



King's Academy Binfield



## Dare to be Remarkable

04/03/22

### Head of Primary News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Whilst we have had a wonderful time in school this week, we know that the tragedy and difficulty in the news is upsetting and difficult to observe. Some of your children are aware of the situation in Ukraine and some are not. We wanted to let you know that we will not specifically be teaching the children about what is happening but that we will answer any questions, in an age appropriate way that the children might have.

The following strategies are ways that we will be supporting any child who is feeling frightened or stressed:

**Talk to the children** – We instinctively want to protect children from things that might frighten them; however, not talking about something can make children more scared. We will continue watching Newsround with our students in class assemblies and will also allow them to continue reading the children's First News Newspapers that we have delivered weekly.

**Answer questions** – Staff at school will always listen to any worries and provide honest answers to their questions about what is going on; we will give honest, simple answers should any questions arise to support those feeling anxious. Avoiding answering their questions about the situation could promote more anxiety, so we plan to keep to basic facts. We also recognise that too much information can be overwhelming.

**Reassure them** – Children often personalise situations and may perceive the danger to be closer to home. We are letting them know that, although the war is very serious, they do not need to worry about it happening in their local area. We are telling them that they are safe and taken care of by their families and school. We can talk about Ukraine and show them where it is in relation to England, if necessary, using a globe or map. Children may also ask us what the impact might be on the lives of children and young people over there. With this, it is important to be realistic, we cannot promise that no one will get hurt. Overall, we can help children feel safe by letting them know we will always care for them no matter what. And we will point out that many people are doing good and showing solidarity; messages of security and safety are important for all children, as are examples of people helping and working hard to support those who have lost their homes or can't go to school.

## Opportunity and Success on a Global Stage

Kings Group Academies is a company registered in England and Wales with company registration number 09017776

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Principal: Mrs Sarah Howells

**Avoid stereotyping** – We will not lay the blame on any nation and will always challenge hateful talk. We have a legal duty to provide an impartial and balanced view of any political matter. We do occasionally use Newsround as an age appropriate, unbiased news programme and will continue to use this. We will however, continually monitor the frequency and the appropriateness of the programme for our children.

I hope this will reassure you and also give you some helpful strategies to use at home.  
Kind Regards,

*J Tate*

Jacqueline Tate  
Head of Primary



- **Thursday 3rd March:** World Book Day
- **10th/11th/12th March:** Secondary Phase production of We Will Rock you!
- **Friday 11th March:** Year 1 Windsor Castle Trip
- **Wednesday 15th March:** Wellbeing Day
- **Tuesday 29th March:** Fantastic Fred NHS Theatre Show KAO
- **Wednesday 30th March:** Parents Evening
- **Thursday 31st March:** Fantastic Fred NHS Theatre Show KAB/Parents Evening

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## Ruby

Ruby Class have been very enthusiastic about our new topic 'Marvellous Minibeasts'. We made our own wormery which was very exciting to make and we had lots of fun digging outside to find some worms to introduce to their new home. We now spend lots of time observing the worms in the wormery and watching them wiggle and dig tunnels in the soil.

We have been learning lots of new minibeast names and have learnt some impressive facts. Did you know a spider has 8 legs, 8 eyes and 48 knees?

Shrove Tuesday would not be complete without making and tasting pancakes. Ruby Class loved measuring the ingredients and mixing the batter to make pancakes. The best bit was eating them for snack! We have also had lots of imaginative play with a pancake theme and enjoyed learning a new pancake song.

**Word of the week (last week):** Marvellous

**Word of the week:** Investigate



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## Emerald

Last week, Emerald class had great fun with the text 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'. They loved retelling the story and making their own map of the bear hunt story. We all enjoyed saying all the onomatopoeias in the story, like 'swishy swashy' and 'squelch squerch!' The children learnt about different types of bears and enjoyed going on their very own bear hunt around our classroom and garden, using tally marks to record the number of bears they found.

This week, we've been learning about Pancake Day using the book 'Mr Wolf's pancakes'. We had great fun making pancakes on Tuesday and the children did some really careful weighing, measuring and mixing to make the batter. We devoured our pancakes with some tasty toppings! We've had fun pancake races and have really been perfecting our pancake flipping skills with a maths game where we had to see how many flips of the pancake we could do in a minute!

Yesterday we had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day...

**Word of the week (last week):** Onomatopoeia

**Word of the week:** Devour



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## Opal

What a lovely couple of weeks Opal class have had. Last Thursday we had our Kings and Queens Day which was spectacular! We enjoyed learning about what a monarch is and thought about what we would do if we were King or Queen for the day. There were lots of ideas such as looking after everyone and making sure that everyone is kind to each other. We also thought that eating sweets all day would be fun! In the afternoon, we also had a ball and a banquet which everybody enjoyed a lot.

Yesterday, we had another very special day; World Book Day! Everyone looked so fantastic in their costumes. We had fun making a wonderful book display on our door, writing our own stories and we also had a special treat reading with some Year 10 children.

In English, we have started to learn a new story; 'The Stinky Cheese Man'. It is a very funny version of 'The Gingerbread Man'. The children have started to learn the story so well and have been focussing on using nouns and adjectives to write a character description.

**Word of the week (last week):** Monarch

**Word of the week:** Disgusting



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## Topaz

The children have had a wonderful first two weeks back in school after half term. They have been doing writing activities based on the book, *The Paper Bag Princess*. First they wrote a sensory description of the castle in the story after it had been destroyed by the dragon. They have now moved on and are getting ready to write a diary entry from the point of view of the dragon in the story.

In maths, the children have worked hard to understand the difference between 2D and 3D shapes, learn about the properties of 2D shapes and to find lines of symmetry in 2D shapes. In Design and Technology, the children have started to learn about pulley mechanisms as they begin to design their own model catapult. We will be continuing this project over the half term and the children will test their catapults before the Easter Holidays by seeing if they can fire a paper ball over the model castle walls and knock down any of the little characters. This project fits really well with our history unit of work on Castles. The children started this new topic with a web quest where they all worked with a partner to find the answers to key questions about castles on a blog.

Finally, they all had a smashing World Book Day and worked phenomenally well as a whole class to redesign our classroom door as the cover of a favourite book from Year 1 - *The Magic Faraway Tree*.

**Word of the week (last week):** palindrome

**Word of the week:** source



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