

From the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Leaving a school community is never easy, especially one that has become such an important part of my life. As I come to the end of my three years as Headteacher of Crockerne, I wanted to take a moment to reflect, to thank everyone, and to say goodbye. I've written about our wonderful staff who are leaving in our previous newsletters, and I wish them all the very best. They will be missed so much and I am grateful for all they have given during their years of teaching at Crockerne, having impacted hundreds of children through nurture and life-changing ways. Crockerne staff are the most outstanding colleagues I have ever had the pleasure of working with. Please continue to treat each of them with the thanks and respect they each deserve for they are remarkable, and only want the best for your children.



I must admit, I've buried my head in the sand a little and have not wanted to think too deeply about saying goodbye. Here goes...

It has been a tremendous privilege to serve the amazing children, families, staff, governors, PTA, church partners and wider community of Crockerne. During my time here, I have seen first-hand the power that education holds to transform lives. I have always believed that schools are about so much more than academic achievement; they are places where children discover who they are, build confidence, develop resilience, and learn that they can make a positive difference in the world.

One of the values that has guided my leadership is a simple but powerful vision: "Let Your Light Shine." I believe every child has unique gifts and talents, and it has been our collective responsibility to help them find the confidence to share those gifts with the world. Over the past three years, I have seen that vision come to life in countless ways through the kindness, creativity, courage and determination of our children, staff and families.

During my second Headship here at Crockerne, I have been continually inspired by the kindness, dedication and commitment of everyone connected to our school. Together, we have celebrated huge successes, overcome challenges and worked tirelessly to ensure that every child has the opportunity to flourish. I have witnessed extraordinary support, genuine care and a strong sense of community that makes Crockerne such a special place. Together we have forged new partnerships with our local friends and businesses which have given our children countless opportunities to explore and grow.

I am incredibly proud of the progress and improvements we have achieved together. These have only been possible because of the hard work of our talented staff, the encouragement of our families, the guidance of our church partners, governors, and, most importantly, the enthusiasm, determination and joy of our wonderful children.

My decision to leave has not been an easy one. I will be moving into consultancy work so that I can provide greater support to a family member who needs more of my time and attention. Family must always come first, and this new chapter will allow me to balance my professional life with those personal responsibilities.

Whilst I am excited about what lies ahead, I leave with a heavy heart. Crockerne will always hold a very special place in my heart. The memories, friendships and experiences I have gained here will stay with me for years to come. Most of all, I will carry with me the countless examples of compassion, encouragement, ambition and achievement that I have witnessed every day. Our school is built with 'love in action' and I am grateful for everyone in Pill and beyond who has given their time, support and encouragement, treasuring every smile that I've collected.

As I look to the future, I remain filled with hope. I truly believe that the young people of Crockerne will help change the world. They are growing up with the compassion, courage and determination that our society needs more than ever. My hope is that they continue to let their light shine brightly and create a wave of kindness, understanding and courage that reaches far beyond the school gates. If they do, the future will be in very safe hands.

Thank you for welcoming me into your community and for making these past three years so rewarding. It has been an honour to lead this remarkable school. After 30 years' experience in education, I have every confidence that Crockerne will continue to go from strength to strength, and I look forward to hearing about its future successes.

I wish everyone happiness, success and continued growth in the years ahead.

With heartfelt thanks, love and best wishes,

Mrs Bray (and Miss Darcey)

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 Hetheridge 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.

Mat Shining Star Awards

In recognition of pupils who demonstrate our school values and lead always with kindness, perseverance, creativity collaboration and independence. Congratulations to Ivy Keeley, Olivia Lewis, Leo Western, Joshua Howse, Oliver Hopes, Noah Sharp, Lilly Collins and Bethan Townley.

Recent wonderful activities here at Crockerne

Year 6 Play: Gigglebox

Our brilliant Year 6 made us all proud with their performance of Gigglebox last week. There were cheers and tears as the children took to the stage and performed brilliant songs and hilarious scenes. The year 5 choir sang beautifully and helped bring the show to life. The cast were supported by the fantastic and unflappable sound and lighting crew and the amazing year 5/6 team. They definitely ended the year on a high. So please remember, 'though I'm waving goodbye with a song in my heart, there's a tear in my eye, cause our paths have to part. But the memories shine, like a light in the dark. And they'll burn bright forever in our minds.'

Primary Engineer Project with Rolls-Royce



Pupils at Crockerne School have been working with Rolls-Royce as part of the **Primary Engineer** project, designing and building their very own electric vehicles.

