



Bapchild & Tonge CE (Aided) Primary School and Nursery

Headteacher: Mr C Kelly

School Lane
Bapchild
Kent ME9 9NL

email: office@bapchild.kent.sch.uk

Tel: 01795 424143

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Dear Parents/Carers

Russia – Ukraine Conflict

With recent world events in Europe, we have been considering as a school how we can support our children with this challenging situation. It may be that you have been faced with a similar dilemma at home, and so I have attached a few links at the end of this letter which you may find useful, depending on your child's age and/ maturity levels. Mrs Gambell has also attached a Social Story designed to support a conversation with an older child who may be feeling anxious about the news.

We have thought carefully about how we will speak to children about the conflict and have decided on the following approach:

EYFS and KS1: Bible Verse: *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God"* (Matthew 5:9)

We will not be making direct reference to war or conflict in school for children in these year groups. If a child asks any direct questions, we will reassure them that they are safe and that what people want most is peace. We will be carrying out some practical activities (see below) linked to 'peace in the world' and why our Christian Values of Compassion, Friendship and Forgiveness are important.

KS2: Bible Verse: *"If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men"* (Romans 12:18)

For KS2 children, the focus will be on peace and the fact that most people caught up in conflicts, anywhere in the world, and in both Russia and Ukraine, want these conflicts to end and to go back to their normal lives. As individuals, we can take responsibility for our own actions, and do what we can to help out in small ways, such as practical activities in school (see below). We will emphasise how our Christian Values of Compassion, Friendship and Forgiveness are particularly important in these circumstances.

"Sunflower" Donations

We have decided to model 'practical action' with the children and, on Friday, every child will plant a sunflower seed and decorate a pot for it to go in. The sunflower is the national flower of Ukraine, and discussions will take place as outlined above depending on the child's year group.

On Monday after school, parents can come and collect their child's sunflower and have the opportunity to make a donation to the British Red Cross.

Further Resources

On the reverse of this letter is a Social Story which you may find useful if your older child is feeling anxious. There are also some KS2-friendly news reports on Newsround, although we would recommend you view them yourself first to check they are appropriate for your child.

For younger children, this may not be suitable, instead reassuring them that they are safe.

As adults we will remain sensitive to different viewpoints and do not promote any political opinion. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss further.

Kind regards
C Kelly