Diocese of Hereford Multi-Academy Trust

Station Road, Condover, Shrewsbury SY5 7AA
Telephone: 01743 872108
Email: admin@condover.dhmat.org.uk
Web: www.condoverschool.co.uk

LOVE FORGIVENESS TRUST

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

Weekly Newsletter

Week Ending Friday 16th October 2026

Makaton Sign of the Week

Sign	Meaning
	Home

Attendance

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

Whole School	Nursery	Raindrops	Stream	River	Estuary	Ocean
97.6%	94.4%	98%	95.5%	98.9%	98.7%	97.7%

Key Dates

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

SCHOOL DATES		
Autumn Term 1 2026 1st September – 23rd October		
20th + 21st Oct.	Parents Evening	Whole School
21st Oct	9:30am – Harvest Service Church of St Andrew + St Mary, Condover	Whole School + Parents
22nd 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
2nd Nov	Flu Immunisations	
5th Nov	Guy Fawkes Day/ Bonfire Night Safety talk in school (Safety Committee)	
8th Nov.	Diwali	
9th – 20th Nov	UN Climate Change Conference (COP31) Eco Committee Assembly	
11th Nov.	Remembrance Service Church of St Andrew & St Mary, Condover	Whole School
12th Nov	Parent Workshop – Maths	Parents
13th Nov	Children in Need - Fundraising	Whole School

Celebrating our Achievements!

This week the following awards were given:

Condover Award		
Respectful	**Responsible**	**Ready**

Class	Pupil	Award
Raindrops	Emily	For applying what she learns in our class learning sessions into her play and discovery times. I loved your brilliantly accurate drawing of Numberblock Two!
Stream	Poppy	For trying her best in all lessons!
River	Annie	For her quietly brilliant engagement, especially in History, French, English, where her knowledge, ideas, and quiet enthusiasm have lit up our class, and for her gentle and generous heart showing care and kindness to everyone around her.
Estuary	Leo	For showing resilience and perseverance in English when writing his own story.
Ocean	Mia	For showing great effort and resilience in maths

Congratulations to all children who received an award this week!

Class Overviews

Raindrops	This week, Raindrops have enjoyed learning about Floella Benjamin to celebrate Black History Month. We discussed how she does important work in London to make sure children are happy, safe and loved; listened to her read 'The Zebra Who Ran Too Fast' and then collaboratively created a collage picture of her. On Welly Wednesday, the children used apples and paints to make prints of miniature pumpkins. It has been a very creative week!
Stream	Children have been learning about doubles and near doubles. They have enjoyed singing this song. Doubles Addition Facts Song. For example, 6+7= I know 6+6 is 12 and 1 more makes 13. This is a great strategy to practise in the car or on a walk.

	In writing, they finished their story based on Little Red Riding Hood. We have just started our new text of a wanted poster for a wolf. Could they write a wanted poster for one of their toys at home? In Science, they have been investigating what materials are waterproof. In Geography, they have been studying closely features of an arial photo. Could you have a look on google maps and find your house with a satellite view and identify features of your local area.
River	This week has been one of those lovely reminders that learning doesn't stop at the classroom door. I've loved seeing the books being brought in from home and hearing the children share facts they've discovered through their own investigations, bedtime reading and conversations around the dinner table. As Black History Month continues, these contributions have added real depth to our discussions and enriched life in our classroom. In Science, we have been busy exploring skeletons, bones, joints, muscles and nutrition, discovering how our bodies are built and how they keep us moving, and in Art we have been using charcoal to create our own cave paintings. My apologies to all those whose children came home looking like chimney sweeps. Our cave drawings have helped bring our History learning full circle. Although we have now reached the end of our journey through the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age, I can already see how much knowledge the children have retained. Their understanding is bubbling back to the surface as they prepare to write their own stories next week. Watching new learning reappear in creative and unexpected ways is always a little bit magical.
Estuary	In English, we finished writing our own versions of The True Story of the Three Little Pigs. We then moved on to a non-fiction text about the praying mantis and thought about how we could use noun phrases to describe the creature. In maths, we moved on to addition and subtraction. We focused on adding four-digit numbers and learned how to exchange when regrouping. In science, we learned why it is important to have a balanced diet. We designed plates to show the difference between a balanced and an unbalanced meal and discussed why it is important to include all food groups in our diet. In comprehension, we loved learning about the lives of Maya Angelou and Katherine Johnson and discovering why they were such influential individuals.

