

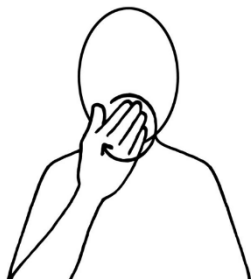


Love each other and know we are loved (John 13:34-35)

Weekly Newsletter

Week Ending Friday 2nd October 2026

Makaton Sign of the Week

Sign	Meaning
 A small circle in front of your mouth	School

Attendance

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

Whole School	Nursery	Raindrops	Stream	River	Estuary	Ocean
98.6%	100%	99.3%	99.5%	97.4%	95.3%	99.7%

Key Dates

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

SCHOOL DATES		
Autumn Term 1 2026		
1 st September – 23 rd October		
1 st Oct	Black History Month Begins	
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	
8th Oct	Ocean Trip – The Croud Meadow	Year 5 + 6
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
	Autumn Half Term – Have a wonderful break!	
2nd Nov	Return from Half Term	Whole School
2 nd Nov	Flu Immunisations	
5 th Nov	Guy Fawkes Day/ Bonfire Night Safety talk in school (Safety Committee)	
8 th Nov.	Diwali	

Celebrating our Achievements!

This week the following awards were given:

Condoover Award		
Respectful 	Responsible 	Ready 
Class	Pupil	Award
Raindrops	Sam	For applying his incredible imagination and creative skills to his storytelling and when building small words with blocks and other loose parts. You are a great role model to the younger children in Raindrops, Sam!
Stream	Sebastian	For finding patterns in his maths and explaining it clearly to the class.
River	Emily	For knocking Miss Case's socks off in Maths and French and for working hard and always doing her best.
Estuary	Penelope	For showing determination and resilience in Maths and English.
Ocean	George	For showing fantastic resilience and determination when tackling challenging Maths problems.



Congratulations to all children who received an award this week!



Class Overviews

Raindrops	Teacher will update class overview with parents/carers next week.
Stream	<p>Stream Class had a wonderful time on Poetry Day! We listened to lots of different poems and I was so proud of how confidently the children performed The Rhythm of Life by Michael Rosen to the rest of the school. Ask your child if they can still recite it to you at home!</p> <p>In Maths, we have been learning about number bonds within 10 and finding them in a systematic way. Being fluent with number bonds is a really important skill that will support children throughout their maths learning and beyond.</p> <p>At home, you could help your child practise by using their favourite toys. For example:</p> <p>"I can see 6 zebras and 3 cows. Altogether, there are 9 animals."</p> <p>Challenge your child to find as many different number bonds as they can using toys, teddies, or other objects around the house.</p>

	<p>Another great way to practise is through NumBots, which helps children become quick and confident with their number facts.</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support!</p>
River	Teacher will update class overview with parents/carers next week.
Estuary	<p>This week in Estuary, we've had lots of fun!</p> <p>In English, we have been working both as a class and independently to write our own versions of 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs'. We changed the main character to a big bad troll and have had fun using our toolkit to set the scene in our new stories.</p> <p>In maths, we looked at comparing and ordering numbers up to 10,000, thinking about how to explain why certain numbers are greater than or less than others. We also looked at Roman numerals and thought about how this system differs from our current numeral system.</p> <p>In science, we looked at how energy is used by different animals. We found out that different activities require different amounts of energy and that we must fuel our bodies properly to be able to carry out these activities. We also looked at the nutritional components of food and discussed how we can make sure we are eating the right amounts from each food group to maintain a healthy diet.</p>
Ocean	<p>This week, Ocean Class have started putting together their final plans for their suspense stories, using all the skills they have developed throughout our writing unit. We are excited to see their ideas come together as they prepare to write their finished pieces.</p> <p>In Maths, we have begun exploring multiplication in more depth, focusing on factors, common multiples, and identifying prime, square and cubed numbers. The children have shown great enthusiasm as they have tackled these new concepts and challenges.</p> <p>We have also particularly enjoyed learning our poem for National Poetry Day, Gran, Can You Rap? The children have loved performing it and developing their confidence with rhythm, expression and performance.</p> <p>In Science, we have been investigating how day and night occur on Earth. We were fascinated to discover that the North and South Poles can experience long periods of continuous daylight or darkness, meaning they do not have the usual day and night cycle we experience in the UK.</p> <p>Our Year 6 children have also thoroughly enjoyed taking part in Bikeability. The instructors were extremely impressed with both their cycling skills and their fantastic behaviour throughout the sessions. Well done, Year 6!</p>

Parent Notices

A message from Miss Elvins and Mrs Clay

Happy October! We continue to move through our busy and exciting term, with our children embracing wonderful new learning opportunities and celebrating special events together.

