

OLSM Newsletter

10th November / 10 Tachwedd.



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

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Governors Annual Report to Parents

The Governors Annual Report to Parents is attached in the email sent with this week's newsletter.

Odd socks day Monday 13th November and Normal clothes day on Friday 17th

Children are encouraged to wear odd socks on Monday 13th November to signal the start of the national anti-bullying week Monday 13th to Friday 17th November 2023. Friday 17th will be a normal clothes day.

No donation of money will be required to wear normal clothes.

The school has signed up to the Anti-bullying alliance anti-bullying week where parents can find useful resources to support you talking to your children about the topic of bullying. The resources will help you start the conversation about bullying no matter the age of your child and give you other ideas about anti-bullying at home. These resources can be accessed at- [Parents and Carers \(anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk\)](https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)

OLSM Sponsored read over Half term.

Thank you very much for those families who were able to take part in the sponsored read over half term.

The half term sponsored read money can be handed in up until Wednesday 15th November.

This month, 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.

A separate letter providing information on the book fair accompanies the newsletter this week.

Remembrance Sunday

Our pupil leaders will lay a wreath at the Abergavenny Cenotaph this Sunday as part of the Abergavenny Remembrance service which starts at 11.00 am. Several of the school pupils will also be present representing various groups they participate in.

Year 5 swimming

The year 5 class will start their swimming lessons next Tuesday 14th November.

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.

School painting session

The next session to paint some parts of the school will take place on Saturday 2nd December from 9.30 am to 12.30. Once again, paint, brushes, rollers and other materials will be provided, We would just ask once more for some willing volunteers, to support the completion of this work.

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.

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.

Parent council

We have some vacancies for the parent council. Ideally, we would like at least 2 representatives for each class. At present we are looking for another parent/carer for Reception, Year 2 and Year 6. Please contact Mr Evans via email if you are interested.

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

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 1 – Thursday 16th November.

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

Year 5 – Thursday 30th November (Please note the new date)

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. Miss Dunlop- dunlopa14@Hwbcymru.net

Year 2 class. Miss Farr- FarrR12@Hwbcymru.net

Year 3 class. Mr Fuchs- fuchss6@hwbcymru.net

Year 4 class Mrs Rose- RoseM10@Hwbcymru.net

Year 5 class Mrs Callicott- CallicottH6@Hwbcymru.net

Year 6 class Miss McCarthy- McCarthyM22@Hwbcymru.net

Mr Evans- vivianevas@monmouthshire.gov.uk

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

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)

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.

Tuesday 16th January -Parents/carers engagement sessions in school.

Lower phase, focusing on supporting your child with phonics, reading and spelling at home 15.45 (20 mins) and 16.15 (20mins).

Upper phase, focusing on supporting your child with reading and maths at home 15.45 (20 mins) and 16.15 (20mins).

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/carer 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.

School Open Day tours

Prospective parents/carers are welcome to attend the school open day on Friday 1st December for a chat with Mr Evans and a tour of the school. **The meetings and tours will take place at 10.00 am and 2.00 pm. and will last no more than an hour.**

Please pass this message on to any prospective parents/carers who may wish to apply for a school place for the 2024 Reception class.

We welcome applications from Catholic, Christian, other faith or no-faith families who are open to the Catholic nature and ethos of the school.

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.