	In history, we really enjoyed learning about deadly diseases such as the plague, influenza, and smallpox. We learned how treatments for these diseases, including vaccinations, were developed.
Ocean	This week, Ocean Class have started analysing the question, "Should social media be banned for under 16s?" We have explored the features of balanced argument writing and examined a model text to identify the techniques and tools used by the author. The children have begun thinking carefully about how to present different viewpoints fairly and effectively. In Maths, we have started learning long division. This is a challenging concept, but the children have approached it with determination and resilience. They have worked incredibly hard and should all be proud of themselves for tackling such a tricky skill with confidence and perseverance. In Science, we took on the challenge of designing a device to help clear up space junk. The children showed fantastic creativity and problem-solving skills, coming up with a range of innovative ideas. A standout invention was the Space Janitor, which impressed us all with its thoughtful design and effectiveness! Well done, Ocean Class, for another week of hard work and enthusiasm for learning. Keep it up!

Parent Notices

A message from Miss Elvins and Mrs Clay

As we move into our final week of term, there is still so much to look forward to and celebrate together. There has been amazing artwork, superb singing, and so much fabulous learning! This week, our wonderful Eco Committee showed great commitment to caring for our community by taking part in a litter pick around the local area. We are incredibly proud of the children for demonstrating such responsibility and care of our community.

Next week, we look forward to coming together for our Harvest Service on Wednesday. Harvest is a special opportunity to reflect on gratitude, generosity and helping others, and we thank families for their continued support - and our first get-together as a school community of this year! Please do not forget to bring your Harvest Donations in to school if you can.

As we approach the end of the half term, we would like to thank our children, staff and families for all they have done to make this a happy and successful term. We look forward to finishing the term with the same enthusiasm, kindness and sense of community that makes our school such a special place.

A note from Nursery….

Our book of the week, The Wild Woods, has sparked lots of wonderful conversations about our families, the great outdoors and woodland creatures. The story has inspired imaginative role play and some fantastic creative artwork across the nursery. In maths, we have been exploring 2-part patterns while developing our fine motor skills through threading, pin boards and using tweezers to sort animals.

Flu Immunisations

A reminder that the Flu Vaccination Programme will take place in school on **2nd November.**

Please note that the programme is managed directly by the Immunisation Team. Parents and carers will be contacted by the team with all relevant information, including details of the consent and non-consent process, as well as who to contact with any questions regarding the vaccination.

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**

Reminders

Parents Evening - A reminder that parents evening will take place next week on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st October. There are still some appointments available, so please do book a slot if you haven't already. If you are having any trouble booking an appointment, please contact Mrs Short in the school office, who will be happy to help.

Harvest Service - 9:30am – Harvest Service Church of St Andrew + St Mary, Condover. We are looking forward to seeing you all there.

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.

