

OLSM Newsletter

17th December / 17 Rhagfyr 23



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

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Upper Phase Advent Service

The Upper Phase Advent service takes place on Tuesday 19th from 6.00 pm at OLSM Parish Church. We request that children **arrive in school uniform via the school front foyer** for 5.45 pm promptly. Staff will then walk the children down to the church for 6.00 pm.

Please make every effort to allow your Upper Phase child to attend. This is always a lovely celebration of the season and all children have worked hard to learn the carols over the last few weeks.

School Christmas Fair

Many thanks to you all for the wonderful turnout at the school fair last Friday. Your support was incredible. An enormous thanks also to our PTA for organising such a wonderful event.

Wednesday 20th December 2023

This Wednesday is our school Christmas Jumper Day and also our school Christmas lunch. If possible, we ask that families make a £1 donation via Parent Pay. This money will be donated to a local charity along with any donations received from the retiring collection after the Advent service.

Please pre-order your child's lunch via ParentPay if they wish to have a Christmas Lunch.

Whole school end of term Mass

Everyone is welcome to attend the end of term whole school Mass on Friday 22nd at OLSM church at 10.00 am.

School clubs

All clubs have now ended for this term.

❤️ 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.

School attendance

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.

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

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

Upper Phase/Progression step 2/3

Nadolig Llawen!

Merry Christmas!

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda! - Happy New Year!

Dw i'n hoffi... I like...

Sion Corn- Father Christmas

Coed Nadolig- Christmas Trees

Cinio Nadolig- Christmas Dinner

Carolau Nadolig- Christmas carols

Baban Iesu- Baby Jesus

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Adeg y Nadolig, dw i'n hoffi... At Christmas, I like...

Sion Corn- Father Christmas

Gweld Coed Nadolig- seeing Christmas Trees

Bwyta Cinio Nadolig- eating Christmas Dinner

Canu Carolau Nadolig- singing Christmas carols

Gweddio i Baban Iesu- praying to Baby Jesus

Spring term dates for your diary.

Monday 15th January - Lower Phase 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 16th January - Upper Phase 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.

Reception 24 class applications

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.

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.

PARISH NOTICES.

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

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TIMES – Vigil Masses on Sunday 24th at 6pm and 10pm, and 11am on Monday 25th, with a 9am Mass in Llanarth.

SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE – This Tuesday, 19th December, in Church at 6pm.

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 01873 851051.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE – There is still time to enrol your child on the next 1st Holy Communion course, which begins in the New Year. This is open to children in Year 3 and above. Letters have been distributed to year 3 families and copies are also available in the school office. Forms are also available on the parish website. Children who have not been baptised can be admitted to the course. If this is the case, baptism, will form part of the preparation course. Conditions do apply. Applications are welcome from children in Year 3, and also from Years 4, 5 and 6. The course begins on the 14th January 2024.

CONFIRMATION COURSE – A preparation course for the Sacrament of Confirmation begins in the New Year. This course is open to young people in Years 8, 9 and above at school. The Confirmation Mass will occur on Sunday 14th July. Application forms are available at the back of Church, on the parish website and from Mr. Isaac Harrison the Chaplain at St. Albans 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

CWTCH ANGELS – COMMUNITY SHOP, at Hatherleigh, near the Homemakers establishment, Union Rd West. Food items and household items for families in need. 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

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.