



Love each other and know we are loved (John 13:34-35)

Weekly Newsletter

Week Ending Friday 11th September 2026

Makaton Sign of the Week

Sign	Meaning
	Listen

Attendance

Please see the attendance percentage data for the school and each class this week.

Whole School	Nursery	Raindrops	Stream	River	Estuary	Ocean
98.7%	100%	96.7%	100%	100%	100%	98.3%

Key Dates

Changes to the calendar are **highlighted in red.**

SCHOOL DATES		
Autumn Term 2026		
1 st September – 23 rd October		
14 th – 20 th Sept.	Coding Week. Activities in school	
14 th – 20 th Sept	Recycling Week	
14 th Sept.	9am-10am Mastering Number Workshop	Reception Parents
15 th Sept.	International Day of Democracy. Children vote in school for new Committee Members	Whole School
16 th Sept.	5pm – 6pm Year 6 Meeting	Year 6 Parents
22 nd Sept.	Prayer Day Church of St Andrew and St Mary, Conover	Whole School
22 nd Sept.	500 Words – Live Lesson	
23 rd Sept.	Individual and Sibling Photographs, Chris Maddox Photography	Whole School
1 st Oct	Black History Month Begins	
1 st Oct	International Music Day	
1 st Oct.	National Poetry Day	
1 st – 2 nd Oct	Bikeability	Year 6
4 th -10 th Oct.	World Space Week	
5 th Oct.	World Teacher's Day – celebration of our wonderful teachers in school	
6 th Oct.	2pm – 3pm Open Afternoon for Prospective Parents	
9 th Oct.	Reception Baseline Complete	
20 th + 21 st Oct.	Parents Evening	Whole School
21 st Oct.	9:30am – Harvest Service Church of St Andrew + St Mary, Conover	Whole School + Parents
22 nd Oct	Halloween School Disco	Whole School
23rd Oct.	Last Day in School	Whole School

Class Overviews

Raindrops

What a brilliant first full week of school Raindrops have had! The children have settled so well into their new routines, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence growing each day. Our Year 1 children have been incredibly welcoming and caring towards the reception children, helping them to feel happy and secure in their new surroundings. We have enjoyed getting to know one another through the fabulous 'All About Me' boxes and have been busy discovering all the exciting things we can explore in both our classroom and outdoor area. The children have also made a fantastic start with their phonics learning and were very excited to receive their bookbags, reading diaries and books. A super first week!



Stream

We have a good start to the year. We have been learning about Little Red Riding Hood and have been using our senses to describe the setting. In maths, we have been learning all about 10. Could they count out 10 and exchange for a ten? In Music, they have been learning about different tempos. In PE, they have been working on their teamwork.

River

What a happy start to our year in River Class, and what a pleasure it is to get to know these children. As we embark on our Talk for Writing adventure, River Class has wowed me with their imaginations and their creative writing. We have travelled back in time, and followed our timeline back to prehistoric times. I think we have all enjoyed our French lessons so far... *pourvu que ça dure!*

Estuary

It has been a very busy week in Estuary
In PE, we have been learning some new netball skills and had lots of fun putting them into practice through a range of games.
In English, we have been learning about The True Story of the Three Little Pigs. We found out that the story we all know may not be quite what it seems! We explored how the main character was

framed and looked at different ways we could hook the reader. We then used these techniques to write our own engaging opening to the story.

In Maths, we have been learning about numbers up to 1,000. We used Base 10 blocks to represent different numbers and used number lines to help us identify and locate numbers up to 1,000.

In Science, we have been learning about skeletons, muscles and joints and how they all work together to help us move. We looked at different types of skeletons, including vertebrates and invertebrates, and learnt about exoskeletons and endoskeletons.

In History, we really enjoyed learning about how children's lives have changed over time. We looked at primary and secondary sources and used them to make deductions about what life might have been like for children in the past.



Ocean

This week, Ocean Class have been absolutely phenomenal! We have approached our learning with enthusiasm, creativity and curiosity, and it has been wonderful to see the children settle into the new school year so positively.

In English, we have been learning to actively retell our Talk for Writing suspense story, Fowler's Yard, exploring some of the techniques authors use to build suspense and keep their readers hooked.

In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of place value and learning to read and say numbers up to 10,000,000 with confidence.

We have also started two exciting new topics: Why Do Oceans Matter? in Geography and Earth and Space in Science. The children have already impressed me with the incredible facts and knowledge they have brought to our discussions.

A fantastic week, Ocean Class – keep it up!

Parent Notices

A message from Miss Elvins and Mrs Clay

What a fantastic first full week back in school our children have had! You would not believe that some of our children have only been here 7 full days! It has been wonderful to see classrooms full of laughter, smiles and eager learners.