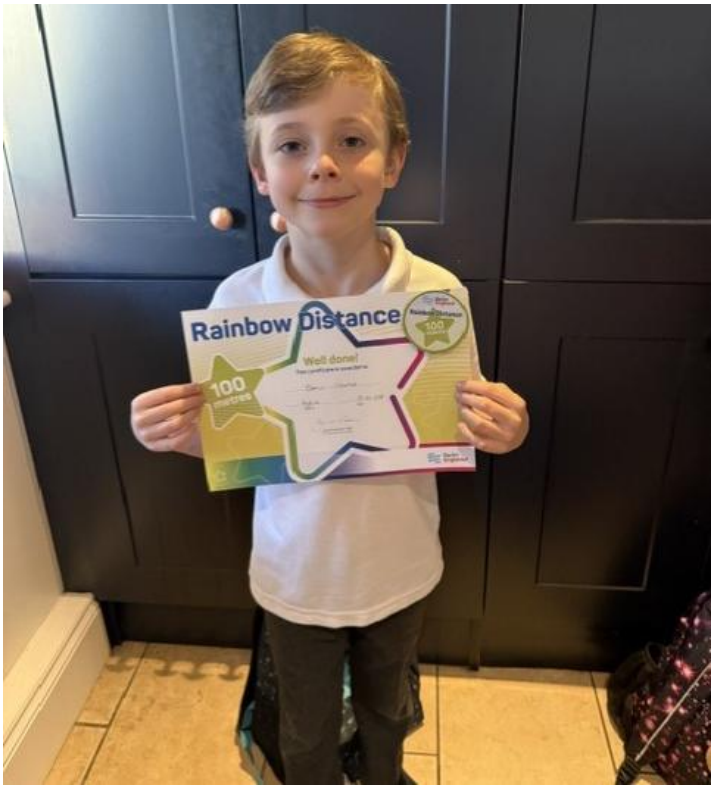
We are committed to keeping our charges as reasonable as possible while continuing to provide a reliable and welcoming service for our children and families. We appreciate your understanding and continued support.

Dancing Queen!

It's a double dance success for Phoebe (Ocean class). She achieved a fabulous Honours grading in her recent Freestyle exam, performing a beautiful dance to Never Enough from The Greatest Showman. She was also delighted to be awarded the Junior Ballet 2026 trophy with Footlights Dance School at the weekend. Keep dancing Phoebe!

Swimming Superstar!

Benji in Stream Class has been working incredibly hard in the water to secure his 100m badge. Look at the proud expression on his little face!



Well done Benji!

Message From The Friends of Condover School

Boo! Did we scare you? Well it's that time of year again! The Friends of Condover are excited to welcome all the children to our Annual Halloween Disco on Thursday 22nd October.

Please could Key Stage 2 provide cakes, brought into school on the morning of the disco.

Key Stage 1 children can come to school in their fancy dress, Key Stage 2 children can go home to get into their spooky attire! Sunset children will have the opportunity to get changed before their disco begins.

It's cash on entry, so please send children in with money on the day (particularly KS1 as they're partying straight after school) so that they can get their free snap band. We're looking forward to seeing some spooky shapes on the dancefloor!

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

https://mynewterm.com/jobs/145275/EDV-2026-CCPS-43341

Teaching Assistant

https://mynewterm.com/jobs/145275/EDV-2026-CCPS-41577

St Edward's CE Primary School

After School Club Assistant

https://mynewterm.com/jobs/145300/EDV-2026-SECPS-96074

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.

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

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 Builds Independence

Independent reading develops problem-solving and persistence.
At home: Encourage trying tricky words before helping.
Recommended read: Nim's Island by Wendy Orr — a story of a brave, resourceful girl learning to do things on her own.

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 – Condover 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?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38ºC 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, unaceptable.

