

NEWS

Summer 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2026 – July 2027

Break the Rules Day

Christmas Raffle

Santa Visit

Theatre Trips

Sporting Trips

Silent Disco

Circus



Can you help?

We can't put on any of these events without the goodwill of volunteers. If you'd like to be added to the Volunteer list, please contact us at PTA@crockerne.co.uk

Friends of Crockerne Newsletter

It's hard to believe we're here again at the end of another school year. The summer term always feels especially full at Crockerne - busy, emotional, exciting and a little bit chaotic in the very best way. It's the term of shows, celebrations, goodbyes and all those final moments that remind us just how quickly school life passes by.

This year has felt particularly special. We've made a conscious decision to focus less on simply raising money and more on funding experiences - the kind of moments that stay with children long after they've left the school gates. Thanks to your continued support, we've been able to bring some brilliant opportunities to the children this year, from a Gladiators visit and fully funded theatre trips, to our World Book Day celebrations and the return of some of the events the children absolutely love.

As always, none of this happens in isolation. We are so lucky to have such a supportive school community around us. My heartfelt thanks go to our phenomenal staff team, our brilliant volunteers, our parents and carers, and everyone who has supported Friends of Crockerne this year - whether that's by volunteering, donating, attending events, buying raffle tickets or simply cheering us on from the sidelines.

This newsletter also feels a little more emotional than most. We'll be saying goodbye to another fabulous Year 6 cohort, but also to two incredibly important women in the life of our school - Mrs Emma Bray, who has led Crockerne with warmth, vision and unwavering support for the PTA, and Mrs Sonya Crutchley, our wonderful bridge between school and Friends, who has helped bring so many opportunities to the children over the years.

And for me personally, this is also a goodbye. After six fabulous years as Chair, this will be my final year with Friends of Crockerne in a school fundraising and event capacity. It's hard to put into words what this role, this team and this school have meant to me, I'll do my best a little later in the newsletter.

For now, thank you - for your support, your kindness, your generosity and your belief in what we're trying to do for the children of Crockerne.

Charlotte

Chair of Friends of Crockerne

What we've 'Raised' & 'Spent'

This year, Friends of Crockerne has raised an incredible **£16,044.96** and spent **£13,749.52** supporting the children of Crockerne.

While that total is something to be really proud of, what matters most this year is how that money has been used. Our focus has been on funding experiences, opportunities and memorable moments for the children rather than simply chasing bigger fundraising totals. We know how much those moments matter - whether that's giving children their first theatre experience, bringing inspiring visitors into school, or ending the year with something joyful and unforgettable.

This year's highlights

Steel from Gladiators

One of the standout moments of the year was welcoming Steel from Gladiators into school for a special PTA-funded visit. This was a completely free event for all pupils and one that created a real buzz across the school.

Steel delivered an inspiring assembly focused on healthy habits, exercise and hydration, encouraging the children to look after their bodies and minds and understand the importance of making positive choices. It was a brilliant way to bring those messages to life, and the excitement of having someone the children recognised from television in school made it all the more memorable.

World Book Day – Cronka Bar event

Our World Book Day celebrations were another huge highlight. This year we went all in on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, dressing up as characters and handing out our now legendary Cronka Bars. It was one of those wonderfully Crockerne moments — a bit bonkers, full of fun, and completely centred around giving the children something memorable to talk about.



Our very sincere thanks to our 'friends' of Friends and fundraising

- Alliance Communications • Creative Construction • Kerry Group • Morgan Civil & Structural • Paradigm Norton • Richard & Victoria Stevenson • Roper Rhodes • Vanaways • W4Co Ltd • Pulmolink Ltd • Jo O'Callaghan • The Kings Arms • The Bristol Port • Elmtree Garden & Landscaping

Fully funded theatre trips

This year, the PTA also fully funded two theatre trips, including transport, at no cost to parents.

KS1 visited the Redgrave Theatre and KS2 visited the Bristol Old Vic. For many of the children, this was far more than a school trip. It was their first experience of live theatre, and for some, even their first time leaving the village. One pupil was left completely in awe crossing the Clifton Suspension Bridge for the first time — a lovely reminder of why experiences like this matter so much.

The events the children love

Alongside the bigger funded experiences, we've also kept some of the children's favourite PTA events alive this year, including Break the Rules Day, Silent Disco and of course our end-of-term Colour Run, which returns on Friday 17th July to close the year out in true Crockerne style.

The last term is always a whirlwind, but we love ending it on a high — and the Colour Run has quickly become one of those events the children talk about long after the paint has washed off.



Looking ahead – Happy's Circus



Our big-ticket event for the new school year is already on the horizon and we're so excited to be welcoming Happy's Circus to Crockerne on **Thursday 10th September**.

This promises to be one of the biggest and most exciting community events of the year - a proper whole-school event to bring families together, kick off the new term in style and raise valuable funds for the children. Tickets are on sale now so don't miss out.

Goodbye, Good Luck, We'll Miss you

As always, the end of the summer term means saying goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children as they prepare to spread their wings and head off to secondary school.

