

OLSM Newsletter

March 8th / 8 Mawrth 23.

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



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The School/Parish Car Park

To enhance the safety of the car park, the school has identified that additional measures will be introduced.

1. Any member of the school community that drives illegally will be banned from using the school car park. This includes use of a mobile phone while in charge of a vehicle, driving at speed, and other illegal driving behaviours. Illegal behaviours will be reported to the police.
2. Repeated parking on **2 occasions**, outside demarcated bays/double parking, will be banned from using the school car park. A warning will be given by school staff on the first occasion.
3. In the morning, a section of the car park will be for the sole use of our school transport.
4. From last Monday after 8.30 am, pedestrians may arrive via the front of the school, walk via the staff car park and drop off children via the double lower playground gates. This should help some families avoid walking through the main car park. **This action has been well received this week.**
5. Next week school governors will discuss the implementation of a parking permit scheme to identify those school users, where the use of the car park is essential for their need.
6. MCC have liaised with the school and will install additional road markings.

Once again please remember to use only demarcated bays, do not double park, drive only at 5 MPH in the car park and ensure you are not distracted when you are driving.

Good luck Mr Holvey and hello Mr Rutherford

Today we were very sorry to say goodbye to Mr Holvey who has been supporting year 3 this year. Mr Holvey has secured a new full-time role at Llanfoist school as a class LSA. We wish him the best of luck in his new ventures.

This week we welcomed Mr Rutherford who over the week has worked alongside Mr Holvey and will now take on Mr Holvey's role.

Design to smile checks.

Next Wednesday 13th March, the NHS Design to Smile Dental Team will complete oral health checks for those pupils in the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes. From the checks, families will be given advice if follow up treatment is required.

Cancelled Year 4 swimming on Tuesday.

Unfortunately, due to essential unplanned maintenance work at the swimming pool, the leisure centre has cancelled next week's swimming session for year 4. The year 4 class will have their last session on Tuesday 19th March.

Year 3 swimming sessions

After Easter, the year 3 class will take part in their series of swimming sessions. More information will be sent out just before the Easter break.

Parent / carer consultations

Thank you to those families who were able to attend the consultation sessions this week. If you were unable to attend, you are welcome to contact your child's class teacher to arrange a phone consultation.

Class assemblies for the spring term.

Class assemblies will take place on Thursdays from 10.30 pm in the school hall. Please note the change in time. Class parents/carers are very welcome to attend.

Dates as follows-

March 14th Reception.

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.

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

Beth wyt ti eisiau?

(What do you want?)

Dw i eisiau pensil, os gwelwch yn dda.

I would like a pencil please.

pensil lliwio - colouring pencil.

rwber - rubber.

Glud - glue.

Diod - drink.

Upper Phase/Progression step 2/3

Beth wyt ti eisiau?

(What do you want?)

Dw i eisiau pensil, os gwelwch yn dda.

I would like a pencil please.

pen ysgrifennu - writing pen.

pren mesur - ruler.

rwber - rubber.

ffon glud - glue stick.

diod o ddŵrŵr - drink of water.

Every week on a Friday, our Criw Cymraeg team will revise our Phrase of the Fortnight with the children in our Good News assembly. Please have a go at practising the phrases with your child/children.

Do you have old batteries?

Mr Fuch's and the eco group want your old batteries. The school has signed up to the Duracell Big Battery hunt. A battery collection point has been set up in the school reception area.

(The BIG BATTERY HUNT is a nationwide recycling challenge, inspiring pupils to power change across their schools and wider communities. Now in its fifth year, the BIG BATTERY HUNT is bigger and better than ever! *Showing children that small environmental actions, when taken collectively, can make a big difference is illustrated brilliantly by Duracell's Big Battery Hunt.*")

Allison Ogden-Newton OBE, Chief Executive of environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy

Cafod Big Walk

In our school throughout Lent, each class will complete a daily walk of either a mile or half a mile. We hope that eventually we will reach a total of 124.274 miles which is equivalent to 200 km completed. If we reach our challenge we hope that each family will give £1, to allow our school to raise £200 for this appeal.

We are very grateful to our year 6 sports leaders who have taken it upon themselves to record the class totals for each week. Well done Eleanor and Will for all your efforts!

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-

vivianeans@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/>

Spring term dates for your diary.

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

Friday March 22nd – Rearranged outdoor learning sessions for year 4, 5 and 6. More information to follow.

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.

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- vivianeans@monmouthshire.gov.uk

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

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.

PARISH NOTICES.

SUNDAY MASS TIMES – At 8am, 10am and 6pm in OLSM Church. Childrens liturgy operates at the 10 am 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 01873 851051.

LENT COURSE – In Lent we are running a Lent course on the theme of "How to Pray?" Meeting Friday evenings in St. Michaels centre at 5.30pm and also on Wednesday afternoons at 2.30 pm in the presbytery. Involves video film, discussions and prayer. All welcome.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – The tradition Lenten service of the Stations of the Cross takes place on Sundays at 5pm.

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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