

OLSM Newsletter

February 7 / 7 Chwefror 24.

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



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Stationery donations

We would like to thank those families who were able to respond to the PTA request, to send in donations of stationery to the school. The pens, pencils, paper, card, paints and other materials, have all been very gratefully received and very much appreciated.

As you may be aware, Monmouthshire school budgets are extremely tight at the moment and the donations we have received, provide very much appreciated additional resources.

Prescription medicines

School staff are only able to administer medicine to children, if the medicine is prescribed by a doctor and a medicine administration permission form is filled in (available from the school office). School staff usually only administer medicine if it needs to be given more than three times a day.

Year 5 swimming.

The year 5 class swimming lessons will continue next Tuesday 11th February 2025. 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.

Governors Annual Report to Parents/carers.

Accompanying last week's newsletter was the Annual Report to Parents/Carers from the school Governing Body. The report covers the academic year 2023 to 2024.

School clubs

The lunchtime book club has restarted.

Lower phase book club – Tuesdays 12.30-1.00 pm.

Upper Phase book club – Fridays 1.00 – 1.30 pm.

School sports clubs will restart after half term.

Spring term 2025 dates for your diary.

Parent/carers consultation evenings-

Tuesday 18th February 2025 and Thursday 20th February 2025 from 3.45 pm.

Afterschool childcare wraparound club

At present, we are having a very poor uptake of children attending the wraparound childcare sessions. Last year, a number of families expressed an interest in utilising the sessions but the number of children attending hasn't materialised. Regrettably, if the numbers attending remain low, we may have to make the decision to stop the sessions due to them not being economically viable.

The afterschool wraparound childcare club 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 assembly dates

Class assemblies will take place on a Thursday at 10.20 am in the school hall.

Thursday 13th February Year 4 assembly.

Thursday 3rd April Reception class assembly.

Thursday 20th February Year 2 assembly.

Friday 4th April Year 1 assembly.

Thursday 13th March Year 3 assembly.

Thursday 27th March Year 5 assembly.

Class Masses

Class family members are always very welcome to attend. Masses take place on a Tuesday at 10.00 am.

Tuesday 11th February at 10.00 am Year 3 and Year 4 Mass.

Tuesday 18th February at 10.00 am Year 5 and year 6 Mass.

Tuesday 4th March at 10.00 am Year 3 and year 4 Mass.

Tuesday 11th March at 10.00 am Year 5 and year 6 Mass.

Tuesday March 25th at 10.00 am Year 3 and year 4 Mass.

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.

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 above)

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

Welsh phrase of the fortnight-10.02.2025 -28.02.25)

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

Pa liw?

(What colour?)

Melyn - yellow.

Gwyrdd - green.

Oren - orange.

Coch - red.

Glas - blue.

Porrfor - purple.

Upper Phase/Progression step 2/3

Pa liw ydy hwn?

(What colour is this?)

Melyn - yellow.

Mae'n wyrdd - It is green.

Mae'r bwrdd yn goch - The table is red.

Mae'r siwmpwr yn las - The jumper is blue.

Printer ink recycling and stationery supplies

Our school PTA has organised for regular collections of any printer inks that you may have home. Printer ink recycling bags have come home with the children. When you have filled the bags with ink cartridges, please return the bags to school. The school will be able to collect additional monies for the recycled cartridges. Please see the poster attached.

Later this week we will also send another information sheet from the PTA asking our families for certain types of stationery you may wish to donate to the school. More information will follow.

Breakfast club runs from 8.00am

Breakfast club runs from 8.00 am until 8.45 am.

Please do not drop off children before that time. This week, several children have been dropped off by parents and left unattended before 8.00am. Please on no account do this.

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.**

School/Parish car park

We would like to thank our school families for supporting the school and following the guidance information sent via email last week. Please remember 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. **Finally, please remember that there is no entry via St Michaels Road.** Please continue to do your up most to keep the car park safe for all users both pedestrian and those permitted to use a vehicle.

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.

27th June 2025,
21st July 2025.

Contacting school/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- evansv36@monmouthshireschools.wales **please note the new email address.**

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

School office - OLSM.Primary@monmouthshireschools.wales **please note the new email address.**

Parish information.

CAR PARK – Thankyou to all those who cooperated with the changes to access to the church car park last week. **Unfortunately, the planned repairs to the Church roof, which should have taken place last week, were postponed, and are now due to take place next Thursday 13th February.** This will involve the presence of large cranes/cherry pickers in the car park, so access will be limited and less car parking available. Please take extra care when using the car park.

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

UNICORN SINGERS CONCERT- Saturday 8th FEBRUARY 7.30PM. With Solstice Octet – Rachmaninov Vespers. Tickets £15, available@ <https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/rachmaninoff-vespers-abergavenny>

CHARITY CONCERT – SATURDAY 15th FEBRUARY 7pm, in OLSM in aid of our local firefighters – Abertillery Male Voice Choir and the Sunshine singers. Tickets £10 in advance – see poster at back of Church.

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. E-mail Fr. Matthew on fr.matthew@live.co.uk for info.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION COURSE – Thanks to the 12 families who have enrolled their children on this year's First Holy Communion preparation course. The next preparation session is on Sunday 9th February 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