

OLSM Newsletter

October 29 / 29 Hydref 25.

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



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Half term

We hope you are enjoying the half term break. The children will be welcomed back on Monday 3rd November 2025.

Lateness and child absence

It was reassuring last week, to see a decrease in lateness. Remember school starts at 9.00 am. As mentioned previously, we can offer a 5-minute period of grace but after that a child is classed as arriving late to school. Persistent lateness can mean that our education welfare officer may contact you. If your child arrives late, they are also missing the start of morning lessons or phonic teaching which will have negative consequences for their learning.

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 and always provide as much detail as possible for the reason for an absence.

Last Friday we also sent a separate letter regarding the impact of school absence and all children should have come home with an up to date attendance record.

Year 3 swimming

The year 3 class swimming lessons begin, next Tuesday 4th November 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.

Pupil items left on the playground

I am very sorry to inform you that recently we have had 2 instances where items that have been left overnight on the playgrounds have been stolen. We ask all school family members to ensure that scooters/bikes are taken home at the end of the day. If for some reason this is not possible, please inform a member of staff who will ensure that any items are stored securely inside the school until they can be collected.

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 ever be discussed or aired via any forms of social media.

Year 7 applications.

If your child is in year 6 this year, please remember that the deadline for applying to the high school of your choice is fast approaching. Saint Alban's deadline is-Friday 31st October at 5 pm. King Henry 4-19 is also Friday 31st October but at 4 pm.

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 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 brass lessons

Our Gwent Music brass teacher has a few spaces left for pupils who wish to learn how to play brass instruments. Parents/carers can enroll via this link:

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

Class Masses for the autumn term.

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. We are no longer 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.**

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.

Autumn term dates for your diary.

School Disco

Thursday 27th November Lower phase 3.45-4.45 pm and Upper phase 5.00-6.00 pm.

Class Enterprise event/Fayre for Christmas

Tuesday 16th December 3.30-5.00 pm.

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)

School essentials grant-are you missing out?

If you are the parent or guardian of a child in education from Reception to year 11, you may be eligible for a grant to help to pay for essential school items. The official name of this grant is the school essentials grant. You may also know it as the Pupil Development grant, PDG Access or the Uniform grant.

The grant amount for the 2025-2026 school year is:

- £125 for eligible children
- £200 for children in year 7

You can use the grant to pay for:

- school uniforms, coats and footwear
- sports equipment and kit
- equipment for school activities, including musical lessons, outdoor learning and after school clubs
- classroom essentials, including pens, pencils and school bags
- equipment and materials for new subjects or courses

Eligibility

You may be eligible if you are a parent or guardian of a child in education from Reception to year 11, and you receive one of these benefits:

- Income support
- Jobseeker's Allowance
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit
- Pension Credit
- Universal Credit
- Help under Immigration and Asylum Seekers Act 1999

If you receive Universal Credit, your household earnings must be less than £7,400 a year after tax. This does not include any income from benefits.

You may be eligible if you have no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

All children in care are eligible.

Apply

You can apply from 1 July 2025 to 31 May 2026.

You will need your:

- contact information
- child's school name
- national insurance number (if available)
- bank details (if available)

You can only apply once for each child in a year.

See- [Get help with school essentials - Monmouthshire](#) for more details.

Class PE days

Reception class Wednesday.

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

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

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

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.

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.

School clubs

Monday 3.30-4.30 pm football club year 5 and 6.

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

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.

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

PTA - Please remember!

Thank you to those that attended our PTA AGM recently. The PTA would like to remind school families that you are able to support the school in 2 easy ways.

Depositing clothes in the clothes bank at the end of the Car Park is a very easy way to generate funds for the PTA.

Additionally, our easy funding app can be used for any online purchases anytime of the year. Using this App allows you to buy whatever you want online and still support the school.

Just sign up, download the easyfundraising app and use that to do your online shopping, and the school receives donations that cost you nothing.

Search: easyfundraising in your app store and raise money for the school just by doing your online shopping.

You can find our **easyfundraising** page at

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendssofarms/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=gs-email1

Any questions, just ask a member of the PTA.

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-

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. 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