It's about this time of year when some of our children, whether they are our new littlest learners, or even our children who have been with us many years, start to realise just how tiring being back at school is! The growing realisation that the summer is over, and that the school routine is here to stay, often makes children announce (usually over breaky!) "I'm just too tired to go to school again!". Here marks one of those very early life lessons in resilience, with parents often having to gently coach children into their school uniform, put their shoes on and "get on with the job". Despite all the tiredness that has surrounded this first full week, we have marvelled at the resilience of our children, the positivity that they bring (despite that really tired feeling) and how spotting their friend in school can brighten up those weary mornings!

This week, we marked International Literacy Day, with a special focus on books about our world. It has been a joy to see the children sharing and discussing stories that celebrate our planet, its people and the importance of caring for the world around us. Thank you for your support in helping make this such a meaningful event by sending in such a variety of wonderful books.

A humungous thank you to our Reception families who joined us for our recent Phonics Event (and a huge thank you to Miss Ockenden too!). We were delighted to welcome so many parents into school and hope you found the session both informative and enjoyable. Your support at home makes such a difference to your child's learning journey. Please do stay in touch and share any special moments when reading your "bedtime books" at home.

Looking ahead to next week, we would like to remind Reception parents that you are very welcome to join us for our Maths Workshop from 9.00am to 10.00am. Please come to the Office entrance after dropping your child/ren off. We also have an exciting whole-school focus on Recycling Week, where children will be exploring ways we can all reduce waste and make positive choices for our environment. Perhaps you may like to chat about this over the weekend and share some ideas with your children in advance.

Finally, thank you for all of the warm "back to school" messages and conversations we have shared over the past two weeks. Your kindness and encouragement are greatly appreciated and help make our school community such a special place to work and learn in.

We wish you all a wonderful weekend. Perhaps you'll find time for a spot of conker picking, a woodland walk, or searching for some of autumn's first treasures. We look forward to hearing about your adventures next week!

A note from Nursery....

This week, we have been settling into our routines, exploring different roles and completing little challenges together.

Our book of the week Elmer the Elephant has been a favourite, helping us talk about our differences, similarities and what makes each of us special - demonstrating this through our arts and crafts and conversations.

We have also enjoyed lots of role play, creating houses, shops, cafés and doctors' surgeries. The children have loved taking on different roles, sharing ideas and supporting each other as they settle into nursery life, building relationships.

Consent Forms and Contact Details

A gentle reminder to any parents/carers who have not yet completed their child's consent forms before the summer break.

Please complete these as a matter of urgency so that we can ensure we have the most up-to-date information about your child and are able to support them safely and appropriately.

Please also remember to let us know of any changes to emergency contacts, telephone numbers, addresses, medical information or other important details.

Keeping this information up to date is essential so that we can contact you quickly should we ever need to.

A Special Thank You!

A HUGE thank you to Mr & Mrs Lewis of DecoStitch for kindly providing our reception children with their lovely book bags. Your generosity and support are very much appreciated and will help encourage our children to develop a love of reading from an early age.

Thank you so much for supporting our school community!

Important Changes to Wraparound Care Costs

We would like to let families know about a change to our wraparound care charges.

From **1st January 2027**, we will no longer be offering a sibling discount for wraparound care.

We understand that changes to costs can be a concern for families, and this decision has not been taken lightly. The change is necessary to help us meet the increasing costs of providing a safe, high-quality wraparound care service and to ensure that the provision remains sustainable for the future.

We are committed to keeping our charges as reasonable as possible while continuing to provide a reliable and welcoming service for our children and families. We appreciate your understanding and continued support.

Who's Who at Our School

We know that starting a new school year can sometimes mean meeting lots of new faces, so we thought it would be helpful to introduce you to the key members of our school team. Our "Who's Who" section provides a quick introduction to our staff and their roles, helping parents and carers to know who is who and who to speak to if they have a question or need some support.

We are very proud of our dedicated team and the important role each member plays in supporting our children and making our school a happy, safe and welcoming place to learn.

