

OLSM Newsletter

March 22 / 22 Mawrth 23.

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



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The School/Parish Car Park

Thank you very much to all those families who are making every effort to reduce the use of the car park. Over the last two weeks we have seen a large rise in those children actively travelling to school. After the Easter period the permit parking system will come into operation during drop off and pick up. 8.35 - 9.10 am and 2.45 - 3.45 pm. Using the car park outside these times will be allowed if a valid need occurs i.e. picking up an ill child, dropping off a child after a medical/dental appointment etc.

Breakfast club

From 1st April 2024, the cost of attending the childcare session of school breakfast clubs is increasing from £1 to £2 per child. In a bid to support families to access the club, the paid childcare session will run from 8.00 - 8.25 am. The free breakfast only session will run from 8.25 - 8.40 am. **Gates closed at 8.35.** All pupils that are entitled to benefit led free school meals will continue to be able to attend the whole session at no charge and all pupils are entitled to attend the breakfast session at no cost (from 8.25). We are in the process of updating ParentPay to reflect the new charges and any sessions attended following the Easter holiday will be charged at the higher rate.

OLSM becomes a WOW school!

WOW – the walk to school challenge is delivered by Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking, to help as many children as possible experience the benefits of walking to school. Thanks to funding from Welsh Government, our school is one of 170 across Wales to take part in this project.

This week each class have started to record how they travel to school.

The pupil-led challenge enables children to self-report how they get to school every day. If they travel actively (walk/wheel, cycle, scoot or Park and Stride) regularly, they get rewarded with a badge. It's that simple!

Please support your child to become more active in the way they come to school. Remember, even if you drive, park a little further away and if your child walks for 10 minutes to school they can class their journey as active travel.

Cafod Big Walk

Due to technical difficulties the Parent Pay facility to allow families to pay a £1 donation for their children has been unable to be set up. We hope that it will become active from next week. Therefore if you are able we would be grateful if you could contribute.

In total the children collectively ran/walked/jogged approximately 3780 miles during Lent around, 540 miles per class. A big well done one and all, especially as the weather hasn't been the best!

School ground day

On Saturday 13th April we would like to organise a school grounds day where we would ask for any volunteers to help tidy up both the front garden and peace garden of the school.

If you are able, please bring your own garden tools but we do have small numbers of our own tools if required. This year we are once again supporting Abergavenny in Bloom and are also entering the school in the school specific category as well.

Even if you can only help for an hour, we would be very grateful. Light refreshments will be provided.

Are you having financial difficulties?

Many of us are having to find additional money to pay for our basic needs at this time. If you are having difficulties financially, you may want to contact Mr Evans who could help you to identify what support may be available. It is always better to ask for help than to feel alone and helpless.

Please remember potential help is always only an email or a phone call away.

Mr Evans can be contacted by phone weekdays from 9.00-3.30 on 01873735080 or via email-

vivianevas@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Alternatively, Monmouthshire County Council has useful information and links on the cost of living. The appropriate webpage may be accessed via-

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/money-matters/>

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.

Our school attendance target for this year is 95%. Please make every effort to support the school in achieving this. When your child is ill, please ensure you leave a message on the school answerphone informing us of the reason for your child's absence. Please provide as much detail as possible.

Recently the Welsh national Government has redefined what percentage attendance they consider can be classified as a child having persistence absence. The new figure is 90%. If your child's attendance is below this figure, the school may feel it is necessary to make a referral to MCC education welfare service. We appreciate that there may always be genuine reasons for a child to be absent, but it is the parent/carers responsibility to ensure you communicate clearly with the school to allow us to be able to effectively support you. If you feel you need support, please ask for it.

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)

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.

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- 8/4/24, 28/6/24.

Pasg hapus - Happy Easter

We hope you all have an enjoyable Easter.

May the joy of the risen Christ, visit you all over this Easter period. Easter blessings to you all.

We look forward to seeing the children return on Tuesday 9th April 2024.

PARISH NOTICES.

CAR PARK.

Thank you to those parents who have applied for car park permits, Fr. Matthew will be in contact with all those concerned. If any parents want to apply for a permit (strict conditions apply), contact Fr. Matthew on fr.matthew@live.co.uk

The new arrangements come into force on Tuesday 9th April.

HOLY WEEK SERVICE TIMES.

Palm Sunday, 24th March – 8am, 10am with Palm Sunday Procession and 6pm.

Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lords Supper 7pm.

Good Friday Walk of Witness from outside Tesco at 10am. Stations of the Cross 12noon, Service 3pm.

Holy Saturday-Easter Vigil Mass 8pm.

Easter Sunday 11am and 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.

HOLY WEEK CONCERT – 'IMPERIAL COLLEGE CHAMBER CHOIR.' Monday 25th March in Church, at 7.30pm. Music of Holy Week. Free admission.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE – This year's First Holy communion course continues with 11 children enrolled on the course. The next session is Sunday 14th April at 9am, followed by the 10am mass.

LLANOVER GARDEN Open to raise money for Charity. Sunday 24th March 2-5pm. Adults £8. Kids Free. More info at www.ngs.org.uk

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

ONLINE EVENING PRAYER – every day, apart from Saturday, at 5pm on both the parish Facebook page and the parish website - www.facebook.com/OurLadyandStMichaelChurch

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

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