They still have some special moments ahead, with their show next week and their red-carpet leavers' party the week after, and we know they will absolutely do Crockerne proud. We wish every one of them the very best for the next chapter and hope they leave with happy memories, strong friendships and the confidence to take on whatever comes next.

We also know that when Year 6 leaves, we say goodbye not only to the children but to families who have supported the school, the PTA and our events for many years. To all of our leaving families -thank you. Your support, time, generosity and encouragement have meant so much.



Thank you, Mrs Bray

This year we are also saying goodbye to our phenomenal Head, Mrs Emma Bray, and it's impossible to let this newsletter go out without acknowledging just how much she has meant to Crockerne and to Friends of Crockerne.

Emma has been an incredible supporter of the PTA from the moment she arrived - open to ideas, ambitious for the children and completely invested in helping us create opportunities beyond the classroom. She has championed the school with warmth, integrity and energy, and her belief in what the PTA can do has helped us think bigger, be braver and achieve more. A true leader, an inspiring mentor and the captain of our ship who will be desperately missed by us all.

We are hugely grateful for everything she has done for Crockerne and for the children, and we wish her every happiness and success in whatever comes next.

Thank you, Mrs Crutchley

There are some people who work quietly behind the scenes but are absolutely fundamental to making things happen, and for Friends of Crockerne that person has so often been Mrs Sonya Crutchley.

Sonya has been the most incredible link between school and PTA for many years — a constant source of support, ideas, honesty, encouragement and practical help. She has helped us navigate events, liaise with staff, create opportunities for the children and make things happen when the list has felt endless.

Her commitment to Crockerne and to the children has been exceptional, and we are so grateful for everything she has done. Quite simply, Friends of Crockerne would not have been the same without her.

A personal goodbye



This year marks the end of my time as Chair of Friends of Crockerne, after six fabulous years in the role. When I first took this on, Freya was still tiny and Crockerne life felt as though it would stretch on forever. Somehow, in the blink of an eye, she's already left, and now it's my turn to step away too. It feels strange, emotional and a little surreal to be writing that.

Over the years, this role has given me so much more than I ever expected. It has given me friendships, laughter, stress, chaos, tired feet, late-night WhatsApps, muddy playground mornings, far too many spreadsheets, and some of the proudest moments I've had as a school parent. More importantly, it has given me the chance to be part of something that genuinely matters. Crockerne has never been about being the shiniest or newest school. What makes it special is its heart — the people in it, the children it nurtures and the community that wraps around it. I have always believed that our children deserve magic, joy, enrichment and opportunity, regardless of budgets, buildings or postcodes. If Friends of Crockerne has managed to bring even a little of that to their school lives, then every meeting, every fundraiser and every frantic event setup has been worth it.

Across my time as Chair, with the support of this extraordinary school community, Friends of Crockerne has raised well over £80,000 to put back into the school through projects, experiences and opportunities for the children. That is something every single person involved should be enormously proud of.

To my team - I need to say a very personal thank you to the women who have stood shoulder to shoulder with me this year — Lou, Vicky, Charlene and Kat. You have been the calm in the chaos, the voice of reason when ideas were running away with me, and the people who have rolled up their sleeves time and time again to make things happen for the children. Thank you for the laughs, the loyalty, the late-night messages, the problem-solving, the carrying, shifting, planning and just generally being there whenever I needed you. I have been incredibly lucky to have had such a brilliant team beside me.

I also want to extend my love and gratitude to every previous committee member who has been part of this journey with me over the last six years. Sian B, Poppy C, Abi M, Caja P, Belle F, Wendy M, Ellie B & Ruth C. These wonderful women have stood by me during my time at the helm, giving their energy, ideas, time and heart to Friends of Crockerne. Some have stayed for years, some for seasons, but every single one of you has helped shape what Friends has become. I have never done this role alone, and I will always be deeply grateful for the friendship, support and belief that so many of you have given me along the way.

So, to every committee member, volunteer, parent, teacher, office legend, governor and supporter who has helped over the years — thank you. Thank you for saying yes, for showing up, for mucking in, for carrying tables, baking cakes, selling tickets, tidying up glitter, sharing ideas and helping make Crockerne such a brilliant place to be.

It has been an absolute privilege to do this role, and I will always be incredibly proud to have been part of the Friends of Crockerne story.

With love, gratitude and more emotion than I care to admit,

Charlotte Kaszubski
Chair, Friends of Crockerne PTA

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MEETING

This will be our Annual General Meeting
Thursday 17th September at School – 4:30pm
Please let us know if you'd like any info on the
Committee roles available.

parentkind.org.uk

is brimming with articles for parents, to help you support your child's school life and learning, and it's open to everyone!

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

For full details please see the 'Fundraised & Spending 2025/2026' Posters in the notice board. It makes for an impressive read of what we have funded this year!



www.pta-events.co.uk/crockerne



Friends of Crockerne PTA



Chair: Charlotte Kaszubski
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