Executive Headteacher Becky Elvins (DDSL)		
Executive Deputy Headteacher Hannah Clay (DSL)		
School Administrator Melanie Short		
SEND Coordinator Steph Reid	Family Learning Mentor Olivia Bound	ELSA Anita Foxall
Site Staff Russell Davis	Kitchen Jackie Haynes Jane Lewis	BSC / ASC Sharon Corke Sharlene Hess Karen Coffey
Year Group	Class Teacher	Support Staff
Reception + Year 1 (Raindrops)	Louisa Ockenden	Anita Foxall Charlie Ward Sharon Corke James Harris Olivia Bound
Year 1 + Year 2 (Stream)	Ewan Evans	
Year 3 (River)	Rozzie Case	
Year 4 (Estuary)	Georgina Pritchard	
Year 5 + 6 (Ocean)	Toby Bearne	

Vacancies

If you are interested in working with us, or know someone who may be interested, please take a look at our current vacancies across Condover and St Edward's. We would love to hear from you! If you require further information, please e-mail admin@condover.dhmat.org.uk

Condover CE Primary School - Current Vacancies

Cleaning Assistant

Advert to follow...

Nursery Assistant

Advert to follow...

Teaching Assistant

Advert to follow...

St Edward's CE Primary School - Current Vacancies

Class Teacher (Year R, 1 & 2)

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/145300/EDV-2026-SECPS-92572>

Administrator

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/145300/EDV-2026-SECPS-65602>

Free School Meal Changes

We recently shared updated guidance about the upcoming changes to Free School Meal eligibility, which will take effect from September 2026.

From September 2026, the Department for Education is expanding the eligibility criteria so that all children from households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to a Free School Meal.

Applications are now open, and we strongly encourage all households to apply. With the expanded criteria, even more families will be able to benefit from Free School Meals.

Please find the link to apply below:

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals>

The Year of Reading

Reading is one of the most powerful habits a child can develop. Just a few minutes of shared reading each day strengthens vocabulary, builds confidence, and opens the door to new ideas and worlds. Whether it's a bedtime story, a chapter before dinner, or a quiet moment at the weekend, these small routines make a lasting difference.

We encourage you to spend time reading with your child or talking about the books they enjoy. Your involvement helps them see reading not as a task, but as something to look forward to. The children have brought home their reading diaries, where you can record these shared moments.

Thank you for supporting a love of books at home. It truly matters.

Reading Together Builds Connection

Shared reading strengthens relationships and supports learning.

At home: Take turns reading or acting out parts of a story.

Recommended read: *Paddington* by Michael Bond — classic kindness and humour.

Book Swap

As part of our Eco plan here at school to eliminate unnecessary waste, we would like to invite our wider Condover school community to donate any books they no longer read to our book swap. There will be a labelled cubby hole in the reception area for you to leave your donations, please separate adult and children's literature. Every Friday at pickup (from the 26th June), the book swap baskets will be available near the gate (weather permitting) ready for anyone to swap their books.

To help encourage others to choose your book, why not pop a little post it note review on the front, if you have time!



Uniform

We would like to let parents and carers know that DecoStitch is now our sole approved school uniform provider. DecoStitch has recently updated its website and school uniform range to include our new school logo. The updated logo now incorporates the letters "CE" to reflect our status as a Church of England school.

Please be assured that uniform items featuring the previous logo remain perfectly acceptable and can continue to be worn. We recognise that many pupils already have uniform with the existing logo, and we expect to see both versions in use for some time to come.

Uniform can be ordered directly from the DecoStitch school shop here:

Deco Stitch – Condovery Primary School Uniform Shop

<https://www.decostitch.co.uk/products/school-club---other-shops/school---college-shops/condover-primary-school>

Policies

We have been reviewing and updating several of our school policies to ensure they remain current, effective, and fully aligned with statutory guidance. This is part of our regular cycle of school improvement and helps us maintain the highest standards for our pupils. These are now available on our school website. Thank you for your continued support as we work to keep our school community safe, consistent, and well-informed.

Is my child too ill for school?



Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)?

YES Keep them off school until it goes away.

NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	Cold sores Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	Impetigo They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	Ear infection If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	Conjunctivitis Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	Ringworm See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	Measles They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	Scarlet fever They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	Vomiting & diarrhoea Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	Chickenpox Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

Parking

We politely ask all parents who need to drive to school, to remember to park **legally, considerately and safely** at school drop off and pick up times. This will ease congestion around the school and help make the area around our school a safer place for our children. Alternatively, when possible, please walk to school or park further away this will help to keep our school street a safer place as well as having health benefits. We all want our children to be safe and by respecting the space outside school we can do this together.

Unfortunately, we are aware that safe and considerate parking is not always happening.

There is an increasing number of cars stopping on the yellow lines and parking in areas that should be kept clear for pedestrians and emergency access. Similarly there have been incidents where local residents have been unable to leave their properties due to parked cars blocking driveways; this has meant that residents have been late for appointments which is, understandably, unacceptable.

