3 March 2022

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

**World Book Day**

Wow! Our children have really taken on the “wear something bright and colourful” theme for this year’s World Book Day and the whole school rainbow photograph looks superb. As I write children are also enjoying wide ranging activities related to World Book Day. I am delighted to see the enthusiasm which children of all ages show to books and reading, not just today but on a daily basis. Developing reading skills and positivity, from initial phonics and exciting picture books right through to free reading and comprehension skills relating to quite complex texts, really is our overriding priority.

If you can only do one thing with your child, then daily reading or with older children ensuring they read daily is definitely the one to do. Thank you all for your support and once again if you have any spare time and would like to come into school to read with children please get in touch with any member of staff.

**Ukraine**

Whether parents / carers specifically talk about them or not, children inevitably pick up on world events either through the media or conversations with adults or other children. This may be national or international politics (children often talked about President Trump), sporting events like the Olympics, Covid or whatever else has a high profile at that time. This naturally includes any conflict and the war in Ukraine obviously has a great deal of coverage at the moment. As with Covid it is important that schools are a place where children feel safe to ask questions and to express and have addressed any fears they may have; not talking about events leaves them open to potentially worrying information picked up from each other. I talked very briefly and in an age appropriate way about Ukraine on Monday as a couple of children had openly asked me and other staff “Are we going to be in a war? Will it affect me?” It is good that children feel confident to express their fears and it is vital that we address and alleviate these fears at an age appropriate level.

Charles Darwin has always subscribed to a children’s news scheme called Picture News which we use as appropriate in assemblies or classes. It is a brilliant source of information and changes weekly; past topics have included environmental issues, Marcus Rashfords’ food poverty campaign, inclusion and diversity as well as many others. I have attached the Picture News information we have received this week and will use this as a base for talking to our older children in the near future, it is obviously too detailed for our younger children.

A combined charities Emergency Disaster Committee appeal was launched today to which the Government has said they will match every pound; I will meet our school council tomorrow to see what they would like to do in terms of fundraising to support this.

Thank you for your support.

Adam Croft