



# CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair's Address – PTA Annual General Meeting  
17th October 2024

It's a pleasure to welcome you all to our Annual General Meeting. As Chair of The Friends of Crowthorne, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments over the past year, express my gratitude to all those who contributed to our efforts, and share our vision for the year ahead.

## Reflecting on the Year

The past year has been filled with challenges and successes.

Our main challenge was a loss of the PTA Store/ Uniform Shop due to a company scamming charities, schools and business. All available avenues have been pursued to recover the lost funds including Action Fraud, legal support through ParentKind and the schools banking team. Unfortunately, this has been to no avail without significant additional legal funds available to pursue further therefore we have had to accept the loss at this time.

The Friends continue to work tirelessly as parents, teachers, and school staff to enhance the experience of our children and staff at Crowthorne CofE Primary. Some of the highlights of the year include:

- The amazing Newsletter (thank you Paul), The Quiz Night, our Summer Jam; Silent Disco, The Carnival Stall and the numerous other activities that we have run for the children to enjoy, especially the surprise return of Hobgoblin Theatre Company with their performance of the Wizard of Oz in July.
- We have been proud to have contributed to specific projects like playground upgrades, classroom equipment & supporting the Eco team. As well as maintaining a 'top up fund for each class of £250 and the fund to ensure that all children can enjoy our school run activities.
- Our efforts to foster a stronger sense of community through parent engagement activities such as our welcome to the Reception Year (parents and children) with Buddy bears, Preloved uniform sales during induction and meet the teacher, and our Coffee Morning have all had a positive impact for The Friends. And I hope this continues in the future to help develop, grow and strengthen the Friends.

## Gratitude and Acknowledgements

None of this would have been possible without the support of our incredible PTA members, volunteers, and staff. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to:

The committee members, who have given their time, energy, and ideas to ensure everything runs smoothly.

The teachers and school leadership, who have worked closely with us to identify where we can support the school's priorities.

Our amazing volunteers and parents, who have stepped up time and time again to help with events, provide donations, and contribute their skills to benefit the children.

I also want to acknowledge our children (the students), whose enthusiasm and participation in various initiatives remind us why we do what we do. Seeing them thrive is the ultimate reward.

## Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, I am excited about the year ahead. Our priorities will continue to focus on supporting educational resources and experiences and with our new Head – Mrs Emily Hicks and input from teachers and staff we have a great idea of short- and longer-term initiatives and where our fundraising efforts should be prioritized. >More later<

In addition, we aim to increase participation in PTA activities and continue fostering a collaborative environment where all parents feel welcome and valued. And we will continue to work closely with the school to ensure our efforts align with the educational needs of the students.

We're always looking for fresh ideas and additional help. If you haven't been involved with the PTA before, we would love to have you join us and contribute in whatever way you can. Every bit of support helps make a difference.

In conclusion, I want to thank you once again to everyone who has been involved in making this year a success. It has been an honour to serve as Chair, and I look forward to continuing our work together this year, to enrich the school experience for our children.

Let's make the coming year another fantastic one for our school!