Ensuring the safety of our children is our highest priority. When cars block pathways, park on corners, or stop directly outside of houses, it creates significant risk for pupils who are crossing the road. Please help us to keep everyone safe by:

- Avoiding parking on yellow zig-zags or double yellow lines
 - Not blocking driveways or access points
 - Driving slowly and patiently near the school site

We fully appreciate how difficult parking in a small village can be, especially when combined with how busy the start and end of the school day can be. However, by working together and showing consideration for one another, we can ensure a safer and calmer environment for our children, school community, and wider local community.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and for helping us keep our school and village community safe.

Local Events and Information



KCDC DANCE CLUB!

WHERE?
Condover Primary School

WHEN?
Tuesdays
3.15pm - 4.15pm

WHAT?
Contemporary, Jazz & Street Dance

COST?
£5 weekly

TO ORGANISE YOUR PLACE, CONTACT KATIE
kcdancecentre@gmail.com

Tap Ballet Contemporary Modern Jazz Freestyle

Weekly dance classes held in:
Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury & Arddleen

Elegance DANCE School

Ages 3-18 years
Examinations & Shows

Member of **IDTA**

www.elegancedanceschool.co.uk 07875446330

Plus...
'Parent & Toddler' Classes for 2-3yrs!

Understanding Your Child
From Toddler to Teen

"I met others going through the same things. It really helped me feel less alone."
"The group boosted my confidence as a parent."

Join our friendly, relaxed group!

Parenting can be full of ups, downs, big feelings and lots of learning — for both you and your child! Come and join us as we chat about what's going on for you and your family. Together we'll make sense of tricky moments and share simple ideas that can make life calmer and more positive.

Upcoming Sessions (once a week over 10 weeks, excl. half terms and bank holidays)

- 21st September 2026 from 9.15 to 11.15am at Brown Clee Primary School, Bridgnorth (WV16 6SS)
- 21st September 2026 from 9.00 to 11.00am at St Giles Primary School, Shrewsbury (SY2 5NL)
- 22nd September 2026 from 12.45pm to 2.45pm at Sundorne Infants School, Shrewsbury (SY1 4QN)
- 23rd September 2026 from 9.15 to 11.15am at Coleham Primary, Shrewsbury (SY3 7EN)
- 23rd September 2026 from 1.15 to 3.15pm at St Laurence Primary School, Ludlow (SY8 1TP)
- 24th September 2026 from 1.00 to 3.00pm at Bishops Castle Primary School (SY9 5PA)
- 25th September 2026 from 12.30 to 2.30pm Online via MS Teams

What We'll Talk About

- Communicating and building connection with your child
- Routines like sleep and bedtime and any other routines you have as a family
- Understanding behaviour and big emotions
- Child development and how you can support it

Want to Join Us?

Email: parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk
Call: 01743 250950
Visit: [The Parenting Team | Shropshire Council](https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/parenting-team)

Prefer flexible online learning?

Try our free online learning pathways at
[Becoming Togetherness - Togetherness](https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/becoming-togetherness)

Understanding Your Child
0 – 5 years

"I met others going through the same things. It really helped me feel less alone."
"The group boosted my confidence as a parent."

Join our friendly, relaxed group!

Parenting can be full of ups, downs, big feelings and lots of learning — for both you and your child! Your child's early years are full of change and transition, such as starting nursery or school and moving into the next phase of development. In our weekly sessions we will explore ways how you can support your child through these transitions and other tricky moments. Join us and other parents and carers to share simple ideas that can make life calmer and more positive.

Upcoming Session

- starts Monday 21st September, 12.30-2.30pm at The Lantern, Shrewsbury, SY1 4NG

the group meets once a week over 10 weeks, excl. half terms and bank holidays with the last session being on Monday 30th November 2026.

What We'll Talk About

- Transition periods in your family's life
- Communicating and building connection with your child
- Routines like sleep and bedtime and any other routines you have as a family
- Understanding behaviour and big emotions
- Child development and how you can support it

Want to Join Us?

Email: parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk
Call: 01743 250950
Visit: [The Parenting Team | Shropshire Council](https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/parenting-team)

Prefer flexible online learning?

Try our free online learning pathways at
[Becoming Togetherness - Togetherness](https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/becoming-togetherness)



PGCE Pathway

Start your teaching career with us



Are you interested in a career in teaching?

Come and join our
Regional Training Hub
Plus

In partnership with
the University of
Worcester
www.worcs.ac.uk

Would you like to
find out more?

For further
information
contact:

Vicky Tansley

rth@dhmat.org.uk
or
v.tansley@dhmat.org.uk

Contact

Please send all emails to: **admin@condover.dhmat.org.uk**

Telephone: **01743 872108**

**Condover CE Primary School is proud to be part of
Diocese of Hereford Multi Academy Trust (DHMAT)**



Company Registration No: 08762217