

The Richard Crosse C of E (A) Primary School

Newsletter April 2025



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'

Email: office@tssmat.staffs.sch.uk

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

Instagram: richardcrosseprimary

Facebook: Richard Crosse

Telephone: 01543 472245

Dear All,

We've had another busy and fulfilling term. The KS2 Faith trail trip to Derby was a great start to our half term and it's been lovely to see all classes enjoying their first outdoor learning days in our new forest school area. Our Mothering Sunday and Easter services were beautiful and Year 3/4's play was a real highlight. It's joyous to see, and hear, all of the enthusiasm in the buildup to their final performance! Class 4 also enjoyed participating in the recent Music Share event with St Mary's School.

See the 'School Gallery' for pictures - <https://richardcrosse.staffs.sch.uk/photo-gallery-category/school-gallery>

This half term saw our first Art Gallery Exhibition. It was wonderful to see how excited the children were to show everyone their amazing artwork, this is something we plan on doing at the end of each term from now on.

Our next opportunity for you to get a look at 'what's going on in the classroom' will be **Tuesday 29th April 2pm-3pm**, for an **interactive Maths, Phonics and Spelling showcase**. This will be a fantastic opportunity to see your children shine. They will be demonstrating some of the exciting activities they participate in during their lessons.

We also have the **family Mini Marathon Event on Thursday 1st May** in the afternoon. All family members are welcome (no dogs please) to join their children over on the showfield to run, walk or jog 'their marathon' distance. More information on the website. We are hoping that this fun and informative event will inspire a love of running for those who are new to it and offer a chance to burn off some energy for the rest!

Have a lovely Easter holiday and enjoy a well earned rest everyone! See you on **Monday 28th April**.

Kind regards

Ms Bowring

Headteacher



Did you know that we update our Esafety page every month?

<https://richardcrosse.staffs.sch.uk/our-school/esafety>

We have information about parental controls, general online safety information and a monthly update linked to national trends and concerns. This 2

minute read could really make a difference to your child.

Snippets from this month's newsletter:

Social Media Concerns

Most social media apps have a minimum age rating of 13+. Whilst there are benefits, this article discusses some of the potential risks of using social media.

Risks of Social Media



Did you know some Emojis have a double meaning?

3 things to consider before giving your child a smartphone

Group Chats

Is your child part of any group chats? This could be on social media, for example on WhatsApp or within games such as Fortnite. If so, it is important that you are aware of the potential risks, which include:

Screentime

Screentime is classed as any time spent in front of a screen, so it includes everything from watching tv to completing homework on a laptop. Whilst there is no recommended screentime (except for under two, which is zero), it is important that we find a balance.

Spring 2 After School Sports Clubs

All of our after school clubs are now run by
Progressive

Monday - Nerf Battles
Tuesday - Multi-Sports
Thursday - Football
Friday - Dodgeball

To book these or after school wraparound care please follow the link:

<https://searchmy.com/progressive-sports-staffordshire/activity/92-Richard-Crosse-Summer-Term-After-School-Club>

Social Media - Facebook and Instagram

We now have an instagram account @richardcrosseprimary and a Facebook account.

This is a really great way for us to continue to raise the profile of our school and celebrate the wonderful things that we do with the wider community!

[Richard Crosse Facebook link](#)

[Richard Crosse Instagram link](#)



Parent Questionnaire

If you haven't already and would like to complete the annual Parent questionnaire. This is open until 4.30pm Friday 11th April

<https://forms.gle/EDKTLsYqk6c8H4Pe6>

Goodbye and Good Luck Mrs Scarborough!!

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Scarborough for her time on our team. Her laughter is infectious and her dedication and enthusiasm for children's learning and personal development is admirable. We wish her all the best of luck in her change of career, we know that she will be amazing at it!

Worship Council

National Younger Leadership Groups 2024-2025

Using your Voice to Enable Flourishing

Our Upper Key Stage 2 Worship Council children are proudly participating in the National Younger Leadership Group (NYLG) with Father Jeremy. This virtual programme empowers young people to use their voices to make changes. Their third session this half term focused on how caring about social justice helps people and communities thrive. Our young leaders shared thoughtful insights on fairness and equality during the session. Remarkably, their voices were heard by over 300 children online, building their confidence and connecting them with other young leaders. This valuable NYLG experience is developing their leadership skills and inspiring their contributions to a more just world.

School Council

Our School Council has been buzzing with activity this half term! They've been diligently planning a whole school Environment Day, diving deep into research and crafting informative PowerPoints to engage everyone.

