

From the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,



As we reach the penultimate newsletter of the academic year, it is hard to believe just how quickly another busy and successful year has passed. The last few weeks have certainly tested us all, with temperatures soaring during the recent heatwave. June brought some of the highest temperatures ever recorded for the month in the UK, and I would like to thank our children, staff and families for their resilience, patience and support as we adapted routines to keep everyone safe, comfortable and learning.

Alongside the heat, we have also enjoyed one of the most important milestones in the school calendar – Transition Day. It was wonderful to see children spending time with their new teachers, meeting new classmates and beginning to look ahead to September with excitement and confidence. Whether moving into a new classroom, a new key stage or preparing for secondary school, our children demonstrated the emerald power with courage, enthusiasm and adaptability that make us so proud.

Transition naturally brings thoughts of change, and this year we have a significant amount of change ahead. At the end of term, we will be saying goodbye to six valued members of staff. While farewells are never easy, they also give us an opportunity to reflect on the enormous contributions that colleagues make to our school community. Every member of staff leaves their own legacy through the relationships they build, the children they inspire and the difference they make each day.

Change can sometimes feel unsettling. It can be accompanied by sadness, uncertainty and a sense of loss, particularly when we are saying goodbye to people who have become an important part of our school family. However, change is also one of life's inevitabilities. Schools are places of growth, and growth itself requires change. Every ending creates space for a new beginning; every goodbye opens the door to fresh opportunities, new ideas and exciting possibilities.

As we thank those who are moving on to new adventures, we also look forward to welcoming new colleagues who will bring their own talents, energy and experiences to our school. Just as our children move confidently from one year group to the next, our school continues to evolve and grow, building on all that has gone before while embracing the opportunities that lie ahead.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. The final weeks of the school year are some of the busiest, but they are also among the most rewarding. I look forward to celebrating many more achievements with you before the summer break.

With warmest wishes,

Mrs Bray

Staffing updates

At the end of term, we shall be saying farewell to six wonderful staff, who have contributed significantly to our Crockerne community during years of dedication and care for our children. We have announced the farewell of Mrs Bray and Mrs Crutchley, and now we can share that Mrs Pain will be retiring after 20 magnificent years at Crockerne. Mrs Pain has given countless hours during residential trips, weekend events and has offered community support to our children and colleagues. In education, any hours worked outside of 08:30 - 3:30 are unpaid and so we are especially thankful to all of our colleagues who offer their voluntary time to supervise and facilitate enrichment activities. Mrs Pain will be greatly missed and we thank her for all she has given to Crockerne.

Miss Cook, Mrs Hetheridge, and Miss Laima will be leaving Crockerne at the end of the year, and we look forward to hearing about their new adventures.

Miss Cook joined Crockerne as a newly qualified teacher and has dedicated her entire career to our school. With over 30 years in education, Miss Cook has led the school as Deputy Head and SENDCo, teaching across phases throughout the school and has been a wonderful community champion. We thank her for her kindness, patience and incredible understanding of children with additional needs. She will be missed so much and we wish her luck with her adventures.

Staff were incredibly lucky and delighted when Mrs Hethridge came back to Crockerne as a teacher in the EYFS phase! We thank Mrs Hetheridge for her enthusiasm for teaching, for supporting our youngest children so well and giving them a wonderful start at Crockerne. Mrs Hetheridge has been instrumental with improvements towards our 'Healthy Schools' award, facilitating change in policy and developments in pupil attitudes towards health and wellbeing. She'll be greatly missed and look forward to hearing about her new opportunities.

Miss Laima joined Crockerne 2 years ago as a volunteer and adored our school so much that she committed her early career to Crockerne as a learning support assistant. Her humour, kindness and love for learning shines through and we thank her for her wonderful support.

Good luck to all of our staff who are leaving, with grateful thanks.

