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**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024**



# Welcome



## Executive Headteacher: Mrs Mahony

I am excited to begin my role as Executive Headteacher and am eager to collaborate with each of you to support our pupils' growth and success.

Your partnership is invaluable, and I look forward to achieving great things together this school year.



## Head of School: Mr Gunchala

Dear parents / carers,

**Welcome to our first weekly newsletter of the year!**

What a fantastic 2 days we have had in school! Your children are delightful, and I am so excited about the great things that they will achieve this year.

Our mission at Conway is clear: we are committed to providing an **exceptional education** to ensure that every child leaves us as a fluent reader, a confident communicator and will know and remember more about the world. This week, I have spent time with all staff and am thrilled that we have such a dedicated, hard-working, caring and skilled staff group. We are all here to **go the extra mile** for your children.

As we continue the magnificent work that already happens in the school, as well as navigate changes and meet challenges head-on, we want to express our profound gratitude to you, our parents and families. Your trust, support, and patience will be invaluable to us as we continue to improve our school. Together, we are a team dedicated to the well-being and success of our students, staff and community and we are excited about the journey ahead. This year promises to be a year of growth, learning, and achievement for our wonderful children, and we eagerly anticipate the many accomplishments and successes that lie ahead.

Once again, welcome back to Conway Primary School. Let's make this year a wonderful one for the whole Conway family!

# School Year 24-25

## Autumn Term 2024

Years 1 to 6 start: Thursday 5 September 2024  
Reception start: Monday 9 September 2024  
Nursery Start: Wednesday 11 September 2024

Half-term: Monday 28 October 2024 to Friday 1 November 2024

All pupils return: Tuesday 5 November 2024

Term ends: Friday 20 December 2024

## Spring Term 2025

All pupils return: Tuesday 7 January 2025

School closed: Friday 14 February 2025

Half-term: Monday 17 February 2025 to Friday 21 February 2025

All pupils return: Monday 24 February 2025

School closed: Monday 31 March 2025 and Tuesday 1 April 2025

Term ends: Friday 11 April 2025

## Summer Term 2025

All pupils return: Monday 28 April 2025

Bank Holiday: Monday 5 May 2025

Half-term: Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025

School Closed: Friday 4 July 2025

Term ends: Friday 18 July 2025

# Dates for the Diary



## Year 6 – parents meeting

**Tuesday 10 September 2024**

**9.00am to 9.30am**

## Meet the new Head of School

**Come and join me for a hot drink and a biscuit!**

**Tuesday 17 September 2024**

**Slot 1: 9.00am to 9.30am**

**Slot 2: 2.45pm to 3.15pm**

**In the  
sports hall**



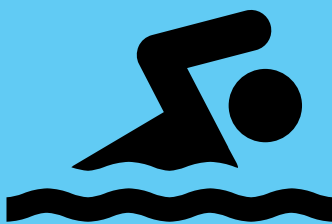
## Weekly Coffee Mornings

**Enjoy coffee, yoga, art and other enjoyable activities.**

**Every Tuesday morning**

**8.45am onwards**

**In the  
sports hall**



## Class Swimming Lessons

**Class 3S – every Tuesday afternoon**

**Class 2R – every Thursday afternoon**

**Starting next week**

For further information, please contact the school office:  
0121 675 0622



# Messages

## **Celebration Assemblies**

From Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September we will be resuming our weekly celebration assemblies, where we celebrate chosen children who have excelled that week, showing our school values. Parents are invited to watch their child receive their certificate. Parents will be given a week's notice before your child's certificate is handed out.

