

# The Richard Crosse C of E (A) Primary School

## Newsletter December 2023



**Our Motto:** Believe and Achieve

**Our Values:** Love - Respect - Friendship

**Our Christian Vision:** Philippians 4:13: 'I can do everything through Him who gives me strength'

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Dear All,

As staff we always describe this half term as the 'busiest but best' of the year! We have been so proud of our children and their efforts this half term with their determination in assessment week, delivery of church services, behaviour on school trips, passion in their performances and general all round behaviour and attitudes. This half term can be tricky for the children due to the excitement in the run up to Christmas and although wonderful and fun activities are planned, coming off the structure of the normal timetable can be tricky for many (teachers included!) but they have done us all proud!

This half term also saw us have our first OFSTED since 2011 and first one linked to the new OFSTED inspection framework. I am beyond proud as leader of this school with the outcome. The passion and dedication to our school and our children shone through in everything we did. Developing each child as an individual is at the heart of what we stand for at Richard Crosse. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone again for completing the parent survey, your views mean so much to us and as a staff team we felt fully supported by the community through this experience. The emails we received, as a school, congratulating us after the report was published really did mean so much to us, thank you!

It was a busy fortnight for us, as the week after the inspection we had our History Quality Mark visit by the History Association and we were awarded GOLD!! Thank you to all of the staff for your hard work during this and for being key in attaining the highest recognition award for our curriculum and teaching. Please see below for more information.

Please remember to check your child's class blog weekly to see what they have been up to, the teachers put a lot of effort into this and it really is a wonderful celebration of what goes on in the classroom. It also really helps with the children's recall of their learning if you have discussions based around the pictures, especially the younger children.

<https://richardcrosse.staffs.sch.uk/blog/category/class-1> Class 1

<https://richardcrosse.staffs.sch.uk/blog/category/class-2> Class 2

<https://richardcrosse.staffs.sch.uk/blog/category/class-3> Class 3

<https://richardcrosse.staffs.sch.uk/blog/category/class-4> Class 4

<https://richardcrosse.staffs.sch.uk/blog/category/care-club> Care Club



Thank you from all of the staff for your lovely kind wishes, cards and gifts this Christmas. We wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope that you all manage to stay safe and have a wonderful and restful festive holiday. We will see you all on **Tuesday 9th January 2024** for another year around the sun!

Kind regards

**Ms Bowring**  
**Headteacher**

# History Association Gold Mark Accreditation

We are so proud of our Gold Mark Award from the History Association,  
recognising the high quality of our curriculum, assessment and lessons.



Focus areas for the accreditation:

- Teaching, Learning and Achievement
- Leadership
- Curriculum
- Enrichment
- School lesson Observations

Summary from report:

*All four schools deserve the same grading of "gold" as they all displayed a common understanding of effective history, had good strategies to deliver it and yet adapted it to suit the needs, interests and aptitudes of the individual schools.*

*There were many strengths but particular standout features included:*

- *The ability to deliver teaching and learning effectively integrating knowledge and conceptual understanding*
- *The development of chronological understanding*
- *The focus on comparison, contrast, links and connections*
- *The organisation and management of history across the four schools*
- *A balanced curriculum with good enquiries, valid objectives and especially diversity and local history*
- *Links with other subject areas especially English*
- *The range of experiences available to pupils of all ages.*

*This visit was demanding but such a rewarding one having to cover four schools in two days. It was rewarding partly because of the quality seen but also the organisation and planning across all four schools for the QM assessment. It was a most pleasurable experience and thanks to all those who facilitated this process. The schools are happy to allow the Historical Association to make use of some of their practices as case studies for Historical Association resources., something that is likely to happen.*

## School Places!!

If you have a child starting school in Reception September 2024 please remember that the Staffordshire deadline is January 15th

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Overview.aspx>

If you would like a Pre-school place for 2024 please contact the school office to be placed on the waiting list. These places will be given once the number of Reception starters has been confirmed.

We also currently have a few free places within certain year groups. If you know anyone who would like to join our amazing school please contact the office to be placed on the waiting list.

## Outdoor learning Days

Our Outdoor Learning Days have been a huge success! In the Pupil Survey, 98% of children voted in favour of keeping the day.