It's all change for September when we shall be joined by Mrs Crandon in her role as SENDCo, as previously announced. We are delighted that Mrs Furniss will be joining our pastoral team in her new role as Family and Child Support Worker. She is looking forward to building relationships with children and staff to help our families in any way. Miss Robinson will be joining the Year 3/4 team in Hawthorn class as she begins her teaching career at Crockerne. Mrs Shippey is delighted to be working with Mrs Jones in Maple Class and we know they will be a super team. Mrs Thompson is excited to teach in Cherry class on Fridays as Mrs Palmer's partner teacher. Mrs White is job-sharing with Mr Creton in Oak class and Mrs Bazeley will be partnering with Miss Hawker in Pear class.

Thank you to our wonderful PTA

For the past six years, as our Chair of Friends of Crockerne, Charlotte has been the heart and driving force of our fundraising, and is stepping down as Chair at the end of the year. She has given countless voluntary hours behind the scenes to support our school community. From organising PTA meetings, weekly Ice Lolly Fridays and Hot Chocolate Fridays, to unforgettable events such as discos, Mother's Day Teas, Bingo Lingo, Race Nights, Christmas and Summer Fayres, record-breaking raffles and the much-loved Shush Santa experience, Charlotte and the Friends have brought joy to hundreds of children and families. Char's dedication has also helped secure local business support, significant donations and funding for major projects, including playground refurbishments and improvements to our school environment. More recently, her GoFundMe campaign raised nearly £7,000 to help ensure children could take part in memorable school trips. While many see the wonderful events and outcomes, few see the endless emails, planning, meetings and problem-solving that happen behind the scenes—all given freely and selflessly. Char's commitment, generosity and passion have made an extraordinary difference to our school, and on behalf of all our children, families and staff, we offer our heartfelt thanks for everything she has done. Her legacy will be felt for many years to come.

Our PTA will be voting in a new Chair in the Autumn, and we know the drive and energy for fundraising will continue with the same passion. Many schools no longer have a PTA, so I feel it is incredibly special to know our families still find the time to help our community. Thank you so much!

Recent wonderful activities here at Crockerne

Zactiv Workshop

We were incredibly lucky to welcome a true TV legend to our village as none other than Steel from Gladiators (Zack George) brought his Zactiv workshop to our school. Steel delivered an inspiring assembly packed with positive messages about making healthy choices, staying hydrated, exercising, getting enough sleep and, most importantly, believing in yourself. He had the children completely engaged, encouraging them to think about their own 'Glimmers' – their dreams, aspirations and the things that make them happy.

It was a wonderfully wholesome morning that left our school buzzing with excitement. The smiles on the children's faces said it all, and we're sure many of them will remember today for a long time to come. It was a fantastic reminder that with hard work, resilience and self-belief, anything is possible.

A huge thank you to Steel for bringing so much energy, inspiration and excitement to our school. A true champion, both on and off the arena! Our appreciation also goes to our Amazing PTA, Friends of Crockerne for organising and funding this event.



Year 5 Flag Football Festival at St Katherine's

Our Year 5 pupils had a fantastic time taking part in the NFL Flag Football Festival. It was a great opportunity to try a new sport, learn new skills, and enjoy a variety of fun games and activities. A big thank you to North Somerset PE Association for organising such a wonderful event. We really appreciated the opportunity and had a great time!



Year 3 & 4 Viking Day

Year 3/4 enjoyed a fantastic visit from Viking experts Katherine and Lorraine from Weston Museum. Throughout the day, the children immersed themselves in Viking life by practising their rowing skills, making Viking longboats, examining fascinating artefacts, dressing up in Viking clothing, and playing traditional Viking games, including Three Men's Morris and Kubb.



Year 4 Singing at the Beacon

Black socks, sunny days, Glaswegian Shanties, Reggae tunes and a bit of Stevie Wonder were just a few of the songs learnt and sung by Year 4 at the Bristol Beacon this week. We were part of a choir of 900 children from all over Bristol and North Somerset who were treated to a fabulously musical day lead by singer, composer and musician Aga Serugo-Lugo.

