

OLSM Newsletter

April 27th / 27 Ebrill 24.

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



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We wish to express our sincere thanks to all our school community, for the understanding shown, around last week's unexpected school closure.

School lunch-pupil choice trial.

Since April 1st our school must now adhere to the new workplace recycling laws. The guidance means that we must recycle most of the school waste/rubbish, including school food waste. In a bid to reduce our food waste we have recently trialled a system whereby pupils are asked to confirm their lunch requirements during morning registration. This process started due to our school kitchen reporting that often children informed them that they would prefer different meals than those selected via ParentPay. Therefore, each morning we have been advising the children of the lunch choices available and letting them choose. Obviously, all meal choices correspond with all registered dietary requirements. We are very pleased to report, that this new system has been working very well and we have seen a huge reduction in daily food waste and have had positive feedback from the pupils. However, if you do not want your child to be given a choice you may email the school office and we will make sure that your child is provided with the lunch that you have selected for them.

Please continue to place meal bookings on ParentPay as each meal taken must be recorded on the ParentPay booking system.

School lunches-Yes, it's free but you still need to book!

Each day last week we had on average 40 children who had not had their lunch booked on our ParentPay system by their families. As you can work out, this means that over the week our kitchen is having to produce 200 additional meals which are unexpected. Not pre-booking a lunch meal for your child means that we are in a difficult position to appreciate the amount of food we need to order on a weekly basis and has resulted on occasion, children having to wait for their meals to be cooked which can mean they are delayed in having their lunchtime play.

This really cannot continue. Meals cannot be made in an instant and our food deliveries only occur twice a week.

From next week, please ensure that you book your child's meal on the days they require a school lunch.

This can be done on a Sunday and then you don't need to worry. We would really appreciate your support in helping us address this issue.

The School/Parish Car Park- Thank you!

We would like to thank our school community for the fantastic support and co-operation that has been shown, once again this week. The car park has worked well, and many individuals have commented on how much safer they feel when they walk through it. Just a reminder that the permit parking system will be in operation from 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. dropping off for breakfast club, 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.

Year 1 pedestrian safety training.

This Tuesday, MCC will support the school leading the year 1 class to complete pedestrian safety training. The children will work in small groups, supervised by trained MCC staff. High staff ratios, ensure excellent pupil supervision at all times. All Lower Phase pupils in Monmouthshire are offered this training.

OLSM wrap around club.

We are in the process of finalising the information around the wrap around club, but we hope that we will be able to run the club from after half term. More information will follow.

Year 3 swimming.

The year 3 class swimming lessons continues next week. 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 photographer

The proof photos have now been sent out and the order process and deadline for the orders was included on the proofs.

School ground day

The next school grounds day will occur on the morning of Saturday 11th May. This time we will focus on tidying up and planting the flower beds and peace garden. If you can only spare a hour your help will be very gratefully received.

The volunteers that helped at the last session saved the school around £500 to tidy up some hedging. This cost would have come out of the school central budget if volunteers hadn't supported the school. Likewise the recent painting of the lower phase and upper phase corridors also saved around £3000. These saving allow the school to use more of the school budget to support pupil learning.

Food in school.

Welsh Government has recently issued advice to schools around the subject of nuts in schools. At OLSM we do have several children who have been identified as having severe allergic reactions to nuts. We therefore encourage all our families to ensure that lunch boxes or snacks do not contain nuts. Obviously though we and other schools are unable to reduce potential risks to zero. Therefore, schools have been advised that we can no longer refer to our school as 'nut free' as this suggests that ALL risks have been removed.

We still request that all families continue to follow our previous processes to maintain the well-being for all.

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.

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 they way they come to school. Remember, even if you drive, park a little further away and if your child walks for 8/10 minutes to school they can class their journey as active travel.

Are you having financial difficulties?

Many of us are having to find additional money to pay for our basic needs currently. 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/>

Additionally, please remember our New2You area in the school reception where many items are available free of charge.

Finally, the school is also a referral agent for the Abergavenny Foodbank, so if you find yourself in an unexpected financial emergency, we are able to ensure families can gain a 3-day emergency food parcel from the foodbank.

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.

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 assembly dates for the summer term

All assemblies will take place on Thursday at 10.20 am. Please note amended dates and time.

Year 5 – May 2nd.

Year 4 – May 9th. **Due to Ascension Day Mass this assembly will now occur at 3.00 pm.**

Year 3 – May 23rd.

Year 2 – June 20th.

Year 1 – June 27th.

Reception class – July 4th.

Class Mass dates for the summer term

All class Masses will take place on Tuesday at the 10.00 am, OLSM church Mass.

Year 6 Mass Tuesday 30th April 2024 at 10.00 am at OLSM church.

Year 5 Mass Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 10.00 am at OLSM church.

Year 4 Mass Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 10.00 am at OLSM church.

Year 3 Mass Tuesday 11th June 2024 at 10.00 am at OLSM church.

Year 6/2 Mass Tuesday 18th June 2024 at 10.00 am at OLSM church.

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)

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

Beth wyt ti'n hoffi bwyta?
(What do you like to eat?)

Dw i'n hoffi bwyta sglodion.
(I like to eat chips.)
Pitsa - pizza.
Brechdanau - sandwiches.
Byrger - burger.

Beth wyt ti'n hoffi bwyta?
(What do you like to eat?)

Dw i'n hoffi bwyta sglodion gyda saws coch achos mae'n flasus iawn.
(I like to eat chips with ketchup because they are tasty.)
Pitsa gyda pepperoni - Pizza with pepperoni.
Brechdanau gyda ham - Sandwiches with ham.
Byrger gyda caws - Burger with cheese.

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.

Summer term dates for your diary.

Thursday 9th May – Whole school Mass for Ascension Day at 10.00am OLSM church. **NEW**
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.
Sunday 30th June - Whole school Mass for Saint Peter and St Paul followed by a school/Parish picnic. **NEW**
Monday 24th June - Mini Vinnie's group coffee morning for the school/parish grandfamilies. **NEW**
July 9th and 10th- Upper Phase Summer Show.
Friday 12th July - Presentation afternoon.
Tuesday 16th July - Year 6 leavers Mass on at 2.00 pm. **NEW**
Thursday 18th July - End of term Mass on at 10.00 am. **NEW**

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- 28/6/24.

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.

As a school we try to operate an open-door policy to see families as soon as possible, however, please be aware that at the start and end of the school day, staff use the time to either prepare for, or evaluate, learning so staff may not be able to see people immediately.

Reception class. Mrs Elias- EliasS5@Hwbccymru.net

Year 1 class. Miss Dunlop- dunlopa14@Hwbccymru.net

Year 2 class. Miss Farr- FarrR12@Hwbccymru.net

Year 3 class. Mr Fuchs- fuchss6@hwbccymru.net

Year 4 class Mrs Rose- RoseM10@Hwbccymru.net

Year 5 class Mrs Callicott- CallicottH6@Hwbccymru.net

Year 6 class Miss McCarthy- McCarthyM22@Hwbccymru.net

Mr Evans- vivianevas@monmouthshire.gov.uk

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

Term dates 2024/2025

Term	Start	Half term start	Half term end	Term End
Autumn	02/09/2024	28/10/2024	01/11/2024	20/12/2024
Spring	06/01/2025	24/02/2025	28/02/2025	11/04/2025
Summer	28/04/2025	26/05/2025	30/05/2025	21/07/2025

The initial INSET day will be Monday 2/9/24- the remaining INSET days for 24/25 will be published before half term.

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

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.

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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