

St Mary's C.E. Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Calvin Henry



28th February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

The situation in Ukraine is horrendous. Whilst geographically we are relatively far away from the events, some people in our schools and communities will be directly affected and may have families or roots in the region. The news and social media feeds are filled with the latest information, and some of it is very upsetting and worrying; and may not even be verified. Children listening and viewing distressing images can become frightened and fearful.

At school, and at an age-appropriate level, we have sensitively spoken about the situation in Ukraine in today's assembly and the children are now thinking about what our school can do to help the Ukrainian people, particularly the refugees who have been forced to flee their homes. I will let you know what we are able to do in due course.

We have also been very clear with our children that not all Russian people share the same ideology as President Putin and that many Russians are against this war. The children therefore understand the importance of not discriminating against Russian people.

We will continue to talk to our children as needed and to answer questions or deal with any concerns that children may have as they arise.

In terms of supporting parents and carers, see below links to guidance that you might want to use with your children should you wish to.

Links to current information regarding Ukraine

- Supporting your child if they see upsetting content online about what is happening in Ukraine (Childnet)
<https://www.childnet.com/blog/supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content/>
- Help for teachers and families to talk to pupils about Russia's invasion of Ukraine and how to help them avoid misinformation (Department for Education)
<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/25/help-for-teachers-and-families-to-talk-to-pupils-about-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-and-how-to-help-them-avoid-misinformation/>

In the meantime, let us all hope and pray for a very speedy resolution to this most worrying of times.

With warm regards,

Calvin Henry
Headteacher