

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

## Newsletter March 2026



**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](mailto:office@tssmat.staffs.sch.uk) website: <https://www.richardcrosse.staffs.sch.uk/>

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Facebook: Richard Crosse

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we wrap up the Spring 2 term of 2026, I am filled with immense pride reflecting on the 'Richard Crosse spirit' that has shone through every event. It has been a whirlwind of activity, from our athletes representing our school at MAT, district and county levels at various football, athletics and netball events. World Book Day was truly memorable with costumes and live author workshops where stories were brought to life.

Our musical talents have also taken center stage this half term; the Choir's hard work culminated in a spectacular showcase at the Lichfield Garrick Theatre and Class 3 delivered a breathtaking performance at Lichfield Cathedral as part of their Music Share event. On top of learning multiple songs for these events, Class 3 wowed us all by using their acting and singing to teach us the vital importance of environmental stewardship, through their amazing production of 'A Big Green Adventure'.

We have shared moving moments during our Mother's Day and Easter church services, and it was wonderful to see so many of you at our spelling and maths workshops, though I suspect the children enjoyed 'challenging' your skills a little too much in some cases! Highlights like our GB Athlete day with biker Danny Butler and our appearance on the BBC, cheering on Greg James for Comic Relief, reminded us all that kindness and being 'each other's supporters' has a profound impact on the human spirit.

Our term was further enriched by some fantastic community milestones and educational visits. Year 5 took a vital trip to Lichfield Fire Station for the 'Safe and Sound' event, learning essential life skills from our local emergency services and safety advisors. Back at school, our creative community flourished during the highly successful PTA craft evening; we are so grateful for everything our PTA does to support us.

Finally, I must express my deepest gratitude to the entire staff team. Their dedication goes far beyond the classroom, putting in countless hours to ensure every child receives fantastic daily experiences and creates memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you all for your continued support. I wish you all a wonderful Easter holiday. See you all on **Monday April 13th** for the start of our Summer term!

Kind regards,

**Ms Bowring (Headteacher)**



**Joshua 1:9:**

**"Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go".**

## What have we been up to? Take a look!!

School website Gallery - <https://richardcrosse.staffs.sch.uk/photo-gallery-category/school-gallery>

Weekly Class Blogs - <https://richardcrosse.staffs.sch.uk/news-events/blogs>

School Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/share/17c9arjK52/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

School Instagram Page -

[https://www.instagram.com/richardcrosseprimary?igsh=MW82a3g1Mmd0anc1dw%3D%3D&utm\\_source=g](https://www.instagram.com/richardcrosseprimary?igsh=MW82a3g1Mmd0anc1dw%3D%3D&utm_source=g)



**Lichfield Garrick Choir Performance**



**The time we made the BBC news!! Go Greg go!!!**



**Year 5 - Safe and Sound Trip - 16/03/26**



**GB Athlete Visit 2026**



**PTA Craft Evening**



**World Book Day 2026**

## **Thank you Jordan!!**

Our Christian Youth worker Jordan organised for our Year 6 children to visit the cinema to watch the King of Kings alongside multiple other schools in the area, it was packed!

We had a great morning, and this is a really accessible way of enjoying the Easter Story together.

*Through a father's vivid storytelling, a boy journeys through Jesus' life, from humble beginnings to ultimate sacrifice. Along the way, he discovers the transformative power of faith.*

*Charles Dickens tells his son a bedtime tale that takes him and his cat on a journey through the greatest story ever told - adventure awaits.*

Here is a snippet of the official trailer -

[https://youtu.be/HDhet3EVRac?si=4mzktX10-y7\\_w\\_AQ](https://youtu.be/HDhet3EVRac?si=4mzktX10-y7_w_AQ)

You can rent it on Prime Video for £1.99 -

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/King-Kings-Seong-ho-Jang/dp/BOF8WBKS6Q>



# Safeguarding

## Did you know that we are an Operation Encompass School?

Richard Crosse is part of a project that runs jointly between schools and Staffordshire Police. Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced any domestic abuse. Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, (Designated Safeguarding Lead) known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have experienced a domestic abuse incident.

If you're experiencing domestic abuse, we can put you in touch with other support organisations that understand your specific needs. Below you'll find a list of organisations who can assist you. <https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/daa/domestic-abuse/support-organisations/>

**OPERATION ENCOMPASS**

We are an Operation Encompass School

For further information, please come and see us.

