

OLSM Newsletter

September 5 / 5 Medi 24.

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



E-mail: ourladystmichaels@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Website: www.olsm.co.uk

Tel: 01873 735080 Fax: 01873 858778

Twitter: @olsmtweeters

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. We are all looking forward to a great and exciting autumn term.

On Monday, our reception class will experience their first full day.

The playground gates will be open from 8.45 am. For the first day, reception parent/carers may wait with the children at the outside gate of the class until the children enter the school at 8.50 am.

From Tuesday onwards, the reception class year 6 buddies will support the children and take them from the playground gates up to the class. This is a system that we have used for several years and quickly develops the reception class pupil's confidence to walk to the class without the need to parents and carers.

Morning drop off

With the start of a new term, please can we ask all other parents and carers of children from year 1 to year 6 to allow their children to walk independently into school. For children's well-being, we need to encourage independence and resilience and walking into school by themselves, if an important step in a child's development. Staff will always provide emotional support to a pupil if required.

Year 4 swimming

The year 4 class swimming lessons start, next Tuesday 9th September. 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.

Additional information has been sent to class families today, via email

Year Longtown meeting

All year 6 parents/carers are invited to a Longtown Outdoor learning trip meeting next Tuesday 9th at 3.30 pm in the year 6 class with Dave Grimes from Longtown Outdoor centre. Dave will discuss the activities and facilities that are available and provide a presentation to illustrate what the children can expect.

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. From this week we will no longer be able to 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.

Meet the Teacher sessions

Parents and carers are invited to attend the Meet the Teacher sessions on Thursday 18th September. 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.

Thursday 18th September 3.40-4.10 session 1 (in classes)

Thursday 18th September 4.15-4.45 pm session 2 (in classes)

Friday 12th September school Photographer

Next Friday morning our school photographer, Mr Tim Woodier, will attend the school to take individual pupil photos and photos with siblings that attend the school.

Please note that photos cannot be taken with pre-school siblings.

Year 5 Dragon rugby

The year 5 will take part in the dragon rugby sessions starting on Friday 12th September. Please ensure your child brings PE kit to school on this day. Due to the school photos children will change in school on this occasion.

Autumn term dates for your diary.

Whole school welcome Mass –

Friday 26th September 2025 at 10.00 am at OLSM Church.

All school family members are welcome to attend if they are able.

Family Harvest Mass –

Sunday 5th October at 10.00 am at OLSM Church.

All school family members are welcome to attend if they are able. If you are a regular attendee at OLSM church or another church or do not attend a church at all, you would be very welcome to attend.

Refreshments in the St Michael's centre afterwards.

Parental consultations for the autumn term -

Wednesday 15th October and Thursday 16th October 2023 from 3.45 - 6.00 pm.

Information on how to book, will be sent out nearer the date.

Lower phase Nativity-

Tuesday December 9th at 2.00 pm and Wednesday December 10th at 2.00 pm.

In the school hall.

Upper phase carol concert with St Alban's High School and Abergavenny Town Band.

Monday 8th December in OLSM Church. (Time to be confirmed)

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.

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 2.45-3.45 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.

Dogs in school

As last year, dogs are only permitted in the parish/school car park, unless a Guide Dog. Dogs are not allowed on the school playground or fields at any time.

School clubs

Information on school clubs will be sent out next week.

Afterschool childcare wraparound club

The afterschool wraparound childcare club will restart from next Tuesday 9th September. The session runs from 3.30 pm to 5.15 pm. The session costs £12 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.

Please note, that due to continued low numbers in the summer term, we will run the club until October half term to see if attendance increases, however if the childcare provision continues to run at a loss, we will be forced to suspend the offer. We will endeavour to find alternative provision to support those families who have found the provision useful.

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, (see below)

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.

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@Hwbcmru.net

Year 1 class. Mrs Dunlop- dunlopa14@Hwbcmru.net

Year 2 class. Mrs Flynn- flynnj41@hwbcmru.net

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

Year 4 class Mrs Rose- RoseM10@Hwbcmru.net

Year 5 class Mr Anderson- AndersonP33@Hwbcmru.net

Year 6 class. Mr Fuchs- fuchss6@hwbcmru.net

Mr Evans- evansv36@monmouthshireschools.wales

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

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.

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.

Term dates 2025/2026

Term	Start	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn	Mon 1st Sept 2025	Mon 27th Oct 2025	Fri 31st Oct 2025	Fri 19th Dec 2025
Spring	Mon 5th Jan 2026	Mon 16th Feb 2026	Fri 20th Feb 2026	Fri 27th Mar 2026
Summer	Mon 13th Apr 2026	Mon 25th May 2026	Fri 29th May 2026	Mon 20th Jul 2026

INSET days for 25/26-

Friday 3rd October 2025, Friday 10th October, Monday January 5th 2026, Friday June 19th 2026, Monday 20th July 2026.

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.