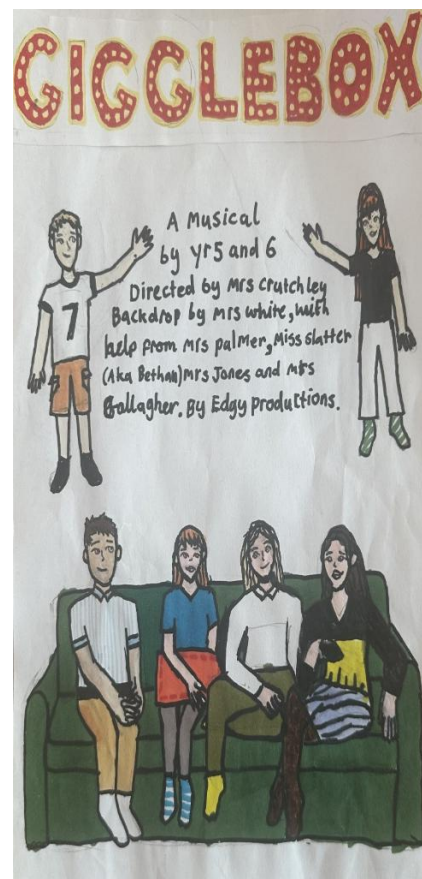
The children carefully constructed and wired their vehicles in school before taking them home to design and create the outer bodywork. Their creativity, engineering skills and determination were truly impressive.

Competition day was exciting and fiercely contested, with vehicles judged on both how far they could travel in a straight line and the quality, originality and construction of their body designs.

[Congratulations](#) to our winners, James, Borisz, Lily and all of our competitors for their fantastic efforts and achievements. Every participant should be incredibly proud of the

enthusiasm, innovation and teamwork they demonstrated throughout the project.

Well done, everyone!



Roman Day

Year 4 enjoyed a taster day of all things Viking. We made shields and learnt marching commands and a Testudo formation, Roman Numerals games, mosaic patterns and learnt about Roman legends.

Meanwhile, Year 3 continued making musical instruments, rehearsed and then performed in assembly their robotic themed masterpiece.

"If You Were an Engineer, What Would You Do?"

As a school, we entered the "If You Were an Engineer, What Would You Do?" competition, where children were presented with a real-life problem and challenged to engineer a solution. Designs were submitted to the competition headquarters for judging, with children from schools across the country taking part. We are delighted that many of our pupils' designs were shortlisted for the final stages of the competition.



Congratulations to Raffy in Reception, whose innovative design was shortlisted for the **regional finals** and was proudly placed on display at The School of Engineering **UWE (University of the West of England)**.

We are incredibly proud of Raffy and all of our pupils who took part in this exciting engineering challenge. Well done to everyone involved!



PTA

Friends of Crockerne – Thank You for Your Support!

We are delighted to share how your incredible support has raised an amazing **£16,044.96**. Thanks to your generosity, **£13,749.52** has been funded this year, providing our children with fantastic opportunities and resources.

Some of the highlights include **theatre trips for all children, a special Gladiator visit, Year 6 leavers' celebrations, new play equipment, scooters and bikes, World Book Day vouchers, and additional resources for classrooms** and many more.



Thank you Charlotte

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

A huge thank you to all our families and supporters for making these fantastic experiences possible. Your continued support makes such a positive difference to the children at Crockerne.

We look forward to another successful year together in **2026/2027!**

Colour Run



A huge thank you to our PTA and the 20 amazing volunteers who helped make the Crockerne Colour Run such a fantastic success! From setting up to cheering everyone on and embracing all the colourful chaos, your time, energy, and enthusiasm made the day unforgettable. The children, teachers, and adults all absolutely loved it! There were lots of laughs, plenty of colourful mess, and so many wonderful memories made along the way. We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you. Thank you

for helping create such a fun and special event for our school community!



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>
- **Westward Drive** is a **School Street** which is a road where a school temporarily closes to become a pedestrian and

Monday 7th September	KS1 & KS2 Return to school
Monday 7th September	New nursery visits
Tuesday 8th September	New nursery visits
Wednesday 9th September	Nursery & Reception (EYFS) term starts

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

The school office is now closed for the summer break.

Please note that during this time we will not have access to emails or be available to answer telephone calls.

We will reopen on Monday 7th September at 8:00am and look forward to welcoming you all back then.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful summer break. We hope you enjoy a relaxing and happy holiday.

If you have anything urgent regarding safeguarding during the school closure, please email:

safeguarding@crockerne.kmat.co.uk

In an emergency, please call 999.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Mrs Bray – Headteacher

Mrs Rees – Assistant Headteacher

Mrs Crutchley – Assistant Headteacher

