

Building each other up



with God as our firm foundation

St. Paul's Church of England (A) Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure many of you will be aware of the invasion of Ukraine and ongoing conflict that has been filling the news over the last week.

Subjects such as these can be very difficult for children to understand and it can be hard as parents to know how to respond to our children – should we speak to them about it? Should we shield them from it completely?

Whilst there is no 'right' or 'wrong', psychologists advise that we should speak to children about matters such as this - in age appropriate ways of course. Even if individual parents may choose not tell their child(ren) themselves, children may overhear conversations or news reports, they may come across information on the internet or they may hear friends or other people talking about it outside of the home. If this is the case, it is important that children are able to ask questions and seek reassurance as they may have worries or fears about the situation. Children may come across mis-information which could lead to confusion and further worry.

It is important that children develop an understanding of the wider world as well as receive accurate information. Therefore, in school this week, the children in Year 2 and KS2 (Years 3-6) will have time to discuss the Ukraine conflict in class. We will be using a Picture News presentation which will explain the situation in an appropriate way with a focus on compassion, how other countries are helping the Ukraine and how we can help others. In Early Years (Nursery and Reception) and Year 1, staff will give the children open opportunities to ask questions about things they may be thinking about during the week and will respond appropriately.

Information and advice about talking to children about conflict can be found via these links -

<https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/supporting-children-manage-anxiety-over-war-conflict-and-crises>

<https://www.savethechildren.net/news/ukraine-5-ways-talk-children-about-conflict#>

Please come and see me should you wish to discuss this further.

Best wishes,

Mrs J. Ferretti - Headteacher

