



Discovery Drive Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4GJ

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Headteacher - Miss Tina Gobell

Deputy Headteacher - Miss Jenny Baker

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Friday 4th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Situation in Ukraine

We are certain that you will have seen the very worrying and distressing news arising from the war in Ukraine. Inevitably, the news has become a feature of some of the children's conversations and questions in school. The School has considered carefully how we will respond to the children and we wanted to share with you our approaches and some resources that you may find useful.

We are mindful that some families will have shielded their children from the news, whereas for others, it will have been impossible to do so. We will be considerate of this when addressing any questions in school.

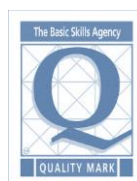
As an immediate response, we have placed a hold on our regular access to news sources, like Newsround, for our younger children.

Our overall approach will be to keep things as normal as possible, not to focus unnecessarily on events overseas and to reassure the children who may be worried. The school's approach will also be dependent upon the children's ages and individual needs and will need to continually adapt as the situation evolves.

1. We will make time to **listen to the children** about their concerns and answer their questions in an age appropriate way. This response will vary from class to class, dependent on the pupil dynamic, viewpoints and experiences. For some classes we may address misconceptions or answer questions on an individual basis, for others, where children are directly affected by the events overseas, it may be a group or whole class circle time.
2. **Encouraging respect** – as we have a number of families of Russian and Ukrainian backgrounds, we will be carefully selecting the language that we use in school so as not to cause further unnecessary distress to them. It is important to recognise that the decision to invade Ukraine was made by politicians and not the Russian people. We will refer to Vladimir Putin invading Ukraine and not the Russian people.
3. **Encouraging emotional literacy** – We will speak to the children about how they feel and help them to develop their empathy for others. We will remind them that they can show empathy for the people of Ukraine without feeling guilty for doing the things that make them happy.
4. Ensuring our older children are able to **identify misinformation** and seek out the facts from trusted adults.
5. Encouraging **faith in humanity** – focusing on the way that people are helping. We will reassure the children that adults all around the world are coming together to work for peace.



2020-2023





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If at any time your child expresses anxieties or distress, we will of course inform you so that you are aware.

The following advice is also available to parents from trusted sources:

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/blogs/2022/how-to-talk-to-children-about-war>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/13865002>

For those families directly affected by the events in Ukraine, or any parents who are particularly concerned about the impact on their children, please contact Mrs Lihou, our Family Liaison Officer (alihou@discovery.kent.sch.uk), so that bespoke support can be arranged.

Let us all hope that the awful events in Ukraine come to a peaceful end soon.

With kind regards,

Miss T Gobell

Headteacher

Hannah Pullen *she/her/Mrs*

Head of Inclusion