Alongside the Eco Council, they've also been brainstorming innovative ideas for a proposal aimed at securing funding to further develop our Outdoor Learning Area. They also led the initiative for the Buddy Benches and the school vote for the inspirational quotes engraved onto them. We're incredibly proud of their dedication and hard work, and look forward to seeing their plans come to fruition.



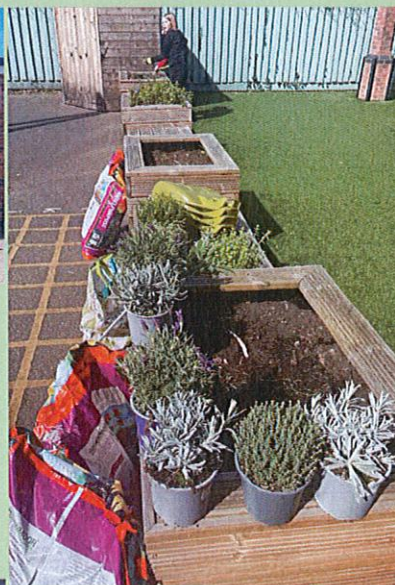
Sports Council

Thank you Sports Council for your amazing organisation skills this half term! You have ordered equipment, ensured that the PE shed is tidy and accessible and led lots of sports skills sessions for all the other children at lunchtimes. Fantastic leadership skills have been seen by all!

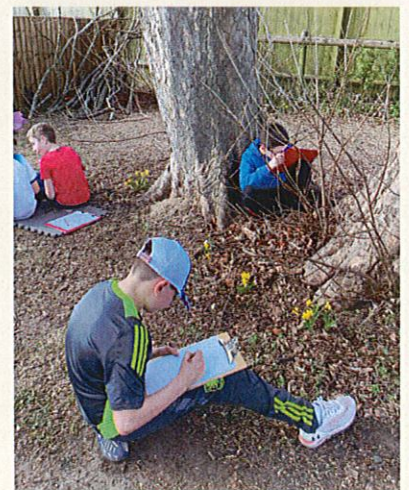
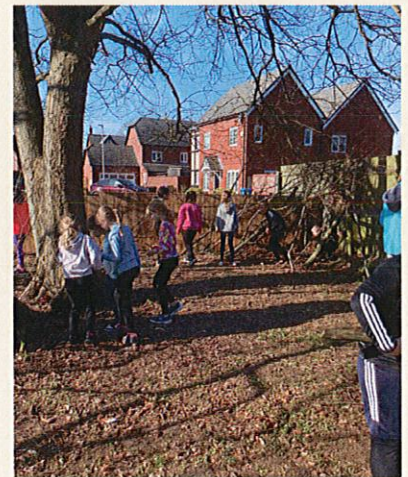
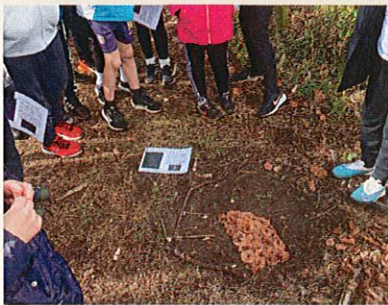
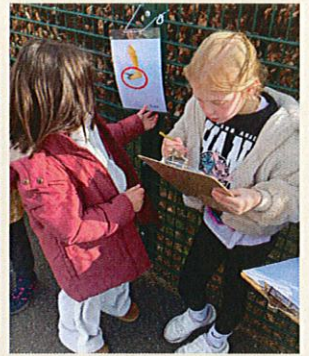
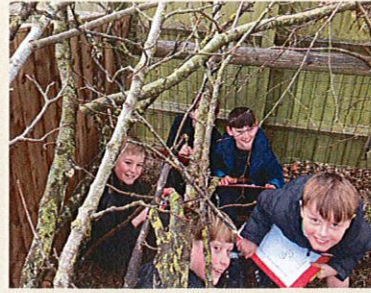


ECO Council

Well done to our ECO Council who have been busy recycling, watering, checking on energy efficiency across the school, maintaining insect habitats and keeping our school green areas looking beautiful!



Outdoor Learning Days at RC!!



The Big Question - Spring 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:

Should we always forgive?



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

Our **BIG** question for next half term is:
What would the world be like if we were all the same?

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

Note from the CEO - Mrs Charlene Gethin

CEO Update Spring 2 2025



It has been a long and excellent half term. We have seen a whole wealth of amazing learning and activities over this time culminating in Mothering Sunday and Easter celebrations. There is a note about audits and school budgets at the end.

