

# OLSM Newsletter

September 20 / 20 Medi 24.



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

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## **Saint Alban's Senior Leaders Meeting with Year 6 parents and carers.**

We would like to remind the Year 6 parents and carers that there will be an opportunity to meet with either Mr Lord (Head teacher) or Mr Jones (Assistant Headteacher) on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3.30 pm. The application process to Saint Alban's will be discussed and there will be an opportunity to ask any questions families may have.

## **Year 6 'Meet the Teacher' session**

To support families, we have rearranged the postponed Year 6 Meet the Teacher session to follow on from the Saint Alban's meeting mentioned above. It is hoped that this meeting will start around 4.15 pm.

## **Year 6 open evening for Year 6**

A year 6 Open Evening is taking place this Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> at KHS 3-19 from 6 pm to 8 pm. No booking is required. An information letter was sent to the year 6 families recently with additional details.

## **Lunch bookings**

Please can we remind all families that even though all children are now able to have universal free school meals, parents/carers must still book a meal for their child/children to receive the free school meal. From this week we will no longer be able to select meals on behalf of families. Those families who have not booked their child's meal will be contacted by the school and asked to make their bookings.

## **Class PE days.**

**Children may wear their PE kit to school on their PE days.**

Wednesday: Reception / Year 1 / Year 2 / Year 4

**Tuesday: Year 5 (please note change of day) Year 6 may wear their PE kit to help them get changed for swimming.**

## **Year 6 swimming**

The year 6 class swimming lessons continues, this Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September. 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.

**These sessions are part of the curriculum and are not optional.**

## **First Holy Communion Programme 24/25**

The programme of preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion begins in the parish this October and is open to all pupils in Year 3 or above. Letters were sent home to Year 3 pupils on Friday regarding this. Should you wish for your child to be enrolled on this year's programme, please complete an enrolment form which is available from Fr Matthew via the parish or from the school office. There will be an enrolment meeting for parents on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September in church after 10am mass. Please contact Fr Matthew Parish Priest, in church or Mrs Elias course Leader in school, for more information.

### School clubs

School sports clubs will start week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Football for Year 5 and 6 on Mondays, Netball for years 4, 5, and 6 on Tuesdays and Running club for Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 on Wednesdays.

Book club- Lower Phase Tuesday 12.30-1.00 (Lunchtime) and Upper Phase Fridays 1.00-1.30 (Lunchtimes)

**There are still many borrowed books that have not been returned. Please check at home and return them asap.**

### Autumn term dates for your diary.

**Parental consultations for the autumn term -**

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 from 3.45 - 6.00 pm.

**Lower phase Nativity-**

Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup> at 2.00 pm and Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup> at 2.00 pm.

**Upper phase carol concert-**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm in OLSM Church.

### 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](mailto:EliasS5@Hwbcymru.net)

Year 1 class. Mrs Flynn- [flynnj41@hwbcymru.net](mailto:flynnj41@hwbcymru.net)

Year 2 class. Mrs Dunlop- [dunlopa14@Hwbcymru.net](mailto:dunlopa14@Hwbcymru.net)

Year 3 class. Miss Farr- [FarrR12@Hwbcymru.net](mailto:FarrR12@Hwbcymru.net)

Year 4 class Mrs Rose- [RoseM10@Hwbcymru.net](mailto:RoseM10@Hwbcymru.net)

Year 5 class. Mr Fuchs- [fuchss6@hwbcymru.net](mailto:fuchss6@hwbcymru.net)

Year 6 class Miss McCarthy- [McCarthyM22@Hwbcymru.net](mailto:McCarthyM22@Hwbcymru.net)

Mr Evans- [vivianevans@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:vivianevans@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

Additional Needs Co-ordinator - Miss Everett- [EverettJ11@Hwbcymru.net](mailto:EverettJ11@Hwbcymru.net)

### School/Parish car park

Please can all school families remember the following-

**As last year the car park is permit only between 8.35-9.05 am and 3.00-3.45 pm.**

We are very grateful to our school families for continuing to follow the processes that have been established to make our school car park safe.

Permits are only given for specific reasons and families are requested to apply to Fr Matthew if they feel they have a valid reason for a permit.

### Breakfast club

Breakfast club runs from 8.00 am until 8.45.

The childcare element runs from 8.00 until 8.25 am and costs £2. The free breakfast runs from 8.25 until 8.35 am.

Families dropping off their children for breakfast club are able to use the school car park until 8.35 am.

The club is free for those who have been informed by MCC that they would have been eligible for Free School Meals.

### 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)

Accompanying this week's newsletter we have also included an information sheet on examples of healthy packed lunches.

### 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](mailto: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.

### 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 Saints

This Year we have decided to name the classes after different Saints. Therefore, from next week the year groups will be called after the following Saints.

Reception-Saint Francis, Year 1- Saint Clare, Year 2- Saint Bernadette, Year 3-Saint David, Year 4-Saint Teresa, Year 5- Saint Peter, Year 6- Saint Joseph.

### Welsh phrase of the fortnight-16.09.24 -27.09.24)

**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

**Pwy wyt ti? Who are you?**

**John ydw i- I'm John**

**Mary ydw i- I'm Mary**

Upper Phase/Progression step 2/3

**Beth yw dy enw di? What is your name?**

**John Jones ydw i- I'm John Jones**

**Mary Smith ydw i- I'm Mary Smith**

### **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.**

4<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025.

### **Start of the Year Mass**

Thank you to Fr Matthew, the readers, servers and all other pupils and staff that supported our start of the year Mass. It was a lovely way to mark the start of the academic year.

It was also so wonderful to see a good attendance of so many parents, carers and parishioners.

Overall, it was a lovely prayerful way to start the year. Thank you, one and all.

### **Parish information.**

**CAR PARK** – A reminder that in order to drive onto the car park between 8.35am - 9.10am and 2.45-3.45pm each school day a car park permit is required. These are only given for the reasons of health, disability, special needs etc. Please do not use the car park during these times if you do not have a permit. If you have a permit, please display it clearly in your car.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION COURSE** – Begins shortly, for children in year 3 or above at school, letters will be distributed through school, also available from the school office or contact Fr. Matthew to register. Letters and application forms also at back of Church.

**SUNDAY MASS TIMES** – At 8am, 10am and 6pm in OLSM Church. Children's 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 851051.

**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](http://www.stmichaelcentre.org.uk) or 01873 857570. Or e-mail to [saintmichaelscen@outlook.com](mailto:saintmichaelscen@outlook.com)

**CWTCH ANGELS – COMMUNITY SHOP**, at Hatherleigh, near Homemakers, off Union Rd West, with food items and household items for families in need. They have a lot of good food, baby equipment, clothes and other essentials all free. 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](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/OurLadyandStMichaelChurch)