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02/03/2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I sent an email to you all this morning referring to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and how we are dealing with this issue in school.

We feel that the children have had a great deal of emotional upheaval over the last two years and we want to ensure that the situation in Ukraine does not add to the anxieties many of them have felt or are still experiencing. Nonetheless, we acknowledge that some children may want to talk and some may need reassurance. In these cases, staff would discuss issues sensitively with the children, individually, to establish facts that are appropriate for their age, experience and level of understanding, taking account of their personal circumstances. We would, for example, intervene if a child was expressing views that were clearly misinformed or upsetting to another pupil.

At the same time, as a school, we want to fully support the plight of the Ukrainian people and encourage empathy from the pupils. The global response has been immense and this is something that we can discuss with the children and be part of.

For this reason, I was delighted to receive an email last night from one of our pupils in Ash Class. I'm sure she won't mind me sharing it with you:

*'Dear miss Stephenson*

*Could we please do a book sale at school to raise money for the children in Ukraine? I thought it would be nice because it is also World Book Day. Everyone could bring the old books that they have and then people can buy them . If not they can give a donation to raise money.*

*I thought I could make a poster and you could tell all the parents?*

*I have decided to raise money for Ukraine for lent instead of giving something up.*

*Yours Sincerely*

*Philippa'*

In response to Philippa's considerate idea, please send any unwanted children's books into school over the next two days and a book sale will be organised for the pupils. Children can bring money into school (see attached poster) for this purpose and proceeds will go to the Save the Children Ukraine Appeal (see link below).

Further donations to this charity can also be made via this link:

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/how-you-can-help/emergencies/ukraine-appeal>

### **Clubs**

Clubs are popular this half-term. I will share further details about what the clubs entail and email these out as soon as club leaders have had chance to respond.

### **Tree Planting**

Many thanks to Jackie Cornish and her wonderful children for their superb efforts and further commitment over the half-term break. They have worked so hard to plant the hedge separating the field from the planned wildlife area.

We still need help - look out for an email that will be sent out to gather the troops detailing a tree planting Saturday to take place on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Anybody will be welcome and we hope as many people as possible will attend. It is important that all trees are in the ground by the end of this day.

### **Parent/Carer Consultations**

Parents/carers consultations with teachers will take place on the week commencing 28th March. This will be an opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher to discuss their progress and look at their work. These meetings are planned to take place, either in person or online. Please complete this short questionnaire (see link below) to express your preferred method of meeting so that arrangements can be made. For parents/carers preferring to meet online, arrangements can be made with the class teachers to share children's work.

<https://forms.office.com/r/4KZekCcSgf>

### **World Book Day**

Tomorrow promises to be a fun day with children turning up dressed as book characters or in their pyjamas. Please remind them to bring in suitable clothes if they are taking part in clubs after school. We look forward to taking photos to share on our website.

### **Website**

Although still receiving a final polish, with a few tweaks to be made and updates remaining, our school website has been launched: <https://barrow1618school.co.uk/> It would be great to receive any feedback or further suggestions.

### **Second Hand Uniform Shop – 'Uniformd'**

We are pleased to inform you that we have also launched our second hand uniform shop, which can be found here - <https://www.uniformd.co.uk/barrow1618> Simply add what you need to your basket, make a secure online payment, and the office will email you when the items are ready for collection.

We are selling donated, good quality uniform at a fraction of the cost, with money raised from sales going to school. With Uniformd, you have year round access to essential items at a fraction of the price, perfect for replacing items that go missing or get outgrown as your children grow.

Your donations are essential to the Uniformd ecosystem thriving. By donating your son or daughter's old uniforms, you are directly helping families within the Barrow community as well as reducing our school's collective environmental impact.

Finally, Mr Holmes has begun his paternity leave and will be absent from school for the next two weeks. We are all waiting to hear news and will keep you posted!

Yours sincerely,  
Sian Stephenson  
(Headteacher)