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Dear Parent/Carer,

### Re: Conflict in Ukraine

As news of Russia's invasion of Ukraine escalates, so do anxieties around the situation. Whilst we are geographically far away from the events, many in our schools and communities may be directly affected and have families or roots in the region. We are aware that children may have anxieties and feel unsettled about what they may be hearing in the news and possibly from their peers in the playground.

We are reassuring the children that there are people who are trying to help those affected by this war. We are also mindful of the rapidly changing situation and reassuring children as best we can. We will be setting aside class PSHE time for this to give a safe space for children to talk with their teachers/teaching assistants if they are worried or have heard something they do not understand.

We wanted to send out some information that we have found useful to support you in talking (and listening) with your child about the situation. The challenge for schools is that every child is different and whether to broach the subject with a child depends on a range of different factors including age and family circumstance.

Below are a number of links to articles and resources that provide support and advice in how you might approach speaking with, and listening to, your child. I have found these really useful not only as a professional but also in helping me as a father support my own child.

[www.educationhub.gov.uk](http://www.educationhub.gov.uk) - 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).

[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com) - Supporting your child if they see upsetting content online about what is happening in Ukraine

[www.metro.co.uk](http://www.metro.co.uk) - How to talk to children about what's happening in Ukraine and World War Three anxiety

[www.barnardos.talking-to-children-about-war.pdf](http://www.barnardos.talking-to-children-about-war.pdf) - produced by the children's charity Barnardos, about how to talk to children about war

[www.schoolsweek.co.uk](http://www.schoolsweek.co.uk) – We should not hide from children what is happening in Ukraine (Schools Week/Children's Commissioner)

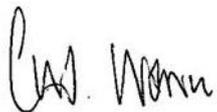
[www.standard.co.uk/news/education](http://www.standard.co.uk/news/education) - Experts urge London parents not to hide from children's questions about war in Ukraine



If you feel that you or your child need to talk to a trusted school staff person about their/your feelings towards this situation, then please come forward and speak to a member of staff that you feel comfortable with. We will do all we can to help and support.

Our thoughts are with everyone in Ukraine, their relatives abroad, and anyone affected by the invasion, or any conflict globally, in any way.

Yours sincerely,



**Will Wawn**  
**Headteacher**