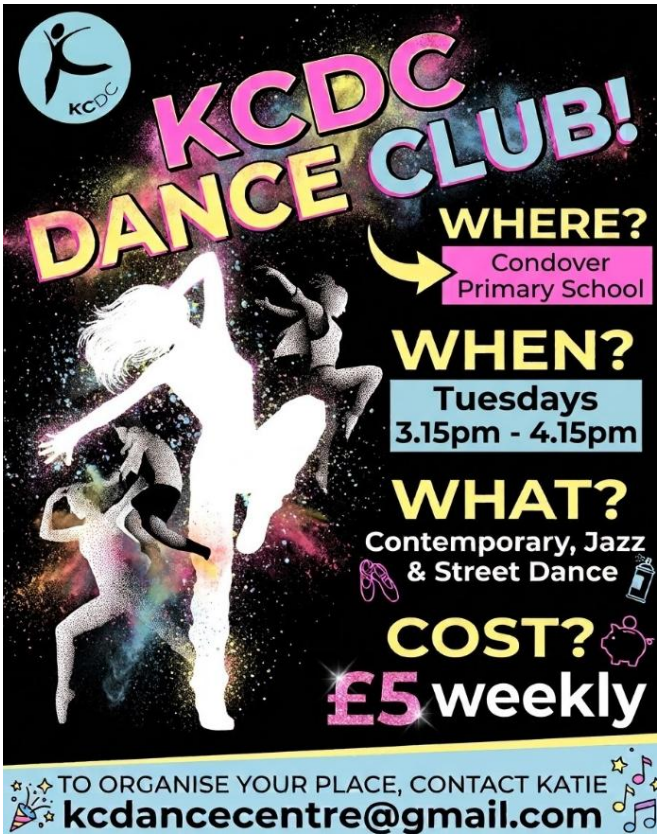
Ensuring the safety of our children is our highest priority. When cars block pathways, park on corners, or stop directly outside of houses, it creates significant risk for pupils who are crossing the road. Please help us to keep everyone safe by:

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

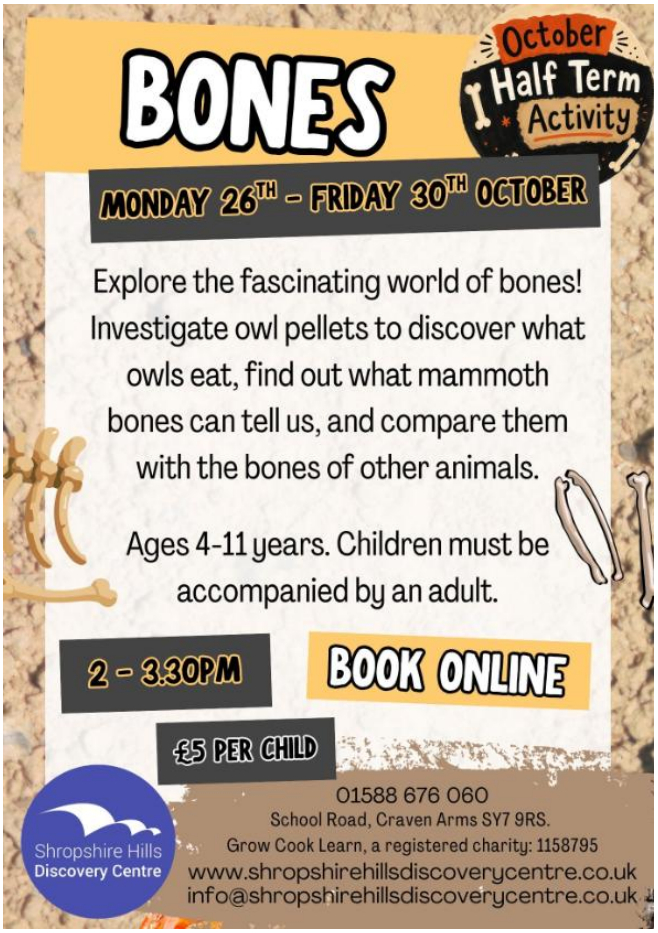
We fully appreciate how difficult parking in a small village can be, especially when combined with how busy the start and end of the school day can be. However, by working together and showing consideration for one another, we can ensure a safer and calmer environment for our children, school community,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