At the beginning of the half term, All Saints Worship Crew led a Trust wide worship on forgiveness, they did a fantastic job and we all enjoyed it and engaged well. .



Leaders (Headteachers and English curriculum champions and Governors) led school reviews in the area of Oracy this half term. Findings were superb with some simple areas for development across the Trust. Children spoke brilliantly in pupil voice sessions with Ralph and I and other leaders, they were so articulate about their learning and understanding of oracy - ask them!



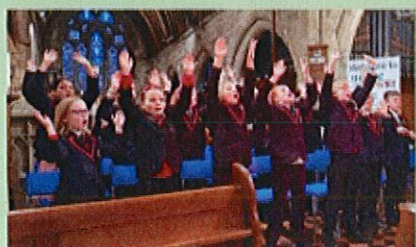
The first heats of our Netball tournaments were undertaken this half term. All Saints were the winners on goal difference and will go on to play our other winners, Richard Crosse in the final after half term.

World Book Day and other charity work has been enjoyed in all of our schools, staff have thrown themselves into it too!



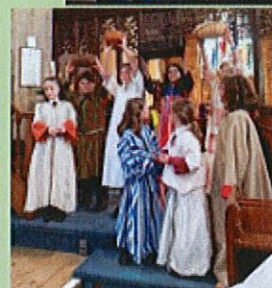
There have been so many musical opportunities this half term, Gotta Sing at the Garrick,

Gotta Dance and Music Share with Cathy Lamb.



Lots of schools have visitors and visits such as the Derby faith trail. Mothering Sunday services were beautiful, families thoroughly enjoyed them - so did Ralph and I and they were swiftly followed by all of our Easter services and events.

Mothering Sunday (services and even an afternoon tea at Anson and the open book at Richard Crosse).



Easter Services - I'll share the Howards next time as it is Friday afternoon!



I was blessed to see Class 3 plays at St Marys and at Richard Crosse - they were fabulous. Ralph and I enjoyed the Key Master and 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Camelot', well done to all the children and staff.



We were so lucky at St Andrews to be part of Bishop Mishael's Pilgrimage. Rev. John led a fabulous worship and we learnt a great deal about Pilgrimage and Bishop Michael. The prayers were beautiful.

School finances

Shanie Cole, our finance manager is currently working with myself, Directors, Headteachers and Governors to balance a budget for 2025/2026 and ensure long term security in our 3 year modeller - this is proving challenging. Six out of our seven schools have received a mere 0.76% uplift in funding on last year's budget and St Marys received a 0% uplift. They are only able to balance their budget through increased pupil numbers that they worked so hard for, resulting in larger class sizes, and by admitting more nursery children too. This significantly reduced allocation across the Trust falls far short of what is required to meet the rising costs of education, namely an unfunded teachers pay rise of 2.8% and an unknown support staff pay rise as well as inflation on our contracts, service level agreements, increased energy costs, and the growing complexity of children's needs.

As parents are aware, in an effort to achieve financial stability, the Trust undertook a substantial restructure and reorganisation in the previous academic year. This involved the reallocation of external music, physical education and some French provision back to our teachers, aiming to reduce external expenditure. Additionally, we implemented a reduction in the school day to achieve budgetary equilibrium for the 2024/2025 financial year, with the intention of securing stability for 2025/2026. Despite these proactive and rigorous cost-saving measures, the current funding allocation, we are now faced with the prospect of implementing additional measures such as not replacing leaving staff and enacting further austerity measures in areas where operational capacity is already critically strained. Please feel free to lobby your MP.

I hope you have enjoyed seeing all the wonderful pictures across our Trust, what a wonderful end to the term. Don't forget you can see so much more in our school blogs on their websites

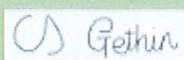
<https://tssmat.staffs.sch.uk/our-schools> and on our instagram accounts. @thehowardprimary, @

richardcrosseprimary,

@stmaryscoloin,

@allsaintsranton.

From Charlene Gethin



and *Ralph.*



**We now have a text messaging service for
parents/carers of children aged 0-19 who
live in Staffordshire.**

**Get advice from our Public Health nurses
(Health Visitors and School Nurses).**

TEXT: 07520 615722



**Feeding and
nutrition**



**Child
development**

**Parenting advice
and support**



**Emotional health
and wellbeing**

**Behaviour
difficulties**

**Family
health**



Lichfield Family Hub

EASTER

Family Support

Join us on

April 11th 12:30-2:30pm

Lots of FREE food
and Easter eggs. A
chance to chat to
our Finance
support.

Lichfield Family Hub, Purcell Avenue, Lichfield, WS13 7PH