## **School opening and closing times**

### **NURSERY**

8.30am to 11.30am

### **Reception to Year 6**

Drop-off: 8.30am (children must be in school by 8.40am)

Pick-up: 3.15pm (children must be picked up by 3.30pm)

## **Uniform / PE Days**

For a reminder of our school uniform, please click here:

<https://www.conway.bham.sch.uk/school-life/uniform>

All pupils should come to school in full school uniform unless it is their PE day (see below). PE kit should be worn on the following days:

Reception: staff will inform parents in the coming days

Year 1: Monday and Thursday

2RL: Tuesday (*wear full uniform to school for Thursday swimming*)

2K: Tuesday and Thursday

3S: Wednesday (*wear full uniform to school for Tuesday swimming*)

3B: Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 4: Tuesday and Friday

Year 5: Monday and Wednesday

Year 6: Thursday and Friday

*Please check 'MarvellousMe' for any weekly changes.*

## **Mobile Phones**

A gentle reminder that, for safeguarding reasons, parents should not use mobile phones while on school grounds.



# Messages

## Morning drop-off

Drop-off and pick-up entrances will remain the same (Conway Rd and Palmerston Rd). However, during the day, parents / visitors should only use the entrance from Palmerston Road.

To ensure the safe and smooth arrival of all students, we kindly ask that parents and carers walk their children to the correct entrance each morning:

- **Breakfast Club:** Main entrance from 7.50am to 8.15am
- **Start of school:** Gates open at **8.30am** and close at 8.40am
- **Nursery:** Use the Nursery doors.
- **Reception:** Please enter through the Reception class doors.
- **Year 1:** Use the Year 1 entrance by the Conway Road gates.
- **Years 2-6:** Main entrance.

## Afternoon pick-up

At the end of the school day (3.15pm), children from **Years 2-6** can be collected from the playground as usual. **Year 1** students will be dismissed from the Year 1 doors.

## Parking

In the first two days, we have had young children almost injured because cars were parked too close to the school gates, on the yellow zigzag lines on Conway Road. Please support our children by parking legally and safely:

- Do not park on the yellow zigzag lines. It is an offence to stop, park or even wait in your vehicle during restricted times. If police are patrolling, they may issue penalty charge notices.
- Do not double park in the middle of the road, which blocks other traffic flowing through.



**No  
parking**

# Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a **top priority** at Conway Primary School. But what exactly does safeguarding mean?

Safeguarding involves actions that promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. It includes:

- Protecting children from abuse and maltreatment.
- Preventing harm to children's health or development.
- Ensuring children grow up in a safe and caring environment.
- Taking steps to ensure all children and young people have the best possible outcomes.

**Child protection** is a key aspect of safeguarding, focusing on children who are identified as being at risk of significant harm. This includes the procedures we follow when concerns arise.

At Conway Primary, safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do. We don't just respond to concerns — we actively promote safety in all areas of school life. Our staff are vigilant, proactive, and ready to challenge any decisions that may not fully protect our students.

Two key phrases guide us: **“Think the unthinkable”** and **“It could happen here.”** These remind us to stay alert, ask difficult questions, and have tough conversations whenever necessary to keep our children safe.

All staff receive regular safeguarding training.

If you have ANY concerns, please don't hesitate to speak to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) during school hours (see next page).

If you would like support with finances, applications for 'Household Fund' are open until 31/9/24. Please see Mrs Shafiq for further guidance.

Mrs Zamir, Deputy Headteacher, is Lead Designated Safeguarding Lead (Lead DSL).  
Mrs Shafiq, Learning Mentor, is Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Deputy DSL).  
Outside of school hours and during holidays, please contact 101  
or CASS 0121 303 1888.

# Safeguarding



## Safeguarding



Conway School fully recognises the responsibility it has surrounding the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of all children.

We have Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy which is updated annually and is available upon request. Our policy applies to all staff and volunteers working in the school including governors.

