

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

## Newsletter Summer 1 2024 (May)



**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,

Throughout the half term, our school has echoed with the sounds of laughter, learning, love, respect and friendship. I feel immensely proud that this is not only noticed by our staff, but is always noticed by others in our school reviews, as being part of the everyday culture and ethos of Richard Crosse Primary School. From the eager faces in our classrooms, the dedicated staff team, to the bustling activities all around our school and on trips, it is evident that our school is a vibrant hub of creativity, learning and resilience.

I am continually inspired by the achievements of our students. Personal growth is a real celebration, whether it's mastering a new concept in maths, showcasing artistic or sporting talents or demonstrating acts of kindness and compassion, each accomplishment is a testament to hard work and determination. I was particularly proud of our children in a recent science showcase where the governors and heads from other schools saw practical science from Pre-school to Year 6. The children spoke passionately about their love of learning and demonstrated excellent scientific skills and knowledge.

I appreciate that the MAT school consultation regarding the school day has been received with mixed response, which is completely understandable. However, none of the successes mentioned above would be possible without the unwavering support of our parents/guardians. Our partnership is invaluable, and I am truly grateful for the open and respectful relationships and conversations we have as a school and a community. Working together in order to support our children to reach their full academic and personal potential is the key to success.

As we look forward to the final half term of this academic year, let's hope that the sun and school continue to shine bright in all of the wonderful opportunities and experiences still to come.

Kind regards

**Ms Bowring**  
Headteacher



# Once Upon A Dream 2024

## Poetry Competition Winners!!

Our children were invited to delve into their imagination to write a poem inspired by their dreams. Using any poetic style or technique, they can write about incredible worlds or fantasy creatures, conjure up nightmares to face their fears, or write about real-life dreams such as their ambitions or goals, hopes or wishes.



We are immensely proud of all of the children who took part in the competition but were blown away to discover that we had four national winners at our school!

Congratulations to Eleanor, Sammie, Ava and Tillie whose poems will be published alongside all the other national winners, we cannot wait to receive a copy for our library!

## The Richard Crosse Local Governing Committee (LGC)

A note from our Chair of Governors - Darren Walsh

The Local Governing Committee (LGC) was established recently as part of the governance arrangements for the school. The key functions are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the headteacher to account for educational performance
- Ensuring proper and effective use of the school's financial resources

To achieve this the LGC meet once each term. The LGC is comprised of parent, foundation and lay governors, who possess a range of skills and experience in both the public and private sector. This experience is used to discharge the key functions of the LGC.

So, what does this look like in practice? You will no doubt be aware of and are experiencing the challenges of rising food and energy prices. These issues also impact upon the school and its budget. As an LGC, we look at how the school is coping with these challenges and work with the Headteacher and the Trust to ensure that the budget forecast has considered these challenges and that a balanced budget is achieved. This is really challenging at present as the costs linked to food and energy have not decreased. The School and Trust have some reserves, which mitigate some of this impact, however, the reserves can only be used once. It is also these reserves and efficiencies that would be required to fund other expenditure that is not covered in the education grant - such as pay rises and maintenance work of the School's buildings.

The role of the LGC is both challenging and rewarding, if you are interested in becoming a member of the LGC then please contact the school office for further information.

Many thanks,  
Darren

## Thank you Mrs Barnes!



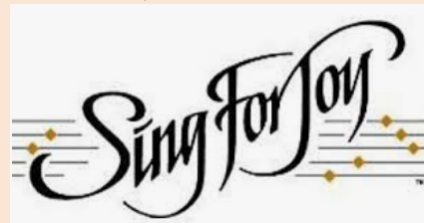
At the end of this term we bid a fond farewell to Mrs Barnes in Class 1 who has been offered an exciting position at another school. She will be greatly missed by all the children and staff and we would like to thank her for all her hard work, dedication and commitment to our school. We wish her well in her new exciting change of career path.

## Choir and recorders

The recorders have continued to make great progress and are enjoying getting together on a Tuesday lunchtime.

Our performing arts group have worked so hard for their up and coming concert at St Mary's church. I am proud of their commitment and teamwork this term. The children will be performing with the other academy trust schools in June. We are excited about performing songs from the shows to parents and families.

