

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Staff, Parents and Carers,

I recently wrote to you about our response to the crisis unfolding in Ukraine. We stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and the communities affected by this conflict - and this includes residents with roots in Russia, and the wider region who will also, of course, have grave concerns about what is happening. The Blue Kite Academy Trust strives to be inclusive and compassionate. It is crucial that we all stand together and support each other during these troubling times – and offer reassurance to all our communities across Swindon amid this fast-moving situation.

### **Supporting Ukraine**

After considering the different options open to us and researching the best and most meaningful ways to help, we have decided that our role should be to raise money for the organisations that are helping and ensure that the support we give gets directly to them. We also wanted it to be easy for parents to be able to reach as many different types of aid as possible. To that end, we are creating a Trust Just Giving page. I understand that there are a lot of demands on your time and money at the moment. There is Red Nose Day on top of that, but if every child gave just £1 we would raise over £3000. Some families might not be able to and that's fine, some may give more. Either way, together we can make a tangible difference.

The Trust will then work through these agencies to ensure the money raised goes to those who need it most.

To donate please use the following link:

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/thebluekite-academytrust?utm\\_term=9WXedgzbi](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/thebluekite-academytrust?utm_term=9WXedgzbi)

### **Supporting our children and families:**

As well as ensuring both staff and parents have been given information on how best to manage the talking and teaching about the crisis, we have also reorganised our Lighthouse Early Intervention Team to prioritise any children who are being adversely affected as the situation unfolds. This is in addition to the good work they normally do across our schools. Letters have been sent directly to parents and our school websites will have new information and links about how to help.

### **Supporting our staff:**

All our staff have had information about the best way to approach the crisis in their lessons and with their classes. We have wellbeing and mental health packages that can be accessed at any time. In addition to this, we are planning an open session for all staff, where we will share the latest approaches and resources connected to the Ukraine. We will hold an open surgery session for them to ask questions about any issues that are arising in our schools.

If you have any specific concerns, or issues we could help with, then please contact us directly on [admin@bluekitrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@bluekitrust.org.uk)

Regards

Mr Gary Evans  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Blue Kite Academy Trust