

OLSM Newsletter

Rhagfyr 5 / 5 December 25.

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



E-mail: OLSM.Primary@monmouthshireschools.wales

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Parish / school Advent service Monday 8th December

Father Matthew has informed the school, that tickets have become available. If you were on the waiting list, you would have been informed. If you would like a ticket, please contact Fr Matthew via the following email-www.olsm-abergavenny.co.uk

Thanks to all those who have booked tickets for the carol service on Monday at 6.30pm. No paper tickets are being issued. Stewards will have lists of all those who have booked places. The church will not be open until 6pm.

OLSM Parent Governor

I am pleased to say that a parent has come forward and offered their services to the school governing body. The sole nominee means that no selection ballot needs to occur.

Therefore, we would like to inform you that the new parent Governor at OLSM is Mrs Jenny Gorell.

We sincerely appreciate Mrs Gorell putting her name forward.

PTA-Hamper request-Thank you!

The friends of OLSM PTA group would like to thank all in the school community who supported the colour donation request that occurred today. Your support is very much appreciated.

PTA Christmas Wreath Making

The PTA are also organising an eco-friendly Christmas Wreath Making Workshop in the school hall on Thursday 11th December at 6.30 pm. Please see the attached information. In previous years these sessions have quickly booked out so be quick if you would like to take part. Contact the PTA to book a place.

Applications for OLSM

If your child's date of birth is between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022, they are eligible to start Reception in September 2026. The Admissions process for children due to start primary school (reception) for September 2026 has already started-

- **Closing date for applications: 15th January 2026 at 4pm**
- Offer date: 16th April 2026

Please ensure that you complete and return your application prior to the published closing date, as failure to do so will result in your application being determined as late which will reduce the chances of you obtaining a place at our school.

Autumn term dates for your diary.

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.

Christmas Jumper day and Christmas lunch- (Please book a school lunch via Parent Pay if your child would like a Christmas lunch meal. Please see the attached menu)

Thursday 11th December 2025. This will be a non-uniform day, and children may wear Christmas jumpers and / or other festive regalia. Alternatively, children wearing non-uniform may want to wear festive colours such as reds, greens, golds, silvers etc.

End of term Whole School Mass-

Wednesday 17th December at 10.00 am in OLSM Church. All school community members are very welcome to attend.

Christmas Tree donation-Thank you!

Many thanks to Mr Nick Jones of GN Construction for kindly offering a donation to cover the cost of our school Christmas tree this year.

We sincerely appreciate this generous offer.

Lower Phase Nativity

Tickets which have been booked for the Nativity, will be sent home on Monday 8th December 2025.

Wraparound club

Please be aware, that for the last 2 weeks of term we will be unable to offer the school wraparound provision. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause families.

School clubs

All sports clubs have ended for this term. Thursday 3.30-4.30 pm Choir (Paid club).

Book club-please ensure all borrowed books are returned before the end of term.

Class PE days

Reception class Wednesday.

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

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

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

School essentials grant-are you missing out?

The information set out below can have a big impact on the amount of funding we receive from MCC. This designated funding is only provided in relation to the number of children who attend our school from families in receipt of the grant below. This money will directly benefit eligible children but if families do not apply, then the school does not receive this valuable extra income. Please apply if you think you are eligible.

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.

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 Pugh- PughT97@monmouthshireschools.wales

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

OLSM Mini-Vinnies Christmas request.

Our Mini-Vinnies group is a school group that works in a similar way to the church SVP or Saint Vincent de Paul society. The SVP organisation aims to 'To love our neighbour as ourselves.'

At a recent meeting of our pupil group, the pupils wrote to staff suggesting that they felt it was more appropriate to suggest to school families, that if a gift or card was going to be given to a staff member, instead a local charity could benefit. (Of course, staff DO NOT EXPECT A GIFT OR A CARD AT ALL)
All school staff whole heartedly thought this was a wonderful idea.

Therefore, if families were so inclined, the Mini-Vinnie's would like to inform you that gratitude to staff could be shown by supporting the MCC Christmas wishes appeal in lieu of a staff gift this year. Please see the attached information sheet for further information. Families that do this could then email staff members that a donation has been offered.

Of course there is NO expectation of this.

Christmas Jumper-donations

At this time of year, we would welcome any donations of pre-loved Christmas Jumpers which will be placed in our 'New-to-You' area for members of our school community to benefit from. Please just ensure any donations are washed and in a suitable condition for others to wear.

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.

CAROL SERVICE – Thanks to all those who have booked tickets for the carol service on Monday at 6.30pm. No paper tickets are being issued, stewards will have lists of all those who have booked places. The church will not be open until 6pm.

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. Christmas cards from the charity, *Aid to the Church in Need*, are also available at the back of Church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE – The 2nd Session for those children enrolled on the course is this Sunday, 14th December at 9am in St. Michaels Centre, followed by the 10am Sunday mass.

DIOCESAN YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT – For those aged 18-35, here at OLSM on Saturday 13th December 10-5pm, Mass to be celebrated at 12noon by Archbishop Mark. Poster at back of Church and on Facebook, register in advance, or contact Fr. Matthew at fr.matthew@live.co.uk

PARISH/SCHOOLS CAROL SERVICE – Monday 8th December 6.30pm, with students from our own parish school and St. Albans Schools.

CAR PARK – Parents/carers are reminded **not to use** the parking bays reserved for taxis. The 6 spaces along the side of St. Michael centre; all these spaces are needed for taxis' both at the beginning and at the end of the school day. Parents and all those using the car park are reminded to take the greatest care. **There is a 5 MPH** 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.

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