



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Monday 7th March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Ukraine – support for parents and children

We are very aware that children of all ages are seeing and hearing lots about the current devastating situation in Ukraine. The news and social media feeds are filled with the latest information, and some of it is very upsetting and worrying. Whilst we are geographically far away from the events, it will affect everyone differently, and many in our communities will be directly affected. We need to be sensitive and prepared to answer any questions the children may have.

At school this will be discussed in an age appropriate way dealing directly with children's comments and not elaborating in any way. We will also keep in our prayers the people suffering both in Ukraine and Russia, throughout this season of Lent, which started last Wednesday.

We are aware that you may be concerned about how to address some of the issues raised by children at home. Please find below some links to articles written for parents and teachers on how to support both you and your child, as you navigate your way to finding an explanation to this truly tragic situation we are all now experiencing.

[DfE's Education Hub](#) This link has help for teachers and families to talk to pupils about Russia's invasion of Ukraine and how to help them avoid misinformation.

[Childnet](#) which will support you talking to children about upsetting news content

[BBC Newsround](#) which has some good age appropriate information, about both the conflict and how it may make children feel.

Please also find attached with this letter an information sheet from Barnardos with suggestions about how to talk to your child.

Yours sincerely,

Paula Carlton
Headteacher

