

OLSM Newsletter

24th November / 24 Tachwedd.

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



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OLSM school family Mass and Commissioning of the Mini Vinnies

This Sunday 26th November we would like to welcome school families to attend the 10.00 am Mass at OLSM church. This will be the first family Mass that we have organised for a number of years. At the Mass, our Mini-Vinnies group will be formally Commissioned and will receive their official badges. All school families are very welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the Saint Michael's Centre.

Children do not need to wear school uniform.

Please note, that you do not need to be a church attendee to attend our family Mass, all are welcome.

Year 3 & 4 class trip to the One Planet Centre

Year 3 and 4 will take part in a trip to the One Planet Centre at Llanfoist on Monday 27th November. The trip will support their curriculum work on recycling, reusing, and reducing. Entry is free, but we ask for a voluntary contribution of £3.00 to cover the cost of booking a bus to travel to the centre. Please make your payment via Parent Pay.

DVLA coding competition finalists.

Recently, 2 groups from our Year 6 digital leaders, entered the National DVLA coding competition. We are very pleased to announce that one of the groups has been selected as finalists and will travel to Swansea on Tuesday 5th December. As Finalists, the school group will either receive £1000 or £2000 in prize money to purchase new digital resources for the school. Many congratulations to both groups who entered for producing such wonderful programs. Let's all keep our fingers crossed for the 5th!

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 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

For those parent/carers who have offered to take part in this group, the next meeting will be next Monday 27th at 5.00pm in the school.

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)

PTA Christmas Wreath Workshop-Cancelled

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to cancel the Wreath making workshop on Wednesday 6th December. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

School clubs

Football club, Monday from 3.30-4.30 Year 5 and Year 6

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

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

Book club 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 – Thursday 30th November 2023.

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 step1/2

Ga i ... os gwelwch yn dda?
(Can I have a ... please?)
Answer: Dyma ti- Here you go!
pensil coch, ...glas, ...gwyrdd, ...du etc
pen
rwber
glud

Upper Phase/Progression step 2/3

Ga i fenthyg ... os gwelwch yn dda?
(Can I borrow a ... please?)
pensil coch, ...glas, ...gwyrdd, ...du etc
pen
rwber
pren mesur
glud

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.

Autumn term dates for your diary.

Thursday 7th December at 3.00pm Year 3 Fuzz Buzz Concert-Only year 3 families please.

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/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.

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.

School Christmas Disco

The School Christmas Disco will take place on Friday 8th December. Lower Phase 3.45 – 5.00 pm. Upper Phase 5.15 – 6.30 pm. There will be a £3.50 charge which will allow children to receive a hot dog and a drink. Payment for this will be via Parent Pay.

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.

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.