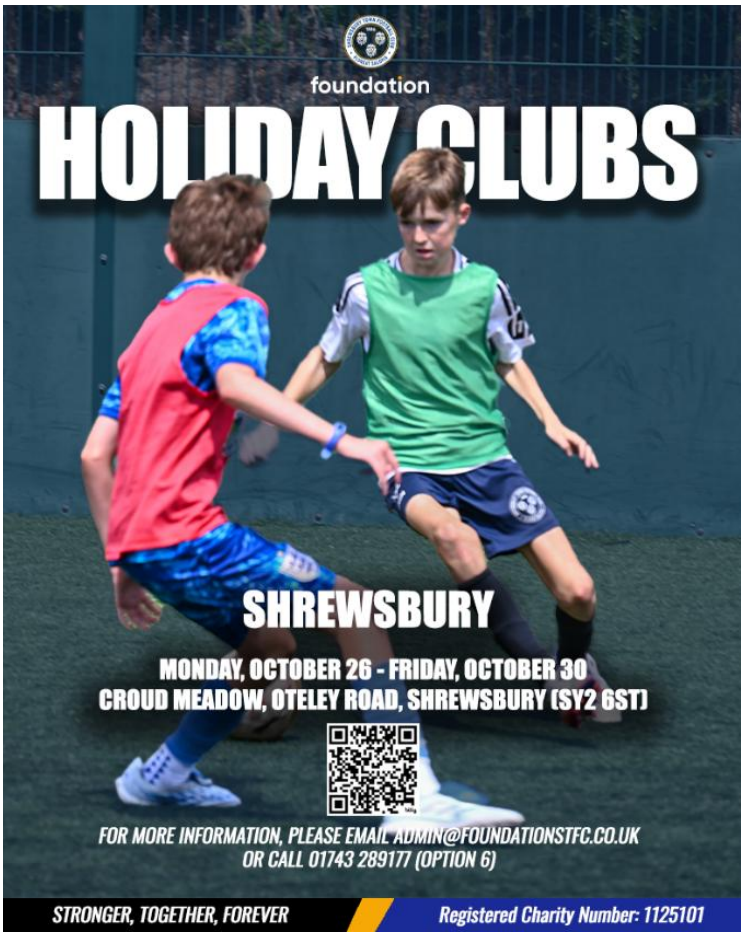
Thank you for your continued cooperation and for helping us keep our school and village community safe.

Local Events and Information



HALLOWEEN PARTY
STARTING AT
14:30
Music by
PAUL
IN THE TUDOR ROOM
FOLLOWED BY
KIDS SPOOKY TRAIL
AT 16:00
ON THE GROUNDS OF THE HOME
FANCY DRESS IS ENCOURAGED!
BE AS SPOOKY AS YOU CAN BE...


BONES
October Half Term Activity
MONDAY 26TH - FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER
Explore the fascinating world of bones! Investigate owl pellets to discover what owls eat, find out what mammoth bones can tell us, and compare them with the bones of other animals.
Ages 4-11 years. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
2 - 3.30PM
BOOK ONLINE
£5 PER CHILD
Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre
01588 676 060
School Road, Craven Arms SY7 9RS.
Grow Cook Learn, a registered charity: 1158795
www.shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk
info@shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk


foundation
HOLIDAY CLUBS
SHREWSBURY
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26 - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30
CROUD MEADOW, OTELEY ROAD, SHREWSBURY (SY2 6ST)
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL ADMIN@FOUNDATIONSTFC.CO.UK
OR CALL 01743 289177 (OPTION 6)
STRONGER, TOGETHER, FOREVER
Registered Charity Number: 1125101

Places limited!
SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL
ARTS & CRAFTS CAMP
PAINT, GLUE, CUT AND CREATE!
CHOOSE YOUR CAMP:
Monday 26th October - Year 7 & 8
Tuesday 27th October - Year 5 & 6
£35 per day
All welcome
SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER
SCAN HERE
Shrewsbury High School, 32 Town Walls, Shrewsbury SY1 1TN

Tap Ballet Contemporary Modern Jazz Freestyle
Weekly dance classes held in:
Bayston Hill,
Shrewsbury
&
Arddleen
Elegance DANCE School
Ages 3-18 years
Examinations & Shows
Plus...
'Parent & Toddler' Classes for 2-3yrs!
Member of IDTA
www.elegancedanceschool.co.uk
07875446330

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)

Diocese of Hereford Multi-Academy Trust

A FAMILY OF SCHOOLS FLOURISHING TOGETHER

GRACE SERVICE FAMILY

Company Registration No: 08762217