

F.O.C.S.

NEWS



HELLO, FROM FOCS!

We are the 'Friends of Chrishall School'. We are a registered charity, and our mission is to enhance the learning journey of every child at Chrishall Primary School.

A MESSAGE FROM KATH

As we begin another busy and brilliant year, I want to say a huge thank you to all of you – our wonderful school community – for your support last year. Whether you baked a cake, bought a ticket or helped out at a disco, every bit of your involvement makes a difference.

The past year has been packed with fun and fundraising. From our much-loved school discos – including a fabulous Eurovision-themed night – to our Mother's Day and Father's Day gift shops, and the ever-popular ice cream sales after school in the summer sunshine, we've had plenty of opportunities to come together and raise money for our school.

We've been able to fund some fantastic projects this year – most notably, the creation of a brand-new **Forest School area**, which will provide a wonderful outdoor learning space for all our children to explore, discover and enjoy for years to come.

Looking ahead, we're already getting excited for the return of **Chrishfest**, which will be held on **Saturday, 4 July 2026** – so make sure to save the date!

Finally, I'd like to say a special thank you to **Lisa Beard** and **Alex Searle** for their time, energy and dedication to FOCS as they step down from their roles. We're so grateful for everything you've done. And a very warm welcome to **Nicki Pollington**, who joins the team – we're delighted to have you on board.

Thank you once again for helping to make our school such a special community. We can't wait to see what we achieve together next

Kath x

Kath Whittaker
Chair, Friends of Chrishall School



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday, 15 October 5-6.30pm

Back-to-school disco, [buy tickets here](#)



Monday, 1 December, from 5.30pm

Christmas wreath-making workshop, [buy tickets here](#)



Saturday, 4 July 2026

Chrishfest 2026!

ABOUT FOCS

In 2024-25 we supported the school and the children in a number of ways:

- A new Forest School area
- Leavers' hoodies
- Additional sports kit items
- Christmas pantomime trip
- 'Brain Blaster' maths' workshop
- Materials for a Christmas craft workshop

Each year we try and think of fun and creative ways of fundraising which build community among all the school families, and hopefully make lasting memories for the children.

If you have any ideas for fundraising, we'd love to hear from you. Get in touch through the parents' WhatsApp groups, or find out more at our website www.friendsofchrishallschool.co.uk.

IF YOU WANT TO DONATE DIRECT...

If you would like to donate direct to FOCS, go to:
www.friendsofchrishallschool.co.uk/raise-funds



A NEW FOREST SCHOOL AREA

The new Forest School area opened in May 2025. The FOCS team and an army of parent and children volunteers helped to clear the area, making it a more accessible and engaging outdoor learning space for the children. New fencing was also put up, making the site safer and more secure.

The children have been using the space and enjoying their new forest school area; its



accessibility and closeness to the school has made a real difference, allowing them to be closer to nature.

Thank you again to all Chrishall parents for your amazing support of our fundraising; we could not do it without you.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

This summer we launched our first ever 'Reading Challenge' – designed to help children discover just how much fun reading and storytelling can be.

Children who signed up received a bingo-style challenge packed with fun reading activities to complete over the Summer holidays. Those who completed their challenge will receive a certificate and a prize.

Every completed challenge will also be entered into a prize draw for the chance to



win some bigger and even more exciting prizes.

We had great take-up amongst the children and we really hope it encouraged them to read more stories through the summer.

Prizes and certificates will be winging their way to the children soon.



MEET THE FOCS VOLUNTEERS

Kath Whittaker (Chair): Maker of video games and Mum to Ferris (age 12) and Arlo (Year 4). Loves wild swimming, big flat fields and fish and chips by the sea.

Hannah Bannon (Vice-Chair): Mummy to Beatrice (Year 5), Max and Margo (Reception), with a passion for coffee, books, music, films (and gin!).

Alina Gheorghiu-Currie (Treasurer): Mum to Albert (Year 5) with a passion for everything everywhere all at once!

Caitlin Briody: Mum to Wren (Year 3) and Noah (Year 1). Fan of Pilates and all things wellness, travelling and music.

Nicole Dixon: Mama to Rory (Year 5) and Isla (Year 2). My true passion is all things books, but I also love shopping and styling.

Nikki Pollington: Mummy to Eva (Year 6). Lover of all things dance and music.

Katherine Rhodes: Mummy to Beatrix (Year 4) and Clemmie (Year 2). Part-time working, dog-walking mum-taxi and fan of all things Dorset.

Jasmine Sideravicius: Mumma to Lyra (age 6), Persephone (aka Sephy) and Jasper (age 3). Lover of art, music and all things cute.

Rebecca Thomas: Mummy to Alex (age 11) and Angus (age 5). I love Halloween, baking cakes and eating them.

Susannah Van Staten: Mum to Xander (age 13), Willem (age 9) at Chrishall. Passions include flowers, dog walks, baking and a surprisingly impressive knowledge of all things football!

KEEP IN TOUCH



www.instagram.com/focs20



www.facebook.com/FOCSY

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

We're always on the lookout for new members, or even just a few hours of your time volunteering at one of our events. If you would like to get involved in FOCS, we'd love to hear from you!

Contact **Kath** on **07846 943451** or **Hannah** on **07968 954113**.