



St Mary's C.E. Primary School

Stocks Lane, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S75 2DF

Tel: 01226 206422

Executive Head Teacher: Mr. Lee Spencer

Deputy Head: Mr. Curtis White

Email: www.barnsley-stmarys.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter @stmarysbarnsley



Tuesday 1st March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you today regarding a very sensitive topic unfolding in Ukraine. This past week has seen a generation of children witness war in Europe for the first time. Our children will be acutely aware that on the other side of Europe, a country full of children just like them will be waking up and going to school in fear or being forced to leave their homes.

Children today are a generation who feel connected across the world through social media. Whether it is through the Champions League, the Eurovision Song Contest or parkour videos on YouTube, children in England and Ukraine have a set of shared experiences and cultural reference points. Having spoken to the children since September, I know how keenly children will feel this. If there is one thing that comes out of our regular pupil questionnaires, it is that children care passionately about the world around them, especially other children.

We should not hide what is happening, but support children in understanding it. We must remember that children can find solace in being part of a wider community that is comprehending and responding to these events. Our children can often use these experiences to find their voice and become empowered members of society. I know this is a difficult topic to speak about with your children and we will be doing this with sensitivity in school.

I am also extremely aware about our school community and offering full support to our families. Please remember my door is always open if you need to talk or want any support. With our families in mind and on the back of discussions with some parents today, we are welcoming donations as a Hub for the refugee crisis unfolding in Ukraine. Donations can be made until Thursday 3rd of March.

Items for donation:

- Warm clothes for adults & children
- Gloves
- Footwear
- Pillows
- Sleeping bags
- Tents
- Blankets
- Back packs
- Thermos'
- Torches
- Candles
- Prams for children
- Plasters
- Bandages
- Painkillers
- Nappies
- Sanitary pads
- Toilet rolls
- Cleaning products
- Dry food - anything that is nonperishable to survive the journey to Poland and neighbouring countries

Thank you, Mr White