

OLSM Newsletter



27th October / Hydref 27.

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

OLSM Sponsored read over Half term.

To celebrate and encourage a lifelong love of reading at home and school, we are running a sponsored read between 30/10/2023 to 3/11/2023.

The project is being organised in conjunction with our local Usborne Partner, Karen Simmonds, and all the money raised will go towards brand new books for our school. In addition to the sponsorship money, Usborne will also donate up to 60% of the total raised in EXTRA FREE BOOKS to the school. So, for every £600 raised, we will get an extra £360 in FREE Usborne books!

Please help us to enhance our reading resources for pupils by encouraging your child to spend a small amount of time each day either reading to themselves, to others, or being read to. They can read books, comics, magazines, newspapers, menus, websites, recipes, poems, leaflets, and instructions – anything with words!

If you can support our sponsored read, even with just £2.00, please find attached a sponsorship form and reading log for your child (if they wish to use it). The log can be used to record their reading. Sponsorship money is to be sent into school by Friday 10/11/2023.

Additionally, in November we have also organised two book fairs for the different phases in the school hall. Lower Phase children and their families will be able to attend on the afternoon of Wednesday 15th November, with the Upper Phase on the afternoon of Wednesday 22nd November.

Royal British Legion appeal

After half term the children will still be able to purchase items in aid of the annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Prices vary from 20p to £2.00. Year 6 pupils will visit all classes to allow the children to have an opportunity to purchase the items.

Nasal flu vaccinations

We are very pleased to announce that this year over 82% of the school pupil population received the nasal flu vaccinations. As we move into the colder months, this excellent response will undoubtedly support all our pupils and staff to remain well. Thank you for your support.

Year 6 swimming

The Year 6 swimming session will resume after half term. Please ensure the children have all the items they need to take part in the lessons.

Class Masses.

Class masses, at OLSM church, will be held as follows-

Year 4 class Mass, Tuesday 14th November 23 at 10.00am.

Year 3 class Mass, Tuesday 21st November 23 at 10.00am.

Year 6 class Mass, Tuesday 28th November 23 at 10.00am.

Class family members are always very welcome to attend.

Friends of OLSM PTA Annual General Meeting

The PTA would like to thank those family members who were able to attend the meeting last week. Your ideas and offers of help are all gratefully received and will have an impact on the activities that will be planned over the next academic year.

♥ MAKE OUR CHRISTMAS EXTRA SPECIAL ♥

Did you know that the Friends of OLSM are registered with ***easyfundraising***, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online? Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use ***easyfundraising*** to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

So please download the app and when you do your Christmas shopping online you could make our Christmas extra special too :)

These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so please sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

Here's a video to explain how it works: https://youtu.be/T9_XwaxfG94

You can find our ***easyfundraising*** page at

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

Thank you so much!
Friends of OLSM PTA

PE days

Please can children wear their PE kit to school on the following days-
Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 on a Wednesday.
Year 6 on a Thursday.

PE is a part of our school curriculum so please ensure your child wears their PE kit on these days.

Packed lunch guidance- No nuts and no chocolate!

We are a no nut and a no chocolate school. Please do not include these items in your child's lunch box.

We are still noticing that a number of packed lunches are containing chocolate items. These items may contain nuts that could seriously affect children in our school with severe allergies. After half term please do not include chocolate or nut-based items in your child's packed lunch. If these items are seen in lunch boxes, we will have to confiscate them and return them to parents/carers at the end of the day. As a school, we have a duty to guarantee that every child's well-being is not compromised.

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)

School clubs

Our football club is now full - Football club Mondays from 3.30-4.40.

Netball club, Tuesdays for children in Year 5 and Year 6.

Running club, Fridays from 3.30-4.30 Upper Phase only.

A new book club has started at lunch times. Upper Phase Tuesday 1.00-1.30pm. Lower Phase Friday 12.30-1.00pm.

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.

Class assemblies for the autumn term

Class assemblies will take place on Thursdays from 3.00 pm. Class parents/carers are able to attend.

Year 5 – Postponed. New date to be identified.

Year 2 – Thursday 26th October. Year 1 – Thursday 16th November.

Reception class – Thursday 23rd November **2.45 pm.**

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@Hwb.cymru.net

Year 1 class. Miss Dunlop- dunlopa14@Hwb.cymru.net

Year 2 class. Miss Farr- FarrR12@Hwb.cymru.net

Year 3 class. Mr Fuchs- fuchss6@hwb.cymru.net

Year 4 class Mrs Rose- RoseM10@Hwb.cymru.net

Year 5 class Mrs Callicott- CallicottH6@Hwb.cymru.net

Year 6 class Miss McCarthy- McCarthyM22@Hwb.cymru.net

Mr Evans- vivianevas@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Additional Needs Co-ordinator - Miss Everett- EverettJ11@Hwb.cymru.net

School attendance

Our attendance target for this academic year is **95%**. Any requests for authorised absences will not be approved if a child's attendance is below this figure. School governors have also agreed that if a child's attendance goes below 80%, the school will make a referral to the education welfare service to seek support above and beyond that from the school.