By Mrs Parkes



## Sports Council

In Sports Council, this half term, we have completed a pupil voice explaining our opinions on Physical Education at our school so next year it is even better. We have also participated in a trial of the new golf equipment our school has received (based on a suggestion for a Golf Club from earlier in the year). We have also organised the PE shed ready for Summer PE and Sports Day.

By Mr Frame



## School Council

In School Council, this half term, we have undertaken surveys to find out our thoughts about school dinners and our thoughts on playtimes and what we can do to make them even better next year. We regularly go around school and make sure that everything is safe and report any concerns to Ms Bowring. We are currently designing posters to advertise the 'Buddy Bench' on the playground.

By Miss Derry



## Worship Council

In Worship Council, this half term, we have created a display for our Christian value 'compassion'. In addition, we have collected pupil feedback about worships and are working together to analyse this feedback to better worships at RC. Working as a team and with Jordan (our Christian Youth Worker), we have collected pupil voice comments about a range of topics relating to worship and RE. One question was about our values and a pupil commented *'the values are there to guide us and show us what to do. They are like goals that highlight what we should and shouldn't do. The values help everyone to get on and stop people bullying one another.'* Finally, we are working together to create a worship which we will deliver to the Trust next half term linking to our new value 'peace'.

By Miss Hylton



## Eco Council

Eco Council have been busy helping the school work towards our Eco Schools Award. They have been recycling, making bird feeders, litter picking, monitoring energy use across the school and tending to our herbs that we use in our school dinners. They take real pride in spreading the message about the importance of the environment with their peers.

By Ms Bowring



## After school Clubs Summer 2

**Don't forget to sign your child up to after school clubs for after half  
(For information regarding booking and prices - see Clubs letter)**

- Mondays - Axe Throwing (KS1 and KS2) (3:30-4:30pm) with SH Active
- Mondays - new for Summer 2 - Golf with Mr Frame (KS2) (3:30-4:30pm)
- Tuesdays - Football (KS2) with Soccerstars (3:30-4:30pm)
- Wednesdays - Choir (KS2) (3:30-5pm)
- Thursdays - Fencing (KS1 and KS2) (3:30-4:30pm) with SH Active
- Fridays - Rounders (KS2) (3:30-4:30pm) with Progressive Sports

## Attendance

At the end of Spring term our **whole school attendance figure was 96.32%** this is better than the national level of 94.6%. We really appreciate all of the support you give us in getting your children to school on time.



With us being such a small school, it does not take many pupils to have the odd couple of days' absence for the percentage to quickly go up.

Government departments track school attendance figures. It is considered that attendance of 90% or below is persistent absence which will be closely monitored by school staff. Failing to improve on this 90% can lead to prosecution, which school want to help families avoid.

If you require any support with your child's attendance please do not hesitate to contact the school office to make an appointment.

## Upcoming dates and events

Please check our website for more information about events:

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

Key dates for next half term:

6th June - Class 1 Outdoor Learning Day  
6th June - Greenpower Racing Day  
10th June - Reception class visit to the zoo  
13th June - Class 4 Outdoor Learning Day  
20th June - Class 2 Outdoor Learning Day  
21st June - Wear Anything Day (Summer Fayre donations)  
26th June - Sports Day  
26th June - PTA summer Fayre  
27th June - Class 3 Outdoor Learning Day  
27th June - Choir Musical Production  
1st July - Reception and Pre-school welcome meeting  
8th July - Reserve Sports Day  
11th July - Book Day  
13th July - Kings Bromley Show  
16th-18th July - Year 6 residential to Borth

## Pupil Admission Numbers (PAN)

We are delighted that we have reached PAN this year with our new reception intake for 2024!

