

OLSM Newsletter

October 5 / 5 Hydref 25.

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



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Wales in Bloom success

The Wales in Bloom award ceremony happened last Friday and we are proud to announce that our school was awarded the highest Level 4 Blooming award which follows our first-place last year.

If you have a concern

There will be times when parents and carers need to speak to school staff to discuss any concerns or worries, they may have regarding their child/children. When these times occur the first point of call should always be your child's class teacher. If parents/carers still have concerns or if they feel their queries have not been fully addressed, they should then contact Mr Evans. If after attempting these first 2 processes, concerns are still present, the governors may be contacted. This process is set out in the school complaint policy which can be found on the school website.

Please, on no account should concerns every be discussed or aired via any forms of social media.

HAPPEN Survey - Parents of children in Year 4, 5 and 6.

In the next few weeks, children in Year 4, 5 and 6 will be asked to complete the HAPPEN Survey. The HAPPEN survey (Health and Attainment of Pupils in a Primary Education Network) is a health and wellbeing questionnaire for primary school pupils in Wales, designed to inform and improve children's health through data collection, research, and curriculum alignment. It gathers data on children's physical activity, nutrition, sleep, mental health, and safety, providing individualized reports to schools. These reports help schools identify priority areas, evaluate interventions, and make evidence-based decisions to support pupil health and wellbeing. Please click on the following link to find out more:

<https://happen-wales.co.uk/information-sheet/>

Year 4 swimming

The year 4 class swimming lessons continue, next Tuesday. 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.

Class assemblies for the autumn term.

All class assemblies occur on a Thursday at 10.20 am. Family members of each class are welcome to attend.

Year 3 – Thursday 9th October at 10.20 am.

Year 4 – Thursday 16th October at 10.20 am.

Year 1 – Thursday 23rd October at 10.20 am.

Year 6 – Thursday 6th November at 10.20 am.

Reception – Friday 14th November at 10.20 am. (Please note the change of date)

Year 5 – Thursday 20th November at 10.20 am.

School drumming lessons

Nathan our Gwent Music drumming teacher has a few spaces left for pupils who wish to learn how to play the drums on a Tuesday afternoon. Parents/carers can enroll via this link:

<https://www.gwentmusic.co.uk/>

Class Masses for the autumn term.

Year 5 – Tuesday 14th October at 10.00 am at OLSM church.

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

Year 3 – Tuesday 11th November at 10.00 am at OLSM church.

All class family members are welcome to attend these Masses.

Advent Penitential service - Tuesday December 2nd at 2.00 pm at OLSM church.

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.

Applications for OLSM and Open afternoon

As a Voluntary Aided school, we are still able to take responsibility for our own school applications for our Reception class in September 2026. Please contact the office for an application form which ensures that you have priority above those only applying via MCC.

Prospective parents/carers and their children are welcome to attend our annual open afternoon on **Friday 21st November from 2.00pm.**

Autumn term dates for your diary.

Parental consultations for the autumn term – Due to unforeseen circumstance we must alter one of our parent/carers consultation dates to the following-

Monday 13th 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.

Nasal Flu immunisation

Our annual pupil flu immunisation session will take place on Thursday 20th November. Attached to this week's newsletter is an information form with a QR code that can be scanned for parents/carers to give consent. Last year we had nearly 90% of the school vaccinated which dramatically reduced any absences related to flu for everyone in our school community. Please support us once again with this initiative.

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/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

Reception class Wednesday.

Year 1 class – Tuesday. Year 2 – Tuesday. Year 3 – Friday.

Year 4 – Tuesday. Year 5 – Friday. Year 6 – Wednesday.

Pupils may attend school in their PE kit; on the day their class have PE.

School clubs

For this week-

Monday 3.30-4.30 pm football club for Year 5 and 6. 20 places only.

Tuesday 3.30-4.30 pm netball club for year 4, 5 and 6.

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.

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.

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 Dunlop- dunlopa14@Hwbcymru.net

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

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

Year 4 class Mrs Rose- RoseM10@Hwbcymru.net

Year 5 class Mr Anderson- AndersonP33@Hwbcymru.net

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

Mr Evans- evansv36@monmouthshireschools.wales

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

School INSET day next week.

The school will be closed to pupils next Friday 10th October, due to a staff training day.

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

Parish information.

CAR PARK – Parents and all those using the car park are reminded to take the greatest care. There is a 5MPH speed limit in force, which means to only drive through the car park at “Walking pace”, especially when entering the car park from Pen Y Pound. A reminder also that a permit is required to use the car park at the beginning and end of the school day.

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

The Church is open every day for private visits and prayer. Resources for prayer are available in Church.

CALVARY MONUMENT – The large cross standing at the entrance to the site is a memorial of Our Lord’s death on Good Friday and is also a War Memorial, the first in Abergavenny, erected in 1920. A significant restoration of the monument is being planned for later this year, the planning permission notice is displayed by the monument.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION COURSE – The parish will be running a preparation course for the sacrament of Confirmation shortly, open to baptised young people in Year 8 or above at school. The next social gathering for all young people interested is being held on Friday 24th October in St. Michaels Centre from 7pm. For more info contact Fr. Matthew or just come along.

HOLY BAPTISM – OLSM is a Faith school of the Roman Catholic tradition, with the parish and church at the heart of everything the school does, with Baptism being the rite of initiation for the Church. If your child hasn't received the grace of baptism for whatever reason, why not approach Fr. Matthew to ask if it possible. Some conditions do apply, but he is always ready to have a discussion about it. (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