



Friends of Crockerne

Newsletter Winter 2021

Message from the Chair

With any new year brings hope of new beginnings and new experiences to challenge ourselves and this year is no exception. The new term is upon and is well underway and already we are needing to adapt more than ever, to keep ourselves, our families and children safe, secure and motivated.

Given the restrictions we were under last term, it gives me great pleasure to tell you that the funds we as a school and wider community raised were record amounts. The breakdown of each event is listed below and as you can see, you have all helped to fundraise these incredible amounts resulting in a phenomenal total for our first term. I continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity of you all and cannot thank you enough for the support you give us. Here's to standing together, to ensure we can all get through this peculiar time surrounded by support, love and kindness, which this village has in an abundance.

Charlotte

(Chair of Friends and Mother of Freya in Year 2)



Christmas was far from forgotten in Crockerne

At the end of a year in which the children had missed out on so many treats, the Friends of Crockerne wanted to ensure the children still experienced some of the magic of Christmas. Our incredible team of volunteers managed to arrange a very special personal video for each class at Crockerne from the big man himself. Our sincere thanks go to our wonderful Brian Davies who sadly is hanging up his black boots to take a well-earned rest. Huge thanks go to Liz Felton (some of you may know her as The Storyteller) who helped Santa collect the information he needed about the classes and the very talented David Whittle who worked tirelessly with Santa himself making sure the videos were perfect. Friends of Crockerne pledged to fund a gift for every child and to create a magical decorated hall to give their Christmas parties a bit of sparkle. Due to the incredible generosity shown by parents we were able to make this a truly wonderful event. Thank you for the lovely words, letters and feedback we received. If anyone would like to see the video for their child's class, please email us at **PTA@Crockerne.co.uk**

Fundraising Winter Term

Total of **£5,498.25**.

- Including some of the following:
- Bags 2 School - £1396.40
 - Donations - £150
 - Mufti Day - £205.94
 - Ssshhhh - £1010.90
 - Xmas Cards etc - £512
 - Xmas stock sale - £319.30
 - Xmas raffle - £1423.39
 - Virtual Quiz - £384.39

And what it got spent on!

With IT equipment in short supply and the return to lockdown at the start of this term, Friends of Crockerne were pleased to be able to use the money raised to purchase 12 laptops for school. Thanks to your fundraising, these are now available for the teachers and TAs to use in school or for online teaching, or are being used to support families who were attempting home learning without a suitable device for their children to work on. We know these are making a real difference within our Crockerne Community, so thank you to all who contributed to the fundraising.

Outdoor Project

With our children's well-being in mind and the importance we have all learned of the benefits of spending time outside, Friends of Crockerne are now focussing on ways to boost the outdoor areas at school. This should be a really fun and creative outdoor project, which will take place in 4 phases:

- Clearance of scrap and broken items around the grounds
- Remedial fix of any items around site
- New additions of creative wall art, new outside classroom spaces, planting areas & fun play areas
- Re-design of the Nursery playground to allow for all year-round weather play

We have applied for a grant to help fund stages 3 and 4 of this project, but only need volunteers (and a decrease in restrictions) to make a start on phases 1 and 2. So, if you (or a member of your family) are handy with a hammer, green fingered, creative or just happy to come and help tidy up the grounds (when restrictions allow), please get in touch and we will add you to the list of volunteers. We cannot do it alone and we feel that the plans and ideas we have will really revitalise the school ground and give the children an inspiring area to learn and play.



Events this term

The school wish list includes some important improvements for our children so, we are determined to continue to raise funds to support the school as much as we can and are coming up with creative ways that we can continue to do this. Please read the fundraising flyer regarding 'easyfundraising' and 'Amazon Smile' as they are really easy ways you can support the school with very little effort. Do get in touch if you have any questions! We cannot currently plan for many of the events that we would usually hold this term (e.g. Easter Egg Hunt, Mother's Day or mufti) as we do not know when the restrictions will end or when all the children will be back in school. We hope that we will be able to run adaptations of these events, or perhaps different ones (if you have any suggestions please do get in touch) and when we have plans in place we will spread the word via Facebook (do follow Friends of Crockerne to get updates) and Year or Class WhatsApp groups. If you are not already in the WhatsApp group for your child's class or year group then please get in touch and we will add you in, as these can be really useful sources of information.

The happiness stone snake

With everyone stuck at home during lockdown, the Friends team thought it would be great to start a stone snake to help keep our community spirit up. We have named it the 'Pill Village Viper' and we hope you will encourage your children to paint a stone and help the viper to grow and inspire the rest of the community to do the same. The head for the Viper is currently being created by one of the fantastic artistic members of Crockerne staff and will be placed along the flood defence wall (American Monument end) before half term. We hope that all the children, both those in school and those learning at home, will decorate a stone, pebble or rock as part of their schoolwork. Why not have a hunt on your walks for the perfect stone to create your masterpiece! Hopefully, a walk or ride to the snake to add their stones will make for a pleasant trip out during half term (or at least reduce the moaning about 'another walk') and they will be helping to create a beautiful feature for the whole community to admire. Wouldn't it be amazing to see it reach all the way to the Anchor at the other end?



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>

Our next meeting is **Wednesday 24th February at 7.30pm** on Zoom. It would be great to see as many of you there as possible, drop us a message if you want to join us and we will reply with the link. No pressure to participate just come and listen in and see what you think.



Friends of Crockerne

PLEASE KEEP ME ON YOUR FRIDGE!

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Clarks

ebay



Money
Super
Market



FIRST CHOICE



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.

smile.amazon.co.uk

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.com
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.



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