

OLSM Newsletter

June 28th /28 Mehefin 24.

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



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Mrs Catherine Armiger

It is with enormous sorrow we have to announce the loss of our beloved Catherine, who sadly passed away yesterday afternoon. Mrs Armiger had been away from work since just before Christmas battling a serious illness. She was a wonderful, caring person who touched the lives of us all.

We send our condolences to her husband Craig and her children Harriet and Ethan and stepchildren Mike and Rowan. Please keep the family in your prayers and thoughts at this awful time.

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and Let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

Estyn inspection Parent Carer meeting

As you will be aware, our school will take part in an ESTYN inspection from Monday 1st July to Thursday 4th July 2024.

On the **Monday 1st July**, all parents and carers are invited to attend a parent/carers meeting with the ESTYN team from **3.45pm-4.45pm** in the school hall. To support our families being able to attend this important meeting the school will provide 2 creche facilities for lower phase and upper phase pupils. This is of course free of charge and no booking will be required. ESTYN has requested that no children attend the meeting, so please avail yourself of the creche.

ESTYN parent / carer survey

Many thanks to those that were able to respond to the parent/carers questionnaire. We sincerely appreciate you taking the time to complete the questionnaire and for providing valuable feedback to the school.

End of day amendments

In a bid to constantly monitor and update our school processes to ensure improved health and safety, school gates will start to be opened at 3.25pm in the afternoon. Additionally, the school taxis and minibuses will now park in the area they drop off in the morning (by the side of Saint Michaels Centre). If you have been given a parking permit, please do not park in this area.

OLSM BYO PICNIC SUMMER EVENT 2024

Please join us for our BYO picnic summer event, taking place on the field after school on July 5th! Bring your own scrummy picnic to enjoy with your children and the wider school family. We'll have family fun, including Inflatables, face glitter/hair decorations, bar and the perfect dessert for this weather- strawberries and cream! OLSM's Got Talent too! We'd love to see you there! We're hoping the sun shines next Friday for us!

Your child will have brought home some raffle tickets. Please can any money be brought to school next week. Thanks again for your continued support!

Many thanks. Friends of OLSM PTA.

Normal clothes day for the fair tombola

Friday 5th July will be a normal clothes day. In return for wearing normal clothes, if possible, we would ask families to donate items for the summer fair tombola. Please no perishable items.

A table will be set up on the top playground during pick up on Thursday where items may be left. Additionally, items may be brought into school on Friday morning.

Pupil absence and school contact

We would like to remind school families that if your child is absent due to illness or other reasons, families need to provide as much detail as possible. If a child is ill, please state the illness and whether or not you have attended your GP. If no phone call/message/email has been received or insufficient information has been provided, the school will phone you first thing in the morning to enquire the whereabouts of your child or to gain greater insight into the reasons for an absence.

Event amendments due to the ESTYN visit

Sunday 30th June - Whole school Mass for Saint Peter and St Paul is cancelled.

Upper Phase play

Due to the ESTYN visit we have decided to push back the Upper Phase show to the last week of term. Therefore, we will now have a performance On Tuesday 16th July at 6.00pm and a performance that toddlers/younger preschool children and family members can attend on Thursday 18th July at 2.15pm

Reception class assembly

The reception class assembly will now take place on Thursday 12 July at 10.20.

Year 6 Leavers Mass

The Leavers Mass will now take place on Thursday 18th July at 10.00am.

Class teachers for September 2024.

On the morning of Wednesday 3rd July, we have our move up day where the children will meet their teacher for September. From September 2024 class teachers will be as follow-

Reception - Mrs Elias.

Year 1 – A newly appointed teacher. Miss Everett will cover the class on move up day.

Year 2 – Miss Dunlop.

Year 3 – Miss Farr.

Year 4 – Mrs Rose.

Year 5 – Mr Fuchs.

Year 6 – Miss McCarthy.

Miss Everett will continue in her role of the school ALNCO.

Sadly, Mrs Calicott will be leaving us at the end of this term. We would like to thank her for the wonderful support, commitment and care she has provided to the pupils in her class and to the pupils she has supported throughout the school. As a school, we wish her the very best for the future in all her new endeavors.

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

Ble mae doli?

Where is the dolly?

Dyma doli

Here is the dolly.

Ble mae llyfr? Where is the book?

Ble mae potel dwr? Where is the water bottle?

Ble mae cot? Where is the coat?

Ble mae het? Where is the hat?

Upper Phase/Progression step 2/3

Ble mae ysgrifbin glas?

Where is the blue pen?

Dyma ysgrifbin glas.

Here is the blue pen.

Ble mae llyfr ffuglen? Where is the fiction book?

Ble mae potel dwr pinc? Where is the pink water bottle?

Ble mae cot coch? Where is the red coat?

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.

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.

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 1 – June 27th. Year 2 – 11th July (A special lower phase graduation assembly)

Reception class – July 12th - **Please note change of date.**

Year 6 No assembly this term but a special Leavers Mass on July 18th at 10.00am.

School reports

On Thursday, pupils came home with their annual reports. If there are any points you wish to discuss related to the reports, please make an appointment with your child's class teacher for the week beginning Monday 8th July.

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-

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/>

We are hoping that staff from MCC will attend our school fair on 5th July to be available for a chat to any families that may find it useful.

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

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.

Other support- **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 10.00am and 12 midday. Tel 07982435560

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.

OLSM and the Wales in Bloom schools award

We are very pleased to announce that for the third year in a row, we have been selected as finalists for the Wales in Bloom schools award. The judge will visit our school, week beginning Monday 1st July.

School attendance

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 your 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!

Summer term dates for your diary.

Sunday 30th June - Whole school Mass for Saint Peter and St Paul and picnic - **cancelled.**

Friday 5th July - Summer Fair and OLSM has talent.

Friday 12th July - Presentation afternoon at 2.15 pm

Tuesday 16th July at 6.00pm Upper Phase Summer Show

Thursday 18th at 10.00 Leavers Mass for year 6.

Thursday 18th July at 2.15pm- Upper Phase Summer Show for preschool siblings and family.

Friday 19th July at 10.00am -Whole school End of year Mass.

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- vivianevas@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

24/25 INSET days.

2nd & 3rd September 2024, 4th October 2024, 6th January 2025, 27th June 2025, 21st July 2025.

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.

PARISH/SCHOOL PICNIC – Following the 10am Mass on Sunday 7th July in St. Michaels centre and the presbytery garden. Bring own packed lunch, drinks and cake supplied. Games for kids etc, cartoons on big screen etc.

ORGAN RECITAL – Due to unforeseen circumstances this has been cancelled until further notice.

ABERGAVENNY "TOWN OF SANCTURARY" AGM, Wednesday 3rd July, Wellfield Hall, Wellfield Close, Old Hereford Rd – Parking in Education centre. Poster at back of Church.

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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

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