



## Ukraine

The ongoing situation in Ukraine is deeply distressing for us all. Following on from my e mail to parents last week, I wanted to share some resources to support conversations you may be having with your children. Even if your child is not watching the news, they may still hear about these events in other ways, and this may cause anxiety for them.

Children in Years 3-6 regularly watch BBC Newsround during the week. This is specifically targeted at children and I would recommend this as a means for children keeping up to date with world events generally. We are also discussing events and having a regular time for reflection in our assemblies. Clearly, there is a strong link to our school value for this half term, which is peace. Staff will respond calmly to any specific questions from children, and in an age appropriate manner.

I would recommend the following links for sources of advice, and will provide updates as I am notified of other resources:

Supporting your child if they see upsetting content online about what is happening in Ukraine (Childnet)  
<https://www.childnet.com/blog/supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content/>

We should not hide from children what is happening in Ukraine (Schools Week/Children's Commissioner)  
<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/we-should-not-hide-from-children-what-is-happening-in-ukraine/>

Advice for children from Childline if they are worried about Russia and Ukraine  
<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-involved/articles/worrying-about-russia-ukraine/>

How To Talk To Your Child About The War In Ukraine (YoungMinds)  
<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/blog/top-tips-for-talking-to-your-young-person-about-the-events-in-ukraine/>

I know from speaking to parents that many in our school and community are directly affected and have families or roots in the region. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you feel your child or family are particularly being impacted by events in Ukraine, so that we can look to provide support.

## COVID- a reminder

We are continuing to follow advice from the Haringey Public Health team.

We are continuing to:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone.

- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19 (see below)

Pupils, staff and other adults should continue to self-isolate when required to do so.

- They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).
- If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they should be sent them home and they should follow public health advice.
- If a staff member or a child experiences a fever, a cough or a loss of sense of smell/taste then they should self-isolate and book a PCR test.
- If a staff member or a child experiences wider symptoms of COVID-19 (sore throat, headache, runny nose, headache, excessive sneezing) then they should take a lateral flow test before returning to school.
- This testing requirement will be reviewed when access to free testing is ended nationally on the 1st April.

## Information for parents and carers on COVID-19 vaccination for at risk 5 to 11 year olds

I have been asked to share the following information with parents by the DfE.

Children aged 5 to 11 years who are in a clinical risk group or who live with someone who is immunosuppressed can get the COVID-19 vaccine, in line with advice set out by the [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\)](#). Eligible children include those with diabetes, immunosuppression, learning disabilities, and other conditions as outlined by the [UK Health Security Agency \(UKHSA\) in the Green Book](#).

Vaccinations help to increase protection against COVID-19, which is particularly important for those with underlying health conditions.

Further information is available in the [guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years](#) published by UKHSA. We have published some [frequently asked questions](#) on the vaccination programme including information on eligibility, accessibility and advice for parents of children at high risk from COVID-19.

Following [advice](#) from the JCVI, healthy 5 to 11 year old children will also be offered two 10 microgram doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. The NHS will prepare to extend this non-urgent offer to all children during April.

### **Thank you parents and carers!**

Parents' consultation meetings for the main school are continuing via SchoolCloud this evening.

Prior to these consultations, we sent all the children's books home for a weekend, to enable these to be reviewed prior to the virtual meetings with teachers. As these are such a vital record of the children's learning, this was done with a certain level of trepidation! However, I would like to thank everyone for their support in all books for every child being back at school on the Monday morning, so there was no disruption to learning. **Thank you!**

As has already been shared, meetings for parents of children in Nursery have been postponed due to staff absences, and will be rescheduled in due course.

### **Ofsted**

In March 2015, St. Aidan's was inspected by Ofsted and received an outstanding judgement. In November 2019, we then had a subject specific inspection which looked at the teaching of history. Since then, we have continued to evolve our practice and offer to the children.

After a period of being exempt from inspection due to this grading, all schools previously judged as outstanding are now due inspections by August 2025.

Since our last inspection, the framework under which schools are inspected has changed. Under the current framework, it has become increasingly difficult for schools that were previously judged as outstanding to retain this judgement. Between September and November last year, 74% of 'outstanding' schools inspected were now found to be 'good'. This trend has certainly continued since then. Ofsted have been clear that it does not mean that those schools have declined in recent years; rather, it is because those schools are now being judged under a different framework.

For those parents/carers who are keen to know more about this, you can access this [short two minute video](#) presented by Chris Russell from Ofsted talking about how they inspect outstanding schools"

All staff at St. Aidan's continue to have high expectations for all children and are continuing to ensure that children experience an excellent offer every day.

