

Otterham C P School

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2nd March 2022

Dear Parents

After an interesting end to the half term in terms of Covid and the weather, we have returned with Covid still present (predictably) and also the uncertainties and trauma surrounding the conflict in Ukraine.

On the Covid front, not a lot has changed in terms of how to deal with cases in a primary school setting. For staff, the requirement to test twice weekly has been removed (although many will wish to continue this practice) but the advice to test should any symptoms present themselves, remains the same as it does for adults and children in the community. Should anyone test positive it is important that they remain at home for 10 days or until they test negative for two consecutive days following day five. We thank you for your support in not sending children to school displaying possible symptoms unless you have carried out a LFD test that has come back negative.

There is an overwhelming desire amongst the global community to offer support to the people of Ukraine in their moment of need. After considering having collections of items here in school, the logistics of then moving them on to a distribution centre become tricky. Instead, here are a few places that are collecting currently in North Cornwall, if you would like to make a donation.

- Sir James Smith's School. It is a tight time schedule, but if items such as coats, blankets, tents, warm clothing (adults and children) could be dropped off by the end of the school day tomorrow (Thursday 3rd March), arrangements are being made to take them over.
- Polski Shop, Bodmin, Cornwall – 67 Fore St Bodmin tel: 07590 269440 Again, quite a tight turn around as they are leaving for Poland on Sunday. Clothing no longer needed but blankets, quilts, warm coats, toiletries, basic medical supplies and anything for babies would be much appreciated.
- Cornish Moo, South Hellescott Farm, Launceston, PL15 8LL. Another tight turn around as we think they are heading out this weekend. Same items being asked for as above.

If anyone has items to donate but is unable to make it to one of the donation points, please do drop in to school as there are people who may be able to take them for you.

Going forward, there are inevitably going to be ongoing collections. Please let us know of any that may be local to you as we can share with the community.

Resources are fast becoming available to help adults communicate with children about the conflict – please see the leaflet produced by Dragonfly. A quick search online will produce many such resources and for older children, Newsround can be a useful starting point. Reducing the amount of exposure to the news and considering the content of adult conversations that take place within earshot are advisable in order to reduce anxiety.

A reminder of upcoming events.....

Thursday 3rd March – World Book Day (potato character and favourite book)

Saturday 5th March – St Piran's Day (we'll be sharing the St Piran story but be sure to eat a pasty)

Wednesday 9th March – Netball Tournament (arrangements TBC)

As always, any questions, please ask.

Kind regards
Helen Ward