**OPERATION ENCOMPASS**  
In every force. In every school. For every child.

**THE RICHARD CROSS**

**STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE**

### Contact and support information for over the holidays

- **Staffordshire Families Integrated Front Door (SFIFD)** if you have concerns or are worried for a child and wish to make a referral: **0300 111 8007**
- **NSPCC Helpline** Call **0808 800 5000** or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) if you're worried about a child. [NSPCC Christmas Support \[nspcc.org.uk\]](https://www.nspcc.org.uk)
- **Childline** Free, confidential support for children and young people: **0800 1111** or [childline.org.uk](https://www.childline.org.uk)
- **Samaritans** **116 123** [samaritans.org](https://www.samaritans.org)
- **Citizens Advice Staffordshire** – Debt, benefits, budgeting **0808 278 7874**  
**StepChange Debt Charity** – Free debt advice **0800 138 1111**



## Welcome to the team!!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to:

Mrs Atherden and Miss Walker



who are working hard in our school kitchen to continue producing our beautiful school meals!

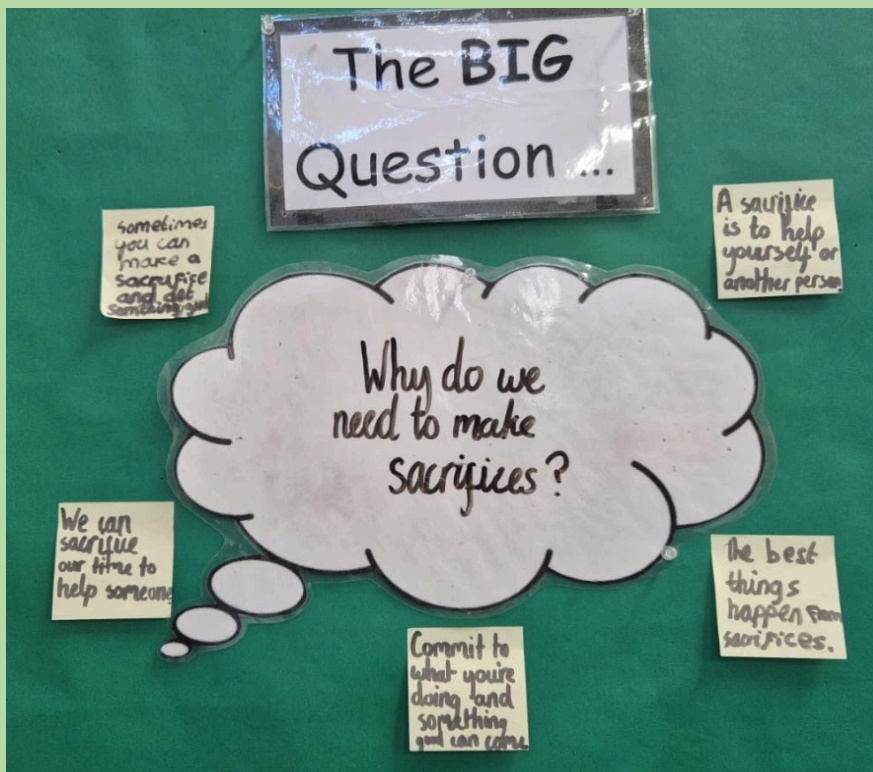
## Values and 'The Big Question'

This half term's value has been 'Courage', the children have looked at how we can show this and what it looks like to others and in the bible.

'The Big Question' supports our children to become deeper thinkers by posing and discussing questions that have no right or wrong answer. This half terms question was

***Why do we need to make sacrifices?***

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



Next half term.....

Our BIG question is:  
Do you have to earn love?

Our focus value is: **Compassion**

What do they mean to you and your family? It would be lovely for the children to come to school with some ideas that you have discussed together over the holidays!

## **Upcoming Events and Key Dates**

Please remember to keep an eye on the school calendar on our website and check the weekly round up for the latest information!

### **Spring 2 Newsletter from the CEO Charlene Gethin**

**Please click here to access the flipbook to find out what has been  
happening across our MAT**

**<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/7a216490af.html>**



## BBC iPlayer for Kids

Children under the age of 13 can have their own iPlayer profile, which includes content from CBBC, CBeebies and other suitable BBC programmes.

