



Friends of Crockerne

Newsletter Winter 2022

Message from the Chair

Welcome back parents, carers and children. With any new year brings hope of new beginnings, new chapters, adventures, a reflective moment to say goodbye and a time to say hello. We spend most of January walking through rooms of our homes and evaluating our lives creating lists of to-do's, goals to be achieved and cracks to be patched. With so much uncertainty that we all still face, dealing with our 'new normal', maybe this year, to balance the lists we should walk through the rooms of our lives and instead of looking for flaws, look for the potential. So much can be achieved working together and supporting each other, so lets face this year with hope, aspiration and positivity to achieve bigger and better than ever before. I am humbled that I am part of something, helping to improve our childrens school journey and continue to be amazed by the generosity of you and our surrounding community. I cannot thank you enough for the support you give us. Here's to a thriving year full of fun, joy, health and happiness.

Charlotte

(Chair of Friends and Mother of Freya in Year 3)



Funds Raised

- Amazon Smile – £94.37
- Bags 2 School - £328.00
- A-Gas Donation - £750
- Easy Fundraising - £36.09
- Crazy hair day - £168.72
- Sshhhhh Secret Santa surprise - £378.66
- Xmas carol singing - £218.33
- Xmas raffle - £1014.50
- Car boot sale - £761.06
- Clothes Swap - £252.92

Christmas was far from forgotten in Crockerne

Christmas at Crockerne is always a wonderful place to be. The teachers and children decorate their classrooms whilst The Friends of Crockerne team decorate the large school hall with lights and projectors making it the perfect venue for their Christmas parties. We also purchased an online pantomime for the children to enjoy in school. As a small token of our thanks we sent another one home for you to enjoy during the festive break. We hope you all enjoyed shouting out to the characters. "Oh yes we do". We again, fulfilled our promise, that every child would receive a gift from none other than Santa himself. Crockerne were incredibly lucky this year as Santa wanted to take time out of his busy schedule to visit us, as he believed our children deserved to be rewarded for their resilience and strength. A very special visit from the big man himself had the whole school in a Christmas frenzy, including the ladies in the office. Our sincere thanks go to our wonderful Derek Marsden whose fabulous black boots were filled with magnificent inspiration. He spoke beautifully to the children about kindness and sharing and to 'Think & dream big'. Along with the incredible generosity of you, our parents and carers who volunteered funds, we were able to make this a truly wonderful experience. Please may I take this opportunity to thank you for the lovely words, letters and feedback we received. If you have any feedback regarding the Pantomime or gifts, wed love to hear from you PTA@Crockerne.co.uk



How are we spending the funds?

Friends of Crockerne were delighted to be able to supply a large amount of brand new Book resources for the children to read and enjoy. Here are just a few of the new additions.



Outdoor Project

With our childrens well-being in mind and the importance we have all learned of the desperate need to be outside, Friends of Crockerne have been focussing on a really fun and creative outdoor project which will spread across the nursery, KS1 and KS2 for all ages to enjoy.

- Allotment area - With the grant funding we have been awarded, we are working with Mr Brogan and Mrs Crutchley to create an allotment area with raised beds for the children to plant and grow their own crops. We will be purchasing tools, gloves, equipment and seeds and erecting the raised beds for ease of use for our keen mini gardeners.
- Reading corner - We are purchasing a new bell tent with flooring and cushions for cosy outdoor reading.
- Creative imagination and play space – We have enlisted a local artist who is famous for his artwork in and around Bristol and features at Bristols 'Upfest' art show, a graffiti show that runs throughout our brilliant city. He is cleverly creating a stage space for our aspiring actors, poets and public speakers to explore their imaginations and express their creativity.
- Monkey bars refurb – We know how much the children LOVE the Monkey bars so we are refurbishing the existing uneven flooring for all year round weather play.
- Nursery area – We are creating a purpose built sensory section as well as some additional fun extras for all to enjoy.
- **EXCITING NEWS!** - We are thrilled to inform you that our most exciting addition is a low level Traverse Climbing Wall that will run along the large hall wall in the KS2 playground. Perfect for those budding climbers and problem solvers.



Events this term

- **Quiz** – The Big Village quiz – **Saturday 5th February**. 19:30pm at the Community Centre. £5 per person. Bar available. Max 6 per team.
- **Wear what you want day** – **Friday 18th February**. Please bring £1 donation. 'Friends' will collect this at the gate.
- **Smartie Challenge** – After such a successful event last year, we have decided to run this again so make sure you save those jobs for our little ones to earn their pennies. This will run over the Easter holidays instead of the Easter Egg hunt.
- **EXCITING NEWS!** – **CIRCUS Sunday 3rd July**. We are super excited to share with you, after years in the making the Circus is coming to town. More importantly to our wonderful village. Watch this space for more info but make sure you **SAVE THE DATE!**



Keeping updated

If you haven't already, please add us on Facebook to make sure you receive any updates or news. We also have all the year groups now set up as either Whats app groups or Facebook groups to share information. If you are not on your childs yr group, please get in touch and we will get the nominated person to add you to it.

How to contact the PTA

We would love some new members, if you would like to get involved, whether to help at an event, share your ideas, talents or contacts, please get in touch:

Email us: PTA@Crockerne.co.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PTA-Friends-of-Crockerne-256730481033396/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PTACrockerne>

Online purchasing

If you can please use 'easyfundraising' and 'Amazon Smile' for any online purchasing the school will automatically receive a donation. It costs you nothing, just use the flyer below for step by step details to choose Friends of Crockerne as your chosen charity.

PLEASE KEEP ME ON YOUR FRIDGE!

How can you help?

Do you ever shop online?



Did you know with most purchases you make online you could be making money for your child's school? Follow these 4 simple steps to get started:

1. Join www.easyfundraising.org.uk Joining is totally free and it takes 2 minutes.
2. Choose a cause to support – Type in 'Friends of Crockerne' and select 'Support this cause'.
3. Start shopping. There are over 4200 retailers that will donate money to our charity e.g TUI holidays, Tesco, Aviva car ins, John Lewis to name a small few.
4. Once you make your purchase, the retailer will make a small donation to 'Friends of Crockerne'. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/retailers> go to this link to see, the list is vast and you'll be surprised. By online shopping through this channel you can earn the school valuable funds.



Do you ever shop online with Amazon? Did you know Amazon Smile donates a percentage of all the orders you place with them to your chosen Charity? Its really simple. Instead of ordering through the usual Amazon website you order through Amazon Smile. Follow these simple steps:

1. Visit smile.amazon.co.uk
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
3. Choose a charity to receive donations – **The Friends of Crockerne C of E Primary School**
4. Select our charity.
5. Start shopping and earning funds for your child's school.

Could you donate goods or services?

Consider whether you or your company could donate goods or services – for instance old iPads or computers, prizes for raffles etc.

Do you work for a company that provides match funding?

Find out whether your company provides 'Match funding' – Some companies (e.g. Banks, Supermarkets, Insurance companies, Utility providers, Phone companies, Car manufacturers etc.) will match the funds raised at an event that their employee attends for a charity of their choice (e.g. Friends of Crockerne as we are a registered charity).

For more info log into <https://www.pta.co.uk/funding/faqs-match-funding>



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