

OLSM Newsletter

October 25 / 25 Hydref 24.

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



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Autumn half term

The autumn half term holiday starts on Monday 28th October until Friday 1st November 2024.

We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 4th November 2024.

Thank you

We would like to say a big thank you to Nick Jones of GN Construction, for supporting the school in helping us to replace the projector bulb in the hall. Scaffolding was required to safely replace the bulb, and the work was completed afterschool, allowing children to have access to the hall throughout the day.

Year 6 visit to Castle Meadow

Our Year 6 class will visit Castle Meadow on Wednesday 6th November to look at the work they completed in support of an interpretation board in the meadow. Please make certain the children have suitable footwear and a coat for their walk to the site.

Attached to this week's newsletter-

1. The local police have asked all Abergavenny schools to remind our school families to engage in responsible Treat or Treat activities, (if this is something your family does). If signs are visible in properties that request that they are not disturbed, please follow their request. Please see the attached information.
2. Please find information on the Abergavenny Family Tang Soo Do. The group offers an extra 2 free classes with the flyer. Flyers were handed to children in year 3-6 today but are also available in the school reception foyer.

Child absence.

If your child is absent from school, for any reason, it is vital that you let the school know. Our First Response processes mean that we are required to know the reason for a child's absence by 10.00 am to ensure we safeguard our pupil's wellbeing. Please phone and leave a message on our answerphone or email the office if your child is absent.

Royal British Legion appeal

Children will still be able to purchase poppies in aid of the annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal throughout the week. Unfortunately, all other items have now been sold. Year 6 pupils will visit all classes, when we return after the half term break.

PTA annual general meeting

The PTA AGM has been set for Wednesday November 6th and will be held in the school hall after school 3:45-4:45 pm. We will be discussing all things PTA, selecting a new committee, deciding on plans going forward and updating you all on what's been going on, so please if you can stay for an hour, we'd love to see you!

And on that note, if anyone is interested in getting involved in the PTA then please **PLEASE** let us know! You can leave your details with Sally in the office or just grab one of us on the yard! We've got a great bunch of parent volunteers from classes across all school years, so you're bound to know someone who knows someone!! We are keen to gauge what people want from the PTA and always welcome new ideas for fundraising or suggestions where funds should be directed.

Raising much needed funds for those 'little extras' for the children and providing some bare necessities for the school is our main aim and we would love for you to get involved!

ASDA Cash Pots for School

If you shop at ASDA, please remember to select our school to benefit from any shopping you do. For every shop you complete, ASDA will donate a sum to our school. It won't cost you anymore and it could make a huge difference to our school. Simply download the ASDA app and select our school via the Cashpot for school area.

School Open afternoon Friday 15th November

Prospective parents/carers who intend to apply for a place in our Reception class starting in September 2025 are welcome to attend an Open afternoon on Friday 15th November 2024. From 2.00pm on the day, pupil leaders, with the Head teacher (Mr Evans), will provide a short presentation and a tour of the school. There will be no need to book, just arrive at the reception foyer for 2.00pm where you will be welcomed and escorted to the hall for the presentation followed by the tour.

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.

Lunch bookings

Unfortunately, this is now becoming an ongoing issue. Again, last week on average of 25 pupils are not being booked for meals each day.

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 (please note change of day). **Year 6** may wear their PE kit to help them get changed for swimming.

Thursday: **Year 4** (please note change of day).

Friday: **Year 3.**

Year 3 swimming

The year 3 class swimming lessons will start on Tuesday 5th 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.

Class Masses for the autumn term.

Year 4 – Tuesday 5th November at 10.00 am at OLSM church.

Year 3 – Tuesday 12th November at 10.00 am at OLSM church.

Year 5 and 6 – Tuesday 26th November at 10.00 am at OLSM church. Amended date.

All class family members are welcome to attend these Masses.

Class assemblies for the autumn term.

Year 5 – Thursday 14th November at 10.20 am.

Reception class – Thursday 21st November at 10.20 am.

Year 6 – Thursday 5th 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)

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.

Autumn term dates for your diary.

Lower phase Nativity-

Tuesday December 10th at 2.00 pm and Thursday December 12th at 2.00 pm.

Upper phase carol concert-

Monday 16th December at 6.00pm in OLSM Church.

School Christmas Disco-

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

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.**

Contacting teachers

There will be times when you need to pass information on to teachers. Messages can be passed on via the school office but below you will also find a list of teacher email addresses. Please beware that teachers will only respond to emails during school-working hours 8.30-5.00pm Monday – Friday and then only when not teaching. If a message is urgent. please always contact the school office.

Reception class. Mrs Elias- EliasS5@Hwbcymru.net

Year 1 class. Mrs Flynn- flynnj41@hwbcymru.net

Year 2 class. Mrs Dunlop- dunlopa14@Hwbcymru.net

Year 3 class. Miss Farr- FarrR12@Hwbcymru.net

Year 4 class Mrs Rose- RoseM10@Hwbcymru.net

Year 5 class. Mr Fuchs- fuchss6@hwbcymru.net

Year 6 class Miss McCarthy- McCarthyM22@Hwbcymru.net

Mr Evans- vivianevas@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Additional Needs Co-ordinator - Miss Everett- EverettJ11@Hwbcymru.net

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.

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.

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.

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.

Welsh phrase of the fortnight-4.11.24 -15.11.24)

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

Upper Phase/Progression step 2/3

Ble mae ...? / Ble mae'r ...?

Ble mae Mr Evans?

(Where is Mr Evans?)

Ble mae'r pensil?

(Where is the pencil?)

Ble mae ...? / Ble mae'r ...?

Ble mae Mr Evans?

(Where is Mr Evans?)

Ble mae'r pensil?

(Where is the pencil?)

Mae'r pensil yma- the pencil is here.

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.

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 28th 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 28th 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

6th January 2025,
27th June 2025,
21st 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 for info.

ALL SAINTS DAY FAMILY PARTY – Friday 1st November 5.30pm-7pm in St. Michaels Centre. Children's activities for the feasts of All Saints and All Souls, games, music, food and drink etc, ending with Mass at 7pm in Church.

ALL SAINTS DAY – FRIDAY 1st NOVEMBER, Holyday of Obligation, masses at 10am and 7pm.

ALL SOULS DAY, Saturday 2nd November, mass at 10am.

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

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