You can download the iPlayer app and then find out how to create a profile here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/help/questions/about-the-childrens-experience/iplayer-child-experience>

Going on a long journey? The BBC have also compiled a list of shows and films as well as games and quizzes to make the journey go quicker:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/watch/best-films-games-and-quizzes-to-keep-kids-entertained-on-long-journeys>



**Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language?**

You can use the translate tool on our web version:

<https://www.knowsleyleycs.org.uk/april-2026-primary/>

## Age ratings in games

**Age ratings exist to help protect your child as they show whether content is suitable for your child's age.** Make sure you check the age rating of any game your child is playing.

### Why should I check?

Not all games will be appropriate for your child. Some may appear child friendly due to fun or cartoon style graphics but still include unsuitable content. Age ratings consider factors such as violence, frightening content, bad language and/or in app purchases.



### How can I check?

Most games are rated by PEGI (Pan European Game Information), who not only state the age you should be to play the game but also provide further content descriptors to give you an indication of the type of content that your child might encounter. Apps are rated by the App store/Google Play.

### How can I stop my child from accessing a game they are not old enough to play?

You can set up **parental controls** to restrict access to games or apps that your child is not old enough to play and set restrictions so any downloads/purchases must be approved by you. For example:

- Nintendo – restrict software by age so if you restrict to 10+, games with that rating or above cannot be played by your child.
- Xbox / PlayStation – set an age limit so anything that exceeds that age rating must be approved.
- Apple / Google (Family Link) – restrict your child from installing apps, allowing you to review before approving all purchases.

### What else do I need to do?

• Review any additional content descriptors, read reviews and check if the game includes any form of communication or in app purchases. This will help inform your decision as to whether the game is suitable for your child.

- For any game your child plays, set up appropriate parental controls.
- If you decide a game is not appropriate, explain to your child why.

We know your child might feel peer pressure to play certain games, but explaining your reasoning will help them understand your decision.

### Further information

- <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

# Fake or Real? Know the Deal

Essex Police have launched a groundbreaking AI Safety Campaign in partnership with BT and EE to tackle the growing risks posed by artificial intelligence (AI) misuse and deepfake technology. This is the first time a UK police force is working directly with a global technology firm to provide practical advice to parents, guardians and young people.

AI technology offers incredible opportunities, but it also introduces serious risks when misused. Deepfake content – highly convincing, fabricated images or videos – can be used to exploit young people, sometimes without their knowledge. Artificially generated Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) is one of the fastest-emerging crimes Essex Police is actively investigating.

The campaign is designed to help you understand:

- What deepfakes are and why they matter
- How to protect children from online harm
- What to do if an image is misused

### Further information

Find out more here, including advice on how to protect your child:  
<https://eephonesmart.co.uk/fake-or-real>

# What is the Manosphere?

Have you seen the new Netflix documentary 'Louis Theroux: Inside the Manosphere' in which Louis Theroux interviews several 'influencers' that promote extreme / disturbing ideologies online. It is a shocking watch but prompts the importance of ensuring our children are protected from this content. In essence, the manosphere is against the empowerment of women and certain people promote these views and other harmful misinformation online via social media etc.

### What should I do?

We need to develop critical thinking in our children and have age-appropriate conversations with them as explained in these two articles:

- <https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/feelings-behaviour/talking-about-feelings/talk-to-your-child-gender-equality/>
- <https://www.brook.org.uk/blog/4-ways-to-tackle-misogyny-among-young-people/>

### Further information

- <https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/explainer/what-is-the-manosphere-and-why-should-we-care>

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# How to set up parental controls on ChatGPT

Internet Matters have published an article detailing how you can link your own account to your child's account (they must be logged in) to set parental controls on ChatGPT.

You can read the article here:  
<https://www.Internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/chatgpt-parental-controls/>

# WhatsApp update: Parent-Managed Accounts

WhatsApp have announced that they are rolling out the option of Parent-Managed accounts for those under the age of 13. The settings will include allowing you to choose who can contact your child and ensuring only you can add them to groups. Find out more here:  
<https://faq.whatsapp.com/894871699629864>

**Whilst, these features could be useful, it is important to emphasise that just because the option now exists, WhatsApp may still not be an appropriate platform for your child to be on.** We often receive reports of issues, particularly with group chats on WhatsApp. Wayne Denner (online safety trainer) explains more here:  
<https://www.waynedenner.com/whatsapp-parent-managed-accounts-what-parents-need-to-know/>

# AI and homework

AI can be a useful tool for helping children with homework both in understanding a topic and for research. However, please remember that it should not be used to complete tasks as this would constitute plagiarism.