



*Where Children Come First*

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Hello all

Very sadly, Russia's invasion of the Ukraine continues. With death tolls rising and aggression wreaking havoc in neighbourhoods, communities and across the country; now, more than ever is time to show solidarity and support for the Ukrainian nation.

Seeing footage of the devastation in Ukraine and listening to victims of this war serves as a reminder of why it is important for us all to continue to engage in the humanitarian relief effort - to rally, doing anything and everything we can to help.

Global charities operating in the UK and Ukraine are appealing for funds to offer aid in the humanitarian crisis. For example, Unicef, the UN's children's charity, is helping to ensure families have clean water and food and that child health and protection services continue and Save the Children, which is providing cash assistance, food and other support to refugees crossing into Romanian and Lithuania, as well as in Ukraine itself. As you know, there are some Banbury organisations asking for donations which they are sending across to help. It is humbling to hear of so many families in Oxfordshire offering to sponsor Ukrainian families, providing accommodation in their homes as well as helping secure school places for children.

To put oneself in the shoes of these families, mums and dads is unthinkable - irreversible damage to lives.

I know that many of you are proactive in gathering food, clothes, bedding, medicines, toiletries, nappies etc for the drop off points/hubs in the area. As a school, we have not got the capacity/space to collect, but anything you can do to keep the momentum will be hugely appreciated and life-changing for Ukrainians at this time. Donations are coming in from across the region thick and fast which is awesome; I think manpower is the next big thing needed as well as accommodation for Ukrainians coming to Britain for safety.

From using cash donations to help people in the warzone or fleeing bombs, to enabling refugees to resettle in the UK, here are some of the groups offering support in the crisis.

## Donations

Global charities operating in the UK and Ukraine are appealing for funds to offer aid in the humanitarian crisis.

Sean Ryan, media director of Save the Children, said: "The best way to help is to make a cash donation."

He said collecting supplies like blankets or infant formula means transporting heavy goods hundreds of miles, whereas cash can reach people quickly to buy what is needed.

Among the organisations collecting funds for Ukraine are include:



- The British Red Cross, which has launched an appeal to help the Ukrainian Red Cross to provide food, medicine, clothing and shelter, as well as first aid training in bomb shelters and, in the last few days, 15,000 litres of drinking water to villages in eastern Ukraine
- The UNHCR refugee agency, which is funding emergency shelters, repairs for homes damaged by shelling, emergency cash assistance, psychological support and warm clothing
- Unicef, the UN's children's charity, which is helping to ensure families have clean water and food and that child health and protection services continue
- Save the Children, which is providing cash assistance, food and other support to refugees crossing into Romanian and Lithuania, as well as in Ukraine itself.
- The Disasters Emergency Committee, an umbrella group for 15 of the UK's leading aid charities, is also running an appeal, donations to which will be doubled by the government up to a total of £20m.

As a school, our Student Council will be running an additional fundraiser to donate to The Disasters Emergency Committee - more information to follow. I hope that as well as other donations that our community have made, we can pull together as The Grange and do our bit.

<https://www.dec.org.uk/>

There is also this link for the coordination of local efforts to accommodate arriving Ukrainian refugees:

<https://www.hubhelpukraine.org/>

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeH3Knm\\_NPotRLSzfYCzUCo5XPU9i3QUG3DfOr3tRxyreRXPg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeH3Knm_NPotRLSzfYCzUCo5XPU9i3QUG3DfOr3tRxyreRXPg/viewform)

The support is inspirational: let's hope the war will end very soon. Until then, whatever help and support we can give will be a huge help.

Many thanks all.

Ms Boswell

