

OLSM Newsletter

Chwefror 17 / 17th February 2023



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

Half term.

Next week from Monday 20th to Friday 24th is half term.

Please remember that the school is **closed to children on Monday 27th February** as we have a staff training day.

Foundation Phase family engagement sessions

Dear OLSM Foundation Phase families. We are pleased to inform you that we are restarting our family engagement sessions. Below you will find dates for the first of these.

Monday 6th March Year 2 parent stay and play session 2pm

Tuesday 7th March Rec parent stay and play session 2pm

Thursday 9th March Year 1 parent stay and play session 2pm

During these sessions, families will have the opportunity to work with their child on a range of activities which the children have been working on in classes.

March 2nd Strike day

The next NEU strike day will take place on Thursday 2nd March. Due to Health and safety guidance, the school will be open to all children **except those in Year 3** on that day.

Afterschool clubs (First week back)

Superstars club for year 1, 2 and 3 pupils. Half termly cost, £10 payable via ParentPay.

Club	Day	Time	Eligible for	Number of places
Netball club	Tuesday	3.30pm – 4.30pm	Year 5 & 6.	20.
Gardening club	Thursdays	3.30pm – 4.30pm	Year 3 & 4.	15.

Pupil council groups.

Criw Cymraeg and community/Mini-Vinnies will meet on Tuesdays from 3.30-4.30.

Eco, standards, and digital groups will meet on Thursdays from 3.30-4.30.

Year 4 swimming

The Year 4 class are taking part in their swimming sessions on Tuesday. Please make sure the children bring their swimming costumes, a towel and goggles if needed on the day. Children should come to school in their PE kit. The leisure centre has informed us that children will be unable to swim if their ears are recently pierced and they must not wear earrings on the day.

World Book Day change of date

Due to the NEU strike day, our school will celebrate World Book Day on Friday 4th March. This afternoon all children will bring home a paper plate and a lollipop stick. We have asked the children to use these resources to make a face mask for a character from their favourite book. On Friday 4th March we ask that children bring in their masks and dress in a way to help others guess their character. For example, if their mask represents the crocodile from The Enormous Crocodile then their mask would be made to look like a crocodile, and they could wear something green/brown. You can add decoration to the mask such as wool/cotton wool/other bits of paper.

Saint David's Day

Wednesday March the 1st is Saint David's Day. Children may come to school in traditional costume, miner's outfits, rugby players etc. or simply wear something red. No donations necessary but we would be grateful if children could bring in 'shop bought' welsh cakes in sealed packets, that we will share on the day. Our kitchen will be preparing a special Saint David's Day menu. The menu has been sent with this newsletter.

A whole school Mass will take place on the day at 10.00am at OLSM church. Families are welcome to attend.

Welsh phrase of the fortnight

To support your pronunciation of the words below you may find this website useful-

[Welsh pronunciation dictionary \(forvo.com\)](http://forvo.com)

Foundation Phase/Progression step 1/2

Key Stage 2 /Progression step 2/3

Dydd Gwyl Dewi Hapus!

(Happy Saint David's Day!)

Dyma gerdyn i chi- here is a card for you.

Dyma flodau i chi- here are some flowers for you.

Dyma stori Dewi Sant- here's the story of Saint David.

Bicau ar y maen- Welsh cakes

cennin- leeks

cennin pedr- daffodils

Early notification of parent/carers consultations

Parents and carers will have the opportunity to chat with teachers and look at their children's books on Monday 13th and Wednesday 15th March from 3.40- 6.00 pm. *(15th dependent on strike action)*

We will use the Parent Cloud system to allow parent/carers the opportunity to book an appointment.

Details on how to book an appointment will be sent out in the first week back after half term. The booking system will also go live that week.

Welcome back Miss Farr.

We are very happy to welcome back Miss Farr, who has returned after maternity leave. It's been lovely to find out all about her daughter and she has quickly got back into her role, supporting the learning in Year 2.

Thank You Mrs Griffiths

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Griffiths who has been helping to teach Year 2 since September. Today was her last day and we will all miss her wonderful commitment and enthusiasm. We wish her well in all her new endeavours. Good luck and God bless.

Term dates for the 22/23 academic year.

Term	Start	Half term start	Half term end	Term End
Autumn	02/09/2022	31/10/22	04/11/2022	23/12/2022
Spring	09/01/2023	20/02/2023	24/02/2023	31/03/2023
Summer	17/04/2023	29/05/2023	02/06/2023	21/07/2023

INSET Days for 22/23-Monday 27th February 2023, Friday 30th June 2023.

Parish News

SUNDAY MASSES - at 8am, 10am and 6pm, Children's liturgy during the 10am mass in term time.

BAPTISMS – Fr. Matthew welcomes applications for Baptism of infants and children in OLSM Church. For further info contact Fr. Matthew – 851051.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE – Thanks to the 8 children and their parents who have been enrolled on this year's First Holy Communion course. The next session is Sunday 5th March at 9am.

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, place of Union Rd West, with food items and household items for families in need. They have a lot of 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 tele 07982435560

LENT – ASH WEDNESDAY - is next Wednesday 22nd February, the beginning of Lent. Mass in OLSM at 10am and 7pm with the distribution of Ashes.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - every Friday of Lent beginning Friday 24th February at 6pm in Church.

ST. DAVIDS DAY – Wednesday 1st March, Full School Mass at 10am.

PARENTING FOR FAITH COURSE – ARCHDIOCESE FAMILY LIFE COMMISSION.

Would you like help to share your faith with your baby or toddler? Join in an online CELEBRATE Parenting for Faith course for 5 weeks starting 8pm 23rd February on Thursday evenings, with bitesize sessions lasting around 45 minutes. The goal of the course is to help parents discover that they are perfectly positioned to show their children the reality of a life with God and to empower them to have their own vibrant two-way relationship with Him. Through the easily accessible and relaxed input you will receive help to introduce faith in simple steps. For more information and to register on the course see www.celebratetrust.org/parentingforfaith

CAR PARK – Please only park in marked bays. If there are no spaces available, please park off site.

The parish and school reserve the right to issue warning notices from the company "Flash park" who we have an agreement with. Parents/carers should only use the car park at the beginning and end of the school day, thus enabling parishioners and users of St. Michael Centre to park here. Please co-operate in keeping the car park a safe place for your children.

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