**If you have any concerns, please speak to a DSL!**



Mrs S. Zamir Lead DSL  
Deputy Headteacher



Mr R. Gunchala DSL  
Head of School



Ms Mahoney DSL  
Executive Principal



Mrs N. Shafiq Deputy Lead DSL  
Learning Mentor



Miss J. Grogan DSL  
Deputy Headteacher



Mr. T. Davies DSL  
Learning Mentor



Miss Day DSL  
Phase Leader

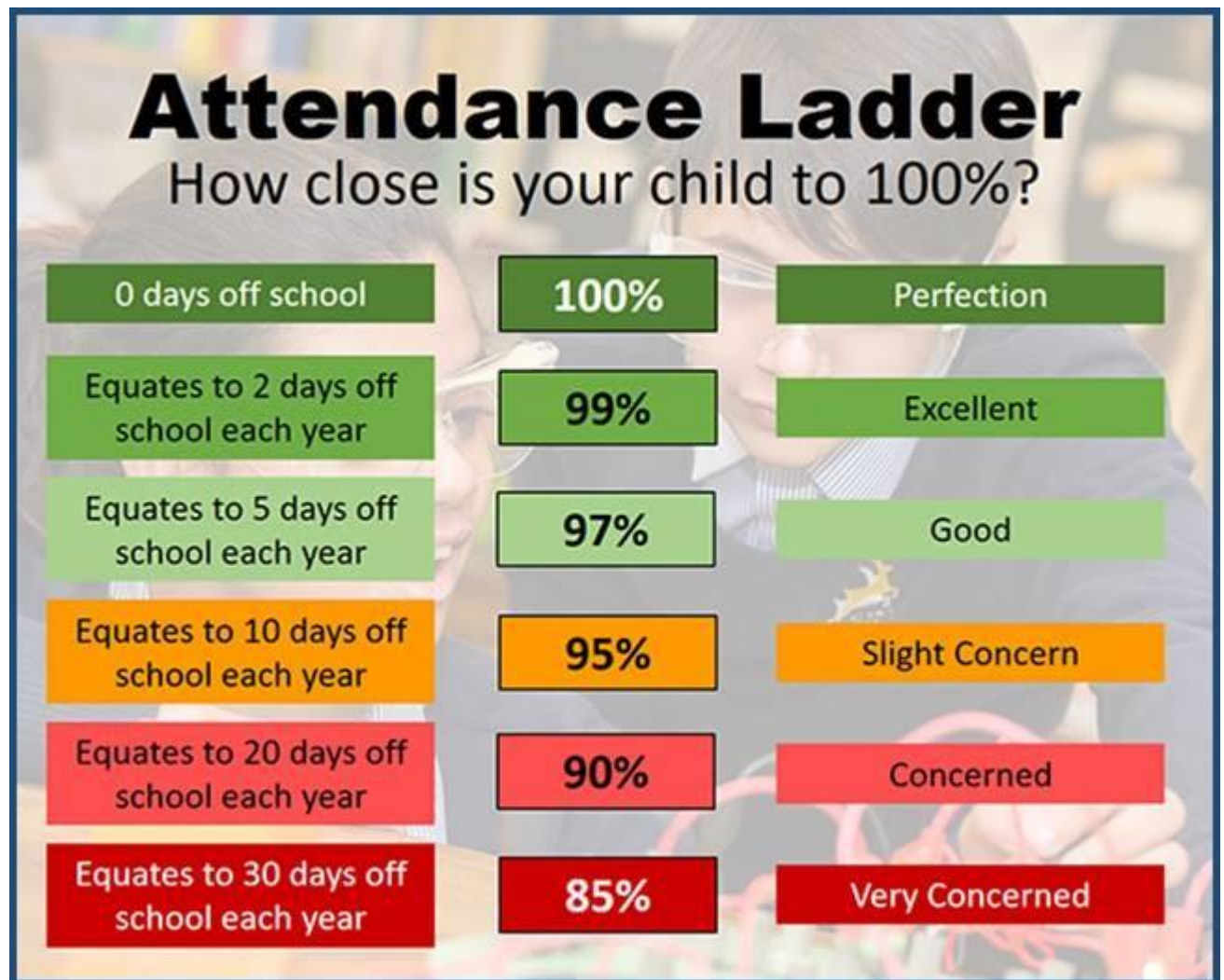


# Pupil Attendance

Whilst pupil attendance is improving and the number of children below 90% attendance has decreased, there is still work to be done. Our teachers are providing an excellent education in every classroom, everyday - every day missed is a missed learning opportunity. Attendance will remain a huge focus for the whole school this year.