In the Parent Survey, 92% of those who responded stated that the days had had a positive impact on their child's personal development and that they had enjoyed the experience!

[Class 2 Outdoor Learning Day Photos](#)

[Class 3 Outdoor Learning Day Photos](#)

[Class 4 Outdoor Learning Day Photos](#)

Next terms Outdoor Learning day will take place at St Mary's in Colton, WS15 3LN

### **Dates:**

**Class 1 - Thursday February 22nd**

**Class 2- Thursday February 29th**

**Class 3 - Thursday March 14th**

**Class 4 - Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup>**





## Stationery Amazon Wish List

Richard Crosse

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/100GFMJ7LT214?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/100GFMJ7LT214?ref=wl_share)



As you know budgets are incredibly tight at the moment in schools and are only getting tighter with the rising inflation rates, compared to the allocated government money per pupil received by school. Therefore, if you know of any companies or people that would like to donate towards our school stationery wish list, please click or share the above link.

Thank you!!

## Terms Dates and Events

**Reminder from last newsletter** - We have had some queries regarding our term dates on the website. It transpires that problems are arising when people are Google searching 'Richard Crosse Term Dates'. Due to Google settings this takes you back to the first time you ever accessed this page and will not show the updated website page.

**Please always check our term dates directly through our website for the most up to date version.**

<https://www.tssmat.staffs.sch.uk/about-us/term-dates>

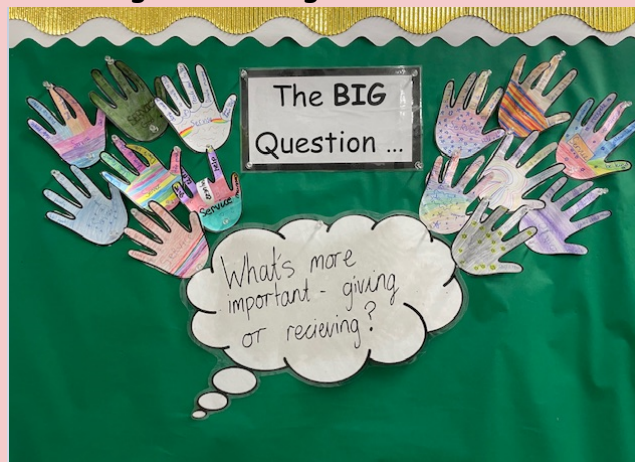
**Stay up to date with all events by synching to our School Calendar and checking our Events page!**

<https://www.richardcrosse.staffs.sch.uk/calendar>

<https://www.richardcrosse.staffs.sch.uk/events>

## The Big Question - Autumn 2

We are trying to support our children to become deeper thinkers by posing and discussing questions that have no right or wrong answer. This half terms question was:



As you can see the children came up with some amazing ideas and had some beautiful, respectful discussions along the way!



Our **BIG question** for next half term is:

*Should we have expectations in life??*

It would be lovely for the children to come to school with some ideas that you have discussed as a family!

## **Note from the chair - Darren Walsh**

Dear everyone,

As we approach Christmas it is a great time to reflect on what has been a busy and successful period for the School. Firstly, as you know OFSTED conducted an inspection recently and graded the School as 'Good' with outstanding aspects. Although, this does give something to build on, everybody should take immense pride in what has been achieved to secure this grade. What it does not show, is the whole School effort that it takes to manage the inspection. All staff worked exceptionally long days to produce documents, be interviewed or to prepare classwork for the Inspectors – each day was at least 12 hours. This is remarkable, especially when you factor in the disruption that is caused to personal lives when 'no notice' is given for the inspection. Before I move on, please take a moment to read the report – you should be really proud of how your child(ren) behaved during this inspection.

Secondly, a big thank you to Miss Derry and colleagues who arranged the fantastic history day. It was great to see so many parents and grandparents being able to attend and to join in the understanding of our family histories. It was also wonderful to have this recognised by the Historic Society in their Gold Award.

Thirdly, the PTA do an amazing job at raising additional funds to support the school and I know that both the Headteacher and CEO stretch every part of the budget to its maximum – unfortunately, this does not cover all of the 'things' such as building renovation that needs to be funded. The School and LGC would welcome any fundraising ideas or opportunities to help towards the renovation of the old building.

