

King Edwin Primary School

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UKRAINE APPEAL

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have all been moved by recent events in Ukraine and the resulting humanitarian crisis unfolding as a consequence of war. As a school we have been reflecting on the **'rights of the child'**. Our Year 5 children, supported by Mrs Knowles, have specifically asked that we do something as a school community to support the children of Ukraine. This letter sets out our current position as a school and explains how we can possibly offer support as a community.

The complex political nature of this rapidly developing conflict is something that many children are asking questions about. Our staff are following government advice and we are carefully supporting King Edwin children with appropriate age related responses to any questions they pose. This is not particularly easy as we are all learning about the conflict on a day to day basis through our national media platforms.

The advice below offers support for our KingEdwinner families in the event that you are asked questions or wish to discuss the conflict with your children. We believe every parent has the right to do what they feel is best for their family and as such we are simply signposting to materials that could be useful at this difficult time.

What is happening in Ukraine can be frightening for both children and adults. Ignoring or avoiding the topic may lead to children feeling lost, alone and more scared, which can affect their health and wellbeing. It may be useful to have open and honest conversations with children to help them process what is happening.

Experts at Save the Children share five tips that caregivers can use to approach the conversation with children:

- 1. Make time and listen when your child wants to talk** Give children the space to tell you what they know, how they feel and to ask you questions. They may have formed a completely different picture of the situation than you have. Take the time to listen to what they think, and what they have seen or heard.
- 2. Tailor the conversation to the child** Be mindful of the child's age as you approach the conversation with them. Young children may not understand what conflict or war means and require an age-appropriate explanation. Be careful not to over-explain the situation or go into too much detail as this can make children unnecessarily anxious. Younger children may be satisfied just by understanding that sometimes countries fight. Older children are more likely to understand what war means but may still benefit from talking with you about the situation. In fact, older children will often be more concerned by talk of war because they tend to understand the dangers better than younger children do.
- 3. Validate their feelings** It is important that children feel supported in the conversation. They should not feel judged or have their concerns dismissed. When children have the chance to have an open and honest conversation about things upsetting them, it can create a sense of relief and safety.
- 4. Reassure them that adults all over the world are working hard to resolve this** Remind children that this is not their problem to solve. They should not feel guilty about playing, seeing their friends, and doing the things that make them happy. Stay calm when you approach the conversation. Children often copy the sentiments of their caregivers – if you are uneasy about the situation, chances are your child will be uneasy as well.



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5. Consider giving a practical way to help and support children who want to help. Children who have the opportunity to help those affected by the conflict can feel like they are part of the solution.

The links below offer further support:

- [Supporting children to manage anxiety over war, conflict and crises | BPS](#)
- [War, Crisis, Tragedy: How to talk with kids when the news is scary - MindShift \(kqed.org\)](#)
- [Advice if you're upset by the news - CBBC Newsround](#)
- [Talking to your children about scary world news | Mental Health Foundation](#)

How can our KingEdwinner community help?

We are aware of several support operations being organised locally and regionally. As a school we have decided to signpost families towards organisations that are arranging relief for those impacted by the crisis. Our families will be able to choose for themselves how they wish to respond to the humanitarian crisis. This maybe via monetary donations or donations of non-perishable products.

- [Ukraine crisis: donate now to protect children - Unicef UK](#)
- [DEC Ukraine Appeal | British Red Cross](#)
- [Ukraine Local collection point - Sharon Weston | Facebook](#) [Spray Tech Boughton Ind. Est.](#)
- [Ukraine Local collection point- Edwinstowe Cricket Club | Facebook](#)
- [Nexus on Church Street, Mansfield](#), are accepting donations between 8.30am and 5pm this week. Clothing, non-perishable foods and first aid supplies are needed



Sadly, we anticipate that the crisis is very much in its infancy and it looks set to continue for a significant period of time. Obviously we will keep communicating with our parents. There may be more we can do as a school in the near future. Please use our social media platforms to share any useful documents or support links. We will share and support the work of any appropriate organisations.

[King Edwin Primary School Edwinstowe | Facebook](#)

[King Edwin Primary School \(@kingedwinners\) Instagram photos and videos](#)

No doubt there will be families and colleagues in our community that have family and friends that are affected by the conflict in Ukraine and our heartfelt thoughts are with them.

Andy Callaghan – Wetton
Executive Headteacher

*** Don't forget – we are always here to help, no matter how trivial people feel that the need is, it's good to talk and share a concern... we may be able to signpost you towards support – contact us via helpandsupport@kingEdwin.notts.sch.uk**



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