Click [HERE](#) for a letter from Birmingham City Council, outlining the importance of regular school attendance.

Click [HERE](#) for guidance from the Department for Education about how to support your child's school attendance.



Thank you for your continued support with your child's attendance.  
If you would like any help, please speak to your child's teacher or any member of staff.



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Change can be hard for children to manage. Going back to school after a long summer break might cause them to feel uncertain about their friendships, school routines and relationships with new teachers. However, trusted adults play an important role in providing both practical and emotional support.

## 1 LEARN WHAT EQUIPMENT YOU NEED

Figure out a list of all equipment needed for the start of the school year, so you can comfortably get your hands on the necessary items in time. If children have any financial issues and receive free school meals, the school may be able to provide some monetary aid or offer other support.



## 2 COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCHOOL

If you notice that a child is feeling anxious about a change of teacher or school, arranging a one-to-one meeting with their new teacher can be a good way to alleviate some of the anxiety. Just knowing that they understand the child's worries and will be able to help them if the need arises can build the foundations of a good working relationship. Knowing that you can contact them with any queries can also be reassuring.



## 3 CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

There will be plenty of information about the start of term on the school's website to keep you updated. Furthermore, you should be able to find other useful information such as contact details for staff, important school equipment, clubs, and news about any special events on the school calendar for the year. It could be helpful to look through this with children for anything which might reassure them.



## 4 HELP TO MANAGE FRIENDSHIPS

If a child is feeling anxious about making new friends – especially if they're moving up to secondary school – it can be a good idea to remind them of what they could do or say when meeting new classmates. Investigating the extracurricular activities available could be a good way to open a conversation about their hobbies and pastimes, and joining such clubs could allow new friendships to be built on this mutual interest.



## 5 PLAN SELF-CARE

Talking to children about how they can manage their self-care can be an effective way of helping them understand its importance. This might involve playing a computer game they love with friends, a weekly visit to the library, getting to bed at the same time each night, or a range of other activities that support their wellbeing and provide the familiarity and safety of a routine that works for them.



## 6 MANAGE TRICKY FEELINGS

Explain that it's okay to have difficult feelings around returning to school. This can help reduce any shame or embarrassment a child might be feeling over these emotions. Emphasise that other children – even some of the teachers – will be feeling the same way. Consider practical ways to manage these feelings and help children feel more in control of their emotions. Some examples include fidget toys, breathing exercises or a notepad for doodling.



## 7 SECURE A SCHOOL UNIFORM

Parents and carers should try to buy a child's uniform for the new academic year well in advance of the new term (although allowing for potential holiday growth spurts) and give them time to adapt to any changes. Make sure they can comfortably change into and out of it for PE lessons. Double check the requirements for PE on the school's website, as some schools will also have requirements for PE kits.



## 8 PREPARE FOR TRANSITION DAYS

Ensuring that children attend transition days is a vital step in preparing for the new year. Some schools also have transition evenings for parents and carers to attend, offering extra opportunities to reach out for any additional support.



## 9 READ THE MENTAL HEALTH POLICY

If a young person struggles with their mental health, it's important to understand their school's mental health policy and provision to know what support is available. This should be on the school's website. A range of aid is typically on offer – from individual timetable amendments to group sessions on emotional wellbeing. You can then discuss these options with the child to reassure them that help is there if they need it.



## 10 LEARN ABOUT SEN SUPPORT

If a child has SEN and receives help in school, try to confirm exactly what support is available, to ensure they'll be having their needs met. If they're moving up to secondary school, it's a good idea to meet with the SENCO to ensure that all teachers receive the most relevant, up-to-date information about the child's needs and have a contact to liaise with if these change over time.



## Meet Our Expert

Amy Sayer is a freelance mental health trainer for schools, an author and a content writer. She is an Associate for Diverse Educators, a fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and ITT wellbeing coach. Amy has previously been a SMHL coach, helping many different settings audit their mental health provision and support them to create and implement a strategic plan based on the specific needs of each setting.

