

OLSM Newsletter

8th November / 8 Rhagfyr 2023.



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

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Christmas envelopes

Yesterday small brown envelopes came home with all pupils. The PTA has asked that families place a single coin in the envelope with an amount from 20 p to £2.00 and returned to school on Monday. These envelopes will then become part of a lucky dip costing 20p a go, where participants have a chance to win an unknown larger amount. This will be one of the stalls in the hall at the Christmas Fair on Friday.

School netball success

Many congratulations to our school netball team that played against Cantref school last Wednesday. Our school team won 2 – 1 against very tough opposition. The team has worked very hard to develop their skills over the last few months and all this development would not have happened without the fantastic coaching provided by Bev Bannon, Ria O'Reilly and Stacey Warner. Well done everyone.

School painting session

Thank you so much for those parents who were able to support the school during the 2 painting sessions. Due to these individuals giving up their time, we were able to save £5000 (the price we were quoted by a painting contractor) from our school budget. This money can now be spent on providing resources for our pupil's education.

DVLA coding competition finalists.

Many congratulation to our coding team who were finalists at the DVLA coding competition. The team travelled to Swansea on Tuesday and had to present their game to the judges and the audience of over 400 pupils from schools around Wales. The whole event was a wonderful experience and cumulated in our team being awarded first prize, receiving £2000 to be spent on I.T. equipment and 10 refurbished laptops. The team members also received a Raspberry Pi computer each. Well done one and all. We are very proud of you and how well you represented our school.

Lower Phase Nativity

Our Lower Phase Nativity takes place next Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th December at 2.00pm. Two tickets per family have come home this week. If you are not going to use all the tickets, please could you return them so we can pass them on to other families who would have like to have more. Please be aware that due to health and safety requirements we are not able to allow individuals in on the day without a valid ticket.

Outdoor learning sessions

Next week we have booked Mr Craig Armiger (an outdoor learning practitioner) to complete some Christmas outdoor learning sessions with the children. Each class will take part in these sessions on-Wednesday 13th - he will work with the staff and pupils of our Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 classes.

Thursday 14th - he will work with the staff and pupils of Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6.

On these days the children should be prepared for learning outdoors and **wear warm normal clothing**, warm coats, hats and gloves and suitable shoes with warm socks.

Uniform does not have to be worn on the day the children take part in outdoor learning.

Year 5 swimming

Swimming continues next Tuesday.

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.

Christmas Fair Friday 15th December

This Friday from 3.00-4.30 our school Christmas fair takes place. Each class will have stalls set up in their classes where items developed by each class will be on sale. The PTA will also have light refreshments in the hall, and we are hoping that a special visitor will join us if he is available!!!

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.

School clubs

All sports clubs now cancelled.

Book club at lunch times. Upper Phase Tuesday 1.00-1.30pm. Lower Phase Friday 12.30-1.00pm.

MAKE OUR CHRISTMAS EXTRA SPECIAL

Raise money for our school just by doing your online Christmas shopping - it doesn't cost you anything!

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 Christmas shopping 🎄 ⭐

You can find our **easyfundraising** page at

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

Any questions, just ask a member of the PTA.

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- vivianevans@monmouthshire.gov.uk

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

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 step 1/2

Oes gyda ti?

(Do you have a?)

Oes, mae gyda fi.

Nag oes, does dim gyda fi. ddiod/dwr

Upper Phase/Progression step 2/3

Oes gyda ti?

(Do you have a?)

Oes, mae gyda fi.

Nag oes, does dim gyda fi.

Now have a go at extending your sentence!

Oes pensil oren gyda ti?

Oes, mae pensil oren gyda fi. Dyma til

Nag oes, does dim pensil oren gyda fi. Soril

New School Governors

We are pleased to inform you that we can announce the appointment of 2 new school governors.

Mrs Jen Mossemeneer has been appointed as the new parent Governor and Councillor Kyle Eldridge will take over from former councillor Tony Konieczny as our town council governor.

PTA school disco

Many thanks to our wonderful PTA for organising our school disco last Friday.

Please could all families of those pupils who attended, ensure that the required payment is completed via Parent Pay over the next few days.

Autumn term dates for your diary.

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.

To allow families with children in both Phases to take part, we have split the engagement days as follows-

Monday 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).

Tuesday 17th January- Parents/carers engagement sessions in school.

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

OLSM World Book Day- Friday 8th March 2024.

Tuesday 12th March- Friday 15th March. Year 6 Outdoor learning experience at Longtown outdoor centre.

Summer term dates for your diary.

Monday 13th May- Friday 17th May- Welsh Government personalised diagnostic assessments. No requests for absence will be authorised this week.

Tuesday 21st May- Sports Day Option 1.

Thursday 23rd May- Sports Day Option 2.

Friday 14th June- Summer Fair and OLSM has talent.

Monday 17th June- Thursday 20th June Reporting to parents' week.

Friday 21st June- School Reports come home.

July 9th and 10th- Upper Phase Summer Show.

Friday 12th July - Presentation afternoon.

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 tours

If you or a friend was unable to attend the recent open day, please just contact the school office to arrange an appointment with Mr Evans who can provide a tour on a suitable date and time.

School applications for September 2024 are now open. We welcome applications from Catholic, Christian, other faith or no-faith families who are open to the Catholic nature and ethos of the school. Application forms are available from the school office and the school website.

PARISH NOTICES.

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

BAPTISMS – If your child hasn't been baptised, why not consider approaching Fr. Matthew. Children of all ages, as well as infants, are welcome to receive the grace of Holy Baptism. Some conditions apply, but Fr. Matthew is more than willing to discuss the possibility. Contact him on 851051.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE – The next First Holy Communion course will begin soon, open to children in Year 3 and above. Letters have been distributed in school. Children who have not been baptised can be admitted to the course, (in that case, baptism will form part of the preparation course; conditions apply). Applications are welcome from children in Year 3, and also from Years 4, 5 and 6.

ALTAR SERVERS CLUB – Very soon an Altar Servers Club will begin running in school, for children to serve at school masses and the Sunday masses. More info will be distributed soon, or just contact Fr. Matthew if interested.

CONFIRMATION COURSE – A preparation course for the Sacrament of Confirmation begins in the New Year, open to young people in Years 8, 9 and above at school. Confirmation Mass on Sunday 14th July. Application

forms available at back of Church, on the parish website and from Mr. Isaac Harrison, the Chaplain at St. Albans High School.

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

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TIMES – The PAC agreed at its recent meeting that the masses on Christmas Day, will be **Vigil Masses on Sunday 24th at 6pm and 10pm, and 11am on Monday 25th, with a 9am Mass in Llanarth.**

Attending one of the Vigil Masses does not also fulfil the Sunday obligation! Sorry!

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.