This week, we marked International Poetry Day, with classes enjoying a range of poems and creative language activities that encouraged a love of reading, rhythm and self-expression. The children came together in a special assembly to showcase their learning and share their poems with one another in a wonderful afternoon of celebration - perhaps you could ask for a Poetry showcase at home!

This week we have also launched Black History Month, and over the coming weeks children will be learning about this year's theme and the many contributions Black individuals have made to our communities and society. Next week, children across the school will be creating artwork inspired by this year's theme, and we look forward to sharing their thoughtful and creative work with you. We can't wait to see the masterpieces!

Our Year 6 pupils took part in Bikeability training on Thursday and Friday this week. This was a valuable opportunity for children to develop their cycling skills and learn how to stay safe on the roads. It was a delight to have such positive feedback from our Bikeability colleagues who shared that our children are positive and a delight to teach - what wonderful ambassadors we have in our school. We are so proud of you Year 6!

Finally, thank you to everyone who has already contributed to our Harvest Foodbank Collection. We have one very full box already - thank you all for your kindness and donations! A donation box will continue to be available at the school gate each day, and we would be very grateful for any non-perishable items you are able to donate. Your generosity will help support local families and make a real difference to those in our community. It is great to spread the kindness!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We wish you all a wonderful weekend.



A note from Nursery....

In nursery we have had an autumn-filled week with our 'We're Going on a Leaf Hunt' book! To enhance this, we have had a trip to the woods, collected autumn treasures, and have been focusing on the changing colours. In our creative work we have been making autumn paintings and pictures inspired by what the children found and the colours they have observed, they have particularly enjoyed finger painting!

Uniform Reminder

Just a reminder that all children should be wearing full school uniform each day, including the correct school shoes.

Please note that trainers are not part of the school uniform and should not be worn to school, unless your child has PE or Forest School that day, when the appropriate footwear can be worn.

Water Bottle Reminder

Just a reminder that children should only have water in their water bottles during the school day and do not contain juice, squash, flavoured drinks etc

Thank you for your support.

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.

Flourishing Moments...

We know that many of our children partake in lots of exciting activities outside of school. We love to hear about them, and all the amazing things that our children achieve outside of our school hours. Please do send in your flourishing moments so that we can share in these proud moments too.

Please email a photo, with a description of the achievement to

admin@condover.dhmat.org.uk

Poetry Champion!

We are delighted to announce that Chloe-Rose's entry into the Young Writers Poetry Stars 2026 – Journey of Words competition has been selected for publication in the upcoming book!

Chloe-Rose is proudly holding her certificate, which recognises her talent and achievement in writing.

This will be Chloe-Rose's fourth piece of writing to be selected for publication in a Young Writers book, which is a fantastic achievement. Her published work will also be preserved in the British Library's national archives, meaning her writing will remain part of the archive for future generations to discover.

As an exciting extra, a winner will be selected from the published poems in Poetry Stars 2026 – Journey of Words. Readers will choose their favourite poem, and the winning writer — which could be Chloe-Rose! — will receive a £25 gift card of their choice.

Good luck, Chloe-Rose, and well done on this wonderful achievement! 🌟



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	

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.

Reflecting on Reading Growth Children grow as readers in different ways.

At home: Talk about how reading has changed since the start of the year.

Recommended read: Song of the River — meaningful themes.

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. Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	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. 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. Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP. 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. 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.	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. 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. 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. Chickenpox Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	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. 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. 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).

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

CROSS HOUSES BIG CHRISTMAS FAIR

SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 10.00AM-3.30PM
@CROSS HOUSES COMMUNITY CENTRE SY5 6JG

SPECIAL GUESTS
SHREWSBURY MALE VOICE CHOIR
2 SHIRES PIZZA'S
Sugar rush doughnuts & coffee
TIPSY TOM'S
A FABULOUS VARIETY OF CRAFT & FOOD STALLS
U-TOONS ARTIST
PLUS MUCH MORE

FREE ENTRY & DESIGNATED PARKING AREAS

CHOSEN CHARITY IS **LITTLE STARS**




Do you enjoy singing?

Vocal project open to all children who love to sing age 8+.
Thursdays 6pm to 7pm
at Bicton C of E School
Bicton Lane, Bicton, Shrewsbury, SY3 8EH.

young singers

Sing with us



- ✓ Enjoy a free taster session
- ✓ Performance opportunities
- ✓ All staff DBS checked
- ✓ Small termly fee to join

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www.ofoneaccord.co.uk



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
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