

OLSM Newsletter

May 17th / 17 Mai 24.

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



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Wear something/write a prayer for Pentecost.

Tomorrow is Pentecost Sunday when we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, mother of Jesus and the Apostles of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem. On Monday 20th May, children may wear normal clothes to school, but we ask that they also wear something red or orange or yellow to symbolise the flames described in the scripture. (No contribution will be asked for this) Additionally, we ask that all the children write out the following short prayer in their home language to be said together at our Gospel assembly on Monday. The prayer is- **'We pray for children all around the world.'**

Year 5 Playmakers conference

The year 5 class will need to wear their PE kit on Monday 20th as they are taking part in the Abergavenny cluster playmakers conference at Bailey Park.

The children will also need to have parents book a lunch on Parent Pay to allow them to have a packed lunch (They may also bring their own), have suncream applied, bring drinks, a coat and wear a hat.

The conference takes place in school time, so they will be back in time for the normal end of the school day.

School Sports Day

At present the forecast for Tuesday is looking good, therefore Sports Day will take place on Tuesday 21st of May from 10.00-12.00. Families are welcome to bring a picnic to share with their children from 12.00-1.00. Both lower and upper phase children will take part.

New Reception class welcome meeting

The welcome meeting for parents of children who will join our reception class in September will take place on Wednesday 22nd 5.30-6.30 pm.

School self-evaluation of RE, questionnaire

Our RE team are currently evaluating our RE delivery and also the Catholic life and mission provided by our school. A vital part of gaining a good appreciation of our delivery comes from the views of our families. Therefore, we have produced a short online questionnaire that we would be most grateful if you could complete. The questionnaire only takes 5 minutes to complete. The questionnaire can be accessed via – [Parent/Carer Questionnaire May 2024 - Google Forms](#)

Break the rules day-Friday 24th May 2024

The Friends of OLSM PTA have arranged a Break the rules day this Friday. Please see the leaflet accompanying this newsletter.

School lunch-pupil choice trial.

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 clubs

Football club Mondays for children in Year 5 and Year 6 from 3.30-4.30 pm.

Netball club, Tuesdays for children in Year 5 and Year 6 from 3.30-4.30 pm.

Running club – Fridays 3.30-4.30 pm.

Book club - **Lower Phase Tuesday 12.30-1.00pm. Upper Phase Friday 1.00-1.30pm. Note change in days.**

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

Unfortunately, once again last week, we had an average of 40 children each day, who had not had their lunch booked on our Parent-Pay system by their families. As you can work out, this means that over the week, our kitchen is having to produce 200 additional unexpected meals.

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.

We cannot assume your child wants to receive a free school lunch.

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 3 swimming.

The year 3 class swimming lessons will be cancelled for one week due to Sports Day.

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 if children are able to actively travel to school for at least 3 day a week for a whole month, they will receive a WOW badge.

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-

vivianevans@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

On Friday, all children will come home with an attendance letter outlining their current attendance for the year. Please be aware that any child below 90% is classed as being persistently absent.

If your child's attendance is below 90%, their attendance is being monitored.

If a child's attendance shows a gradual decrease below 90%, the school may make a referral to the education welfare service to provide support to a family.

Please contact the school if you child's attendance is a concern to you, as we can work together to provide effective support to improve individual children's attendance.

We appreciate that for many families, a child's absence only occurs when they are ill. However, at OLSM school we regard good attendance as essential to allow all children to progress effectively.

Attendance matters!

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 other types of food stuff should be brought in for morning break please.

Class assembly dates for the summer term

We sincerely apologise but some dates needed to be adjusted - Please note amended dates and time.

All assemblies will take place on Thursday at 10.20 am.

Year 3 – June 20th. Year 1 – June 27th.

Reception class – July 4th **Year 2 – 11th July (A special lower phase graduation assembly)**

Year 6 No assembly this term but a special Leavers Mass on July 16th

Class Mass dates for the summer term

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

Year 3/4 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 / Ymadrodd y Pythefnos

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 gallu gweld?
(What can you see?)

Dw i'n gallu gweld aderyn (I can see birds)
coed (I can see trees)
pili-pala (I can see butterflies)
blodau (I can see flowers)

Beth wyt ti'n gallu gweld (tu allan)?
(What can you see (outside)?)

Dw i'n gallu gweld aderyn (I can see birds)
coed gyda dail gwyrdd (I can see trees with green leaves)
pili-pala gwyn (I can see white butterflies)
blodau porrfor (I can see purple flowers)

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.

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 28th June- School Reports come home.

Sunday 30th June - Whole school Mass for Saint Peter and St Paul followed by a school/Parish picnic.

Monday 24th June - Mini Vinnie's group coffee morning for the school/parish grandfamilies.

Friday 5th July - Summer Fair and OLSM has talent. **Change of date.**

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.

Thursday 18th July - End of term Mass on at 10.00 am.

Summer fair and OLSM has talent.

Due to unforeseen circumstances the PTA have had to rearrange the summer fair for Friday July 5th.

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@Hwb.cymru.net

Year 1 class. Miss Dunlop- dunlopa14@Hwb.cymru.net

Year 2 class. Miss Farr- FarrR12@Hwb.cymru.net

Year 3 class. Mr Fuchs- fuchss6@hwb.cymru.net

Year 4 class Mrs Rose- RoseM10@Hwb.cymru.net

Year 5 class Mrs Callicott- CallicottH6@Hwb.cymru.net

Year 6 class Miss McCarthy- McCarthyM22@Hwb.cymru.net

Mr Evans- viviane.vans@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Additional Needs Co-ordinator - Miss Everett- EverettJ11@Hwb.cymru.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.

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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