Schools are funded based on numbers of pupils (the school budget is based on an amount per pupil), thus operating a school below capacity is extremely difficult and cannot be maintained for long. As a school you still have to operate a certain number of classes and many costs are fixed such as utility bills, service charges etc, regardless of how many pupils attend. Unlike many small schools continually struggling to balance the budget, simply because they cannot attract sufficient numbers of pupils, we are very fortunate that we have reached PAN. Staffordshire Local Authority have said we can accommodate a further two children in our reception class, should they apply. This puts us in an enviable position should any pupils leave from any year group within the academic year. We must remain full for us to have any chance of maintaining current staffing, something I am sure you would all want us to strive for. Please be assured that class sizes, alongside the requisite staffing ratios, will remain within Government guidelines.

## Parent Survey Overview

Thank you to everyone who completed the Parent Survey. The feedback is invaluable in helping us to evaluate and move forwards together!

Here's a quick overview:

### Highlights:

- ✓ Happiness, safety and behaviour all score strongly agreed/agreed at 96% (28/29) - 100%
- ✓ Quality of teaching, personal progress and personal development all score strongly agreed/agreed at 96% (28/29) - 100%
- ✓ School leadership and management, 89% strongly agreed/agreed that the school was led and managed well with 1 response for don't know and 1 for disagree.
- ✓ 93% of parents Strongly Agreed/Agreed that their child makes good progress at this school.
- ✓ 96% strongly agree/agree that they would recommend our school to another parent.

### Areas to look into:

- Homework to support Year 6 transition to high school
- Are there any areas that are not being offered as additional extra curricular activities that could be? School Council to gather children's thoughts on this.

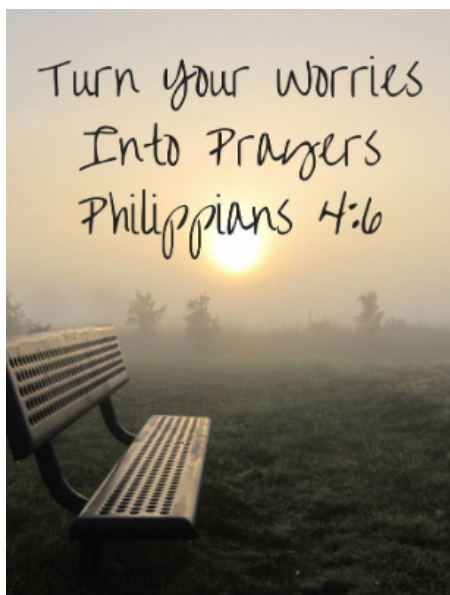
## What are our topics next half term?

Don't forget that you can find out what your children's topics are for each half term on their class website page. These pages include the yearly overview of topics, knowledge mats to support your child's learning and a list of recommended reads for each year group!

Class 2 - <https://richardcrosse.staffs.sch.uk/children/class-2/about-class-2>

Class 3 - <https://richardcrosse.staffs.sch.uk/children/class-3/about-class-3>

Class 4 - <https://richardcrosse.staffs.sch.uk/children/class-5/about-class-5>



# NEWS FROM THE PTA

Thank you to all of those who have supported already in giving your time, donations and support this summer term.

For those of you who have considered volunteering but not yet taken the plunge, please come forward and speak to someone from the PTA. We are a friendly bunch, who welcome all :)

We are in real need of more people to step forward to help the PTA, if it is to continue. We raise so much money for the school to provide our children with new and improved facilities, resources and experiences. It would be a real shame if the PTA couldn't continue hosting the same number of events and financially supporting the school.

With the Summer Fayre only 6 weeks away (**Friday 28th June 3.30pm-5.30pm**), we have some dates for your diary:

**June 3rd** - Raffle Tickets will go on sale this week. Children will come home with a book of raffle tickets in their bags to sell.

**June 21st** - Wear anything day in exchange for tombola prizes (class specific categories to be communicated closer to the time)

**Tuesday 25th June - Thursday 27th June:**

Entry tickets, wristbands and tokens go on pre-sale.

Sale times:

School drop off - KS1 playground.

School pick up - KS2 playground

If you can spare some time to help sell raffle and entry tickets w/c 24th June or spare an hour or so of your time on the day of the summer fayre, please get in touch (directly or via email [richardcrossepta2@gmail.com](mailto:richardcrossepta2@gmail.com)).

We are still down on the number of volunteers for our PTA stalls to go ahead as planned.

Thanks for your support

The PTA