Finally, the LGC is still looking for members. If you have the time to commit to this role, then please contact the school. We have a diverse range of strengths and skills presently, including public sector management, parent voice, legal compliance, safeguarding, SEND provision, diversity and inclusion and curriculum. We are particularly interested in identifying a governor with public sector or private sector finance skills.

On behalf of the LGC, can I wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy new year.

## Spring 1 After School Clubs

Please see separate clubs letter for booking details and prices



**Monday** - Trampolining (3:30pm until 4:30pm) for KS1 and KS2 - SH Active

**Tuesday** - Football (3:30pm until 4:30pm) for KS2 - 'Soccerstars UK'

**Tuesday** - KS2 Gymnastics Club with Stoke City

**Wednesday** - Choir (3:30pm-5:00pm) for KS2

**Thursday** - Nerf Club (3:30pm until 4:30pm) for Years 1-6 - SH Active'

**Friday** - Netball 3:30pm until 4:00pm (KS2) - Progressive Sports

## Weekly Round-up email

**You said -  
We did**



We have listened to parent voice linked to the amount of emails sent from the school and we have been trialling the weekly round up email to keep individual emails to a minimum.

As a school we are getting into the flow of these and feedback from parents is really positive.

However, Mrs Hayward is having to do more individual chasing for letters, googleform replies etc. than she did previously. As a leader I have to weigh up my staff time and the wishes of parents. We will continue to trial and work on this for Spring 1 and then review processes. We are also working closely with our MIS service to try and install a family mail merge feature onto our system.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

## Attendance

Thank you so much for your continued support with your child's attendance and punctuality! Remember to leave extra time in these winter months to travel safely and still get to school on time.

Our children arriving on time and being calm and settled in the mornings was celebrated by 'our visitors' in November.

Attendance letters will be sent home with your child in the new year.



## PTA

**Whole school Christmas Panto Trip** - this Friday 22nd December! What better way to end the term for the Christmas holidays?! We are so excited about this trip to the Regent Theatre to see Jack and the Beanstalk and so pleased the PTA could fund all of the tickets for the show. The PTA are preparing snacks for the children for the second half of the show (as they will have their lunch during the interval), these snacks will include popcorn, mini chocolate bars and a fun size bag of Haribo. For those children with food allergies / intolerances and specific dietary requirements, suitable alternatives have been sourced. Children will need to take snacks, a packed lunch and a drink for the day trip as we will be out of school all day.

**Christmas Fayre** - Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the Christmas Fayre!

A special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped to run the event. Without volunteers, these events, which the children love, would simply not be possible. We raised a brilliant amount of £1286 which will help the school raise much needed funds for educational resources, experiences and development and maintenance of the school building and grounds.

**New Year - Dates for your calendar**

**Parent Social - Friday 19th Jan** - The PTA are arranging a social on Friday 19th January at the Royal Oak pub at 7.30pm onwards. An opportunity to get together, have a few drinks and mix with other parents from Richard Crosse, regardless of what class your child is in. Come along if you can for a relaxed drink in the local :)

**School Disco - Friday 26th Jan** - Further details will follow in the new year.

**Pancake Flip - 9th Feb** - Pancake day activities to celebrate Shrove Tuesday, which falls into the half term holiday. Further details to follow closer to the time.

**Movie Night - 15th March** - Final movie night of the academic year.

If you don't already follow the PTA Facebook page, please add us as a friend: <https://www.facebook.com/richard.c.pta>

We post information about what we are up to, upcoming events etc. and where our fundraising money is being spent. Have a wonderful Christmas break!

The PTA Committee



## Our Half Term in Pictures!

Click on the photo to go to the individual gallery!

You can visit all of our galleries at:

<https://www.richardcrosse.staffs.sch.uk/photo-gallery-category/school-gallery>



History Day



The Open Book Team -  
The Story of Moses



Cannock Chase  
Orienteering Trip  
24/19/23



Class 2 enrichment day



Class 4's Outdoor  
Learning Day



Remembrance Service  
2023



Black Country Museum  
Trip- Class 2



Whole School Maths  
Afternoon



Operation Holiday  
Hope - Worship Council  
Trip



Christingle Service  
2023



World War 2 Creative  
Day



Whoops a Daisy Angel!