If you are having difficulties with your child's attendance, please ask the school for support so we can work together to prevent your child's attendance becoming a concern.

Last week's class attendance

Group Analysis by Attendance Category

Period: 16/10/2023 to 20/10/2023

Scope: Reg Group Rec+Year 1+Year 2+Y3+Year 4+Year 5+Year 6

Percentage of Sessions

Group	Presents	AEA	Authorised Absences	Unauthorised Absences	Possible	% Attend
Rec	93.2	0.0	6.8	0.0	100.0	93.2
Year 1	91.7	0.0	7.6	0.7	100.0	91.7
Year 2	96.3	0.0	3.3	0.3	100.0	96.3
Year 3	91.1	0.0	8.9	0.0	100.0	91.1
Year 4	91.3	0.0	8.8	0.0	100.0	91.3
Year 5	96.1	0.0	3.2	0.6	100.0	96.1
Year 6	92.7	1.0	6.3	0.0	100.0	93.7
Totals	93.2	0.1	6.4	0.2	100.0	93.4

Police liaison officer visit

Our new police liaison officer, PC Bowen will visit the school on Wednesday 8th November. She will talk to the Lower Phase on the topic of, 'People who help us.'

Welsh phrase of the fortnight

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

[Welsh pronunciation dictionary \(forvo.com\)](https://forvo.com/dictionary/ble%20mae%20r%20pencil%20yma)

Lower Phase/Progression step1/2

Ble mae ...? / Ble mae'r ...?

Ble mae Mrs Elias?

(Where is Mrs Elias?)

Ble mae'r pensil?

(Where is the pencil?)

Upper Phase/Progression step 2/3

Ble mae ...? / Ble mae'r ...?

Ble mae Mrs Elias?

(Where is Mrs Elias?)

Ble mae'r pensil?

(Where is the pencil?)

Mae'r pensil yma- the pencil is here.

Autumn term dates for your diary.

School Christmas Disco-

Friday 8th December. Lower Phase 3.45 – 5.00 pm. Upper Phase 5.15 – 6.30 pm.

Christmas Fair-

Friday 15th December 3.00-4.30 pm.

Lower phase Nativity-

Tuesday December 12th at 2.00 pm and Thursday December 14th at 2.00 pm.

Upper Phase Advent Carol service-

Tuesday 19th December at 6.00 pm.

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day-

Wednesday 20th December.

Spring term dates for your diary.

Class open afternoons- week beginning Monday 19th February 2024.

Year 5 & 6, from 2.00-3.30 Monday 19th February 2024.

Year 3 & 4, from 2.00-3.30 Tuesday 20th February 2024.

Reception class from 2.00-3.30 Wednesday 21st February 2024.

Year 1 & 2, from 2.00-3.30 Friday 23rd February 2024.

Whole school Saint David's Day Mass- Friday 1st March 2024 at 10.00 am at OLSM church.

Parent/carers consultations- Tuesday 5th and Thursday 7th March 3.45- 6.00 pm.

OLSM World Book Day- Friday 8th March 2024.

Term dates for the 23/24 academic year.

Term	Start	Half term start	Half term end	Term End
Autumn	01/09/2023	30/10/2023	03/11/2023	22/12/2023
Spring	08/01/2024	12/02/2024	16/02/2024	22/03/2024
Summer	08/04/2024	27/05/2024	31/05/2024	19/07/2024

Inset days left for 23/24

The remaining INSET dates are- 8/1/24, 8/4/24, 28/6/24.

PARISH NOTICES.

SUNDAY MASS TIMES – At 8am, 10am and 6pm in OLSM Church. Childrens liturgy operates at the 10am Mass.

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

ALPHA COURSE @ OLSM, ABERGAVENNY. The Alpha course continues every Friday until 1st December in the St. Michaels Centre on Pen - Y- Pound, from 5.30pm till 7.15pm. Each session begins with a simple meal, then a video and discussion. Alpha is a chance to explore the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. All welcome, whatever their faith, Church background or none - please spread the word and invite anyone you feel may be interested or curious in learning more about the Christian Faith. Invitation cards are available in the school reception. For more info, contact Fr. Matthew, fr.matthew@live.co.uk 01873 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 saintmichaelscen@outlook.com

CWTCH ANGELS – COMMUNITY SHOP, at Hatherleigh, near Homemakers, Union Rd West. 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 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

CAR PARK – Parents are reminded that the car park is Church property and permission to park is a courtesy offered by the parish. Therefore, parents are asked to park only in marked parking bays, and only to use the disabled bays if you have an appropriate permit. Warning notices are being placed on cars not parked correctly. If there are no car parking places available, please park off site.

The parish and school, reserves the right to issue warning notices/fines from the company "Flashpark" who we have an agreement with. Please co-operate in keeping the car park a safe place for your children.