Year 5 Golf Trip



We took 10 Y5 children to a golf lesson at Bristol and Clifton Golf Club. It was a fantastic experience in a beautiful place. Thanks to Greg from 'Astron' who sponsored the visit.



Year 6 Legacy Sports at St Katherine's

On Monday, Y6 went to St Katherine's for a Commonwealth Games Legacy Sports Events. Children participated in a range of sports including rowing, speed stacking, laser shooting, running and target games.

Mr German and the North Somerset Sports co-ordinators, together with the sports leaders from St Katherine's, made the day really exciting and fun.

England Match

Following updated advice from Councillor Bell, KMAT has decided that, due to the England football match, children may be dropped off at school either at their usual time, ready for registration at **8:50am**, or at **10:30am**.

Please note that if your child requires a school lunch, orders must be placed via Swift Kitchen before **8:15am**. Any lunch orders that are not cancelled before this time will be charged.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We hope everyone enjoys the match!

Mental Health Practitioner Visits

As you know we have had a Mental Health Practitioner (Bryonee) working alongside our pastoral team at school and she will be continuing to work with us next year. We will continue to work closely with Bryonee, parents and teachers to make referrals through school, but referrals can now be made directly from parents/carers. For more information or to access the service, please click [here](#).

Litter picking - activity for families over the Summer and beyond

A brilliant activity for all the family (children must be accompanied by an adult). Meet at the Precinct at 9.30 on 18th July, 15th August, 19th September, 17th October, and 21st November. The group aims to meet at 9:30 and finish by 12:00, but people can do a short time within those time periods if they like. The group are covered by the Million Mile Clean - Surfers Against Sewage insurance.

For further information please contact Cathy Brown email: cathy@wern.org.uk

Shine - After School Club Reminder

Please remember that all children must be registered with Shine After School Club before any bookings can be made.

Shine After School Club is an independent provider and is not part of the school, so registration must be completed directly with them before you can book any sessions. We recommend registering for an account in advance, as this will save time if you ever need to make a last-minute booking.

If you need to book a place for your child after the 2:30 pm cut-off, please contact Shine After School Club directly on 01174 033 033. They will be able to advise you on availability and assist you with your booking.



Polite reminders and useful information:

- **School starts at 8:50am.** If your child arrives after this time, they must be signed in at the school office before going to class. This is an important safeguarding procedure to ensure all children are accounted for and safely on site
- **Reminder:** Children are parents' responsibility from the time we hand over at the end of the day. Please do not allow children to play on any equipment before and after school.
- **Safeguarding:** should you wish for your child to be collected from school by another adult. You must notify the office no later than **2:30pm** on the day. We cannot allow anyone to collect a child without their parent's permission.
- We ask that **no mobile phones** are used or seen by adults or children whilst on school premises, at any time.
- Please remember that Crockerne C of E Primary School has a **no nuts** policy.
- All children in Reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to a free school meal as part of the Universal Free School Meal campaign.
- **If you claim qualifying benefits your older child may be entitled to Free School Meals. Please follow the link to see if you are entitled.** https://ems.n-somerset.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/en
- Breakfast club is available daily from 7.30am and must be pre-booked on <https://app.parentpay.com/>
- After School Club is ran by My Shine from 3:15pm – 6:00pm All information for this is found directly with My Shine. Visit <https://myshine.co.uk>

Term 6: Monday 1st June – Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Wednesday 8th July	KS2 Sports Day – St Katherine's
Thursday 9th July (2pm–3pm)	Celebration of Learning – Parents/Carers Afternoon
Wednesday 15th & Thursday 16th July	Year 5/6 Performance
Tuesday 21st July	Year 6 Leavers' Party
Wednesday 22nd July	Last day of academic year / Year 6 Leavers' Service

INSET Days Thursday 3rd September 2026
Friday 4th September 2026
Friday 23rd October 2026
Monday 2nd November 2026
Monday 4th January 2027
Monday 22nd February 2027

Mrs Bray – Headteacher

Mrs Rees – Assistant Headteacher

Mrs Crutchley – Assistant Headteacher



