with the *Catholic Medical Association* (UK).

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION COURSE** – Thanks to the 9 families who have enrolled their children on this year's First Holy Communion preparation course. The next preparation session is on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 9am** in St. Michaels Centre, followed by 10am Mass.

**ORGAN RECITAL** – This Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 12noon in Church. Organist Louis Stockton, followed by refreshments in the centre.

**RED WEDNESDAY** – Day of Prayer for the persecuted church, next Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November, ecumenical service in Church at 7pm, procession from Methodist Church at 6.30pm.

**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](http://www.stmichaelcentre.org.uk) or 01873 857570. Or e-mail to [saintmichaelscen@outlook.com](mailto: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](http://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](https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyandStMichaelChurch)