

Friday 4th March 2022

Dear Families,

I know that many of you, like me, are very worried and upset about the current crisis in Ukraine. The images of war and suffering on the news inevitably lead to feelings of anxiety and fear, feelings which can filter down to our children. Whilst many of our pupils, particularly the younger ones, are thankfully unaware of the crisis, many are talking a lot about what is going on and it is important that we talk to them about the conflict in a calm, informed way so that they have a better understanding of what is going on and feel more secure. Here is our approach:

At school, we are:

- Having a Key Stage 2 assembly to talk about the conflict and explain why it is happening in age-appropriate language.
- Watching Newsround updates on the conflict in Key Stage 2 classes and allowing children the opportunity to discuss and ask questions.
- Providing our teachers with guidance about how to answer any questions that children might ask.
- Discussing any rumours or misconceptions that we hear in class or in the playground.
- Running a cake sale next week to raise money for Save the Children's Ukraine appeal to support children affected by the crisis.

In everything we are doing, we are following these guiding principles:

- Giving children the time to talk about what they know and how they are feeling.
- Tailoring the conversation to each child's level and not giving too much detail.
- Not judging children's feelings about the situation and telling them it is normal to feel scared and anxious if that is how they are feeling.
- Reassuring children that this is not their problem to solve but that adults across the world are working hard to bring an end to the crisis.
- Focusing on what positive actions we can take, for example, fundraising.

If you would like to talk to your child at home, we recommend [CBBC Newsround](#) as a good source of information and [this blog](#) provides a summary of advice for parents. If your child is anxious, please do let their class teacher know.

Our children are growing up in difficult times but please be assured that we are doing everything we can to equip them to be resilient, informed and happy.

Have a lovely weekend.



Nicole Reid
Executive Headteacher