

OLSM Newsletter

May 24th / 24 Mai 24.

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



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Half term holidays.

Today is the last day of this half term. We will welcome the children back on Monday 3rd June 2024.

School Sports Day

Many thanks to everyone in our school community who attended and contributed to what was a wonderful morning and a memorable family picnic event. The feedback from families has been wonderful and very much appreciated. Thank you one and all and well done to the children for having a go, trying their best and behaving so impeccably.

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. The questionnaire can be accessed via – <https://forms.gle/wNWxaHrNekZxGhzB6> Survey closing date, Monday 3rd June 2024.

Afterschool Wrap around club

From Monday 10th June our afterschool Wrap around club will start. The cost per session will be £4.50 payable in advance via parent pay. Booking will only be accepted at least a day before. The sessions will run from 3.30pm-4.30pm and 4.30pm-5.15pm and include a drink, freshly prepared wrap and fresh fruit.

Even if your child only attends part of a, the full session charge will be charged. i.e. if a child attends 4.30-4.15 the cost will still be £4.50.

A message from ABHB

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

MMR Vaccines for Children

Following the recent outbreak of Measles in Gwent, the School Nursing Service are holding a number of MMR vaccine catch-up clinics for school aged children over half -term.

If your child has already received 2 doses of the MMR vaccine (at 1 year and 3.5 years) they are fully vaccinated, so no further action is required.

If you need to check your child's immunisation status, please call **0300 303 1373**.

<https://abuhb.nhs.wales/vaccinations/vaccination-pop-up-clinics/> - Please follow this link for walk - in clinic information across Gwent.

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.

MCC Autism in Schools and Setting project - parent/carers survey

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are a team of independent researchers working with the Autism Education Trust to evaluate the effectiveness of the 'Autism in Schools and Settings' Programme. This programme aims to improve understanding of autism and access to education in schools and settings across Monmouthshire.

The views of autistic pupils and their parents are vital for us to understand whether the programme has its desired impact. **With your consent, we would like to invite you and your child to answer a short questionnaire about the support provided at school.**

Please note that the pupil survey is only for children in Years 3-6 – If your child is in the lower phase or attends an Early Years' setting they will not be required to complete the pupil survey. This research will help inform future support for autistic young people.

Early Years and Primary : [Monmouthshire - Primary School Survey \(clearoutcome.co.uk\)](http://clearoutcome.co.uk)

Saint Alban's Open Evening

Attached to this week's newsletter is an information sheet regarding an Open Evening on Thursday 4th July.

Summer book Fair.

The school will be hosting a Scholastic books fair for the week beginning Monday 3rd June. Lower Phase families are welcome to attend the book fair in the hall afterschool from 3.30 pm on Tuesday 4th June. Upper Phase families are invited to attend the book fair on Thursday 6th June from 3.30 pm.

Extreme reading challenge and photographic competition

Over the half term children are invited to take part in an extreme reading challenge where we ask pupils to take a photo of themselves reading in various locations, i.e. reading in a swimming pool, reading while going for a walk etc. Please ensure that children are safe when they have a go! Photos may be brought into school after half term, for class teachers to judge. Prizes will be awarded for originality.

Arts Society of Monmouthshire Photographic Competition

Monmouthshire Arts Society have organised a photographic competition for children in the Upper Phase. Information and guidance on the competition accompanies this newsletter. If children wish to enter, please follow the attached guidance, and submit to class teachers via email by Monday 3rd. This is a more serious photographic competition, and it is essential any entries adhere to the specifications set out in the competition notes.

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-

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.

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.

School attendance

Due to an I.T. issues, attendance reports will now come home on Monday 3rd June. 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!

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

Summer term dates for your diary.

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.

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@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

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 days will be Monday 2/9/24 and Tuesday 3/9/24- the remaining INSET days for 24/25 will be published in the Friday 7th June Newsletter. We are sorry for the delay.

PARISH NOTICES.

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

MICHAEL'S MATES – Parent and children's group, Wednesday 29th May, in St. Michaels Centre, 10.30-12noon. All welcome.

1st HOLY COMMUNION COURSE – This year's First Holy Communion course continues with 11 children enrolled on the course. The next session is Sunday 26th May at 9am, followed by the 10am Mass.

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION – Next Sunday, 2nd June is the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. At the end of the 10am Mass. there will be a procession of the Blessed Sacrament around Church.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE - Monday 23rd - Saturday 28th September 2024. Flying from Stanstead, direct to Tarbes/Lourdes Airport. Organised by Tangney Tours, 5 nights Full Board in Hotel Alba, £708 Sharing, £858 single. Coach travel from Abergavenny, leaving approx. 5.30am on 23rd, returning approx 4pm on 28th. Cost of coach extra, depends on number of pilgrims, between £60-£100 per person. Booking forms at back of Church and on parish website

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

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