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Re: Supporting children to understand the war in Ukraine

Dear Parents

It has been lovely to welcome the children back after half-term and they have settled well into their school work. Obviously for some children in the world, life has become dangerous and difficult and many of our pupils have raised the subject of the Ukrainian crisis since we returned. I thought I would explain how we tackle issues such as this in school.

This week teachers in key stage 2 (years 3-6) will be discussing the situation in Ukraine with the children. We have done this in an age appropriate way using clips from children's Newsround and by taking time to discuss concerns and answer questions. We are also able to address any misconceptions that the children might have. We have not approached this topic with our younger children (and won't unless they raise the topic with us) however as a parent you will know if this is appropriate for your child depending on what they say/are aware of.

The older children are very much aware of the news and social media feeds reporting/discussing the war. It is important that they are supported to understand and make sense of what they hear or see. This can be particularly important when they hear misinformation and become frightened as a result. It is impossible to protect children from the terrible things that happen in the world (particularly as they get older) but we can help them to understand the facts and process their feelings.

I have included the links to some resources below that may be useful to you as parents:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content/>
<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/>
[https:// www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/60513502](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/60513502)

Yours faithfully

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