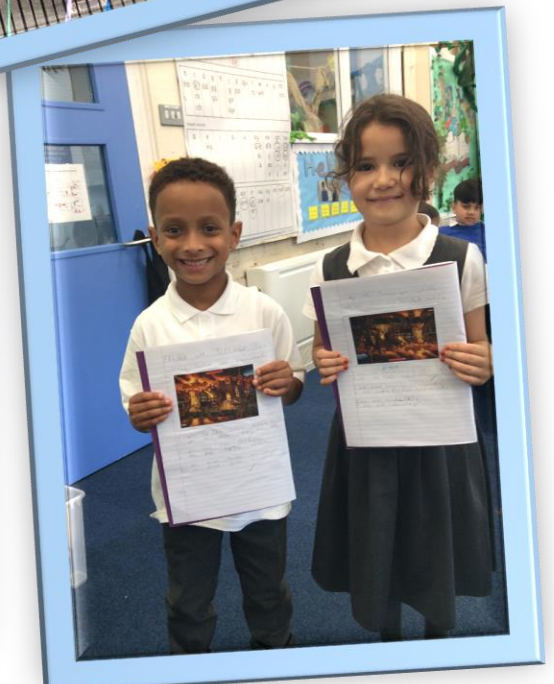
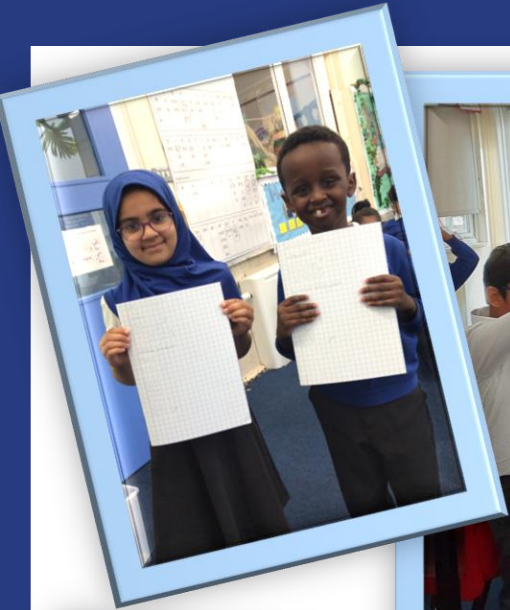


The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-going-back-to-school>

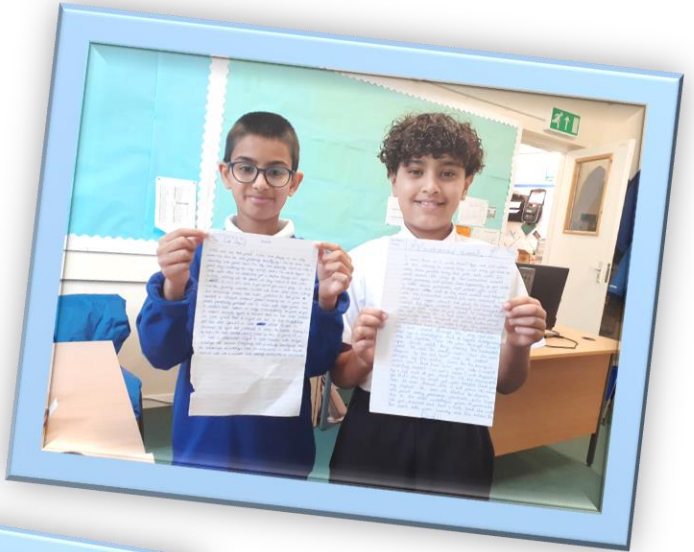


# Conway Crew!





# Conway Crew!







# CONWAY

## PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Sparkbrook  
Birmingham  
B11 1NS



0121 675 0622



@conway\_primary



<https://www.conway.bham.sch.uk>



[officeemail@conway.create.org.uk](mailto:officeemail@conway.create.org.uk)

**Ambition**



**Resilience**



**Respect**