### **World Book Day**

World Book Day was back with a bang last week. I would like to personally thank all parents, carers and children for their efforts in making it such a success. Costumes displayed an abundance of creativity and clearly, a lot of thought and time was put in to them. I

would like to give special thanks to author and parent Teddy Keen, who enthralled the children in Blue, Indigo and Purple classes with his visit.

Amanda Munn, English subject leader

### **Another opportunity to celebrate reading at our Book Fair**

The Book Fair will be arriving in school soon, with hundreds of new children's books to browse and buy.

**Come and join us!**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> March**

**Books will be displayed opposite the Ball Court, before and after school**

There are over 200 titles for you and your child to choose from, and with prices starting from only £2.99, there's sure to be a book for everyone. Children will also be given a £1 book token, that can be used to exchange for one free World Book Day book or used as a discount on another book of choice. Payment will be taken by scanning a QR code on your mobile phone. If you can't make it to our Book Fair, you can pay online or try our Gift Vouchers available at:

[www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents](http://www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents)

They're a great way to ensure your child doesn't miss out.

**Don't forget that every book you buy can help us to get FREE BOOKS for our school library!**

Amanda Munn

Book Fair Organiser and English subject leader

### **Purple class fundraising project**

Many thanks to the school community for supporting Purple class's fundraising project. At the point of writing this, they have raised a fabulous £1291 for Save the Children.

Congratulations to Keita from KS1 and Kamil from KS2 who won the prize hampers, and to Indigo class who won a non-uniform day!

Purple class are still accepting donations via their Just Giving page:

<https://justgiving.com/fundraising/purpleclass>.

### **Staffing updates**

#### **New leadership appointments**

With the imminent retirement of Tessa Padel, our Inclusion Manager and Deputy Headteacher, at Easter, the Governing Body has reviewed its leadership structure. I am pleased to share that we have successfully recruited to two new posts.

Michael Speed has been appointed as our new Deputy Headteacher and will be teaching three days a week. Lucy Spreckley has been appointed as our new Inclusion Manager SENCO, and will be working three days a week. Both Michael and Lucy have significant teaching and leadership experience and we have planned induction visits so they are ready to take up

their new posts after Easter. I am sure you will join me in welcoming them to St. Aidan's.

#### Louise Wass

I regret to announce that following a period of ill health, Louise Wass has decided to retire from teaching. We would like to thank her for her ten years of service and the great care and commitment she has shown in her professional career as a teacher. We wish her well for the future.

#### Toyan Stewart

Toyan left St. Aidan's last week after completing a six month Kickstart placement with us, which are offered to young people at risk of long term unemployment. I am delighted to share that Toyan is now working locally as an escort to support vulnerable children on their journey to school.

#### **School money debts**

If your child has school meals, please can you ensure that any debts are settled as soon as possible. Your support with this will be much appreciated.

#### **Do you know the school's governors?**

Over the next few editions of Headlines, we'll be profiling members of the Governing Body to give parents information about who they are and what they do for the school.



#### **Fr Patrick Henderson: Foundation governor**

Father Patrick has been the priest at Holy Trinity Church since 2002 and a foundation governor at St Aidan's for 19 years. He is also a part-time chaplain at the local Church of England secondary school, Greig City Academy, and works with Fr. Ben in the parish of Holy Innocents, Hornsey. He was Chair of Governors for a number of years at a VA Church of England primary school in a previous parish.

He sits on the Care and Communications Committee at St. Aidan's and he is the link governor for RE. What he particularly enjoys about his work with St. Aidan's is his involvement with the children. This includes leading the KS2 clergy assemblies on Monday afternoons, visiting classes during Faith Week and, in normal times, welcoming the children to the church for their RE visits and school services at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and at the end of the summer term.



#### **Fr Ben Kerridge: Foundation governor**

Fr Ben has been a governor for four years, since becoming Vicar of Holy Innocents in Hornsey. On the governing body he sits on the resources committee and the pay committee. He is also the link governor for Modern Foreign Languages - he is an Italian speaker, and in a previous life spent six years as an English teacher in Italy. He gives regular assemblies in the school, and really enjoys interacting with the students on a whole range of religious and philosophical topics. He particularly enjoyed the training the school offered in philosophy for kids. He also works with St Mary's School in Hornsey.



#### **Laura McGill: Parent Governor**

Laura has been a governor at the school for two years. Her eldest child (Finn) is in Year 2 and her youngest (Frankie) is in Reception, after attending the school nursery. She sits on the Standards committee, which monitors teaching and learning, and is also the P.E. link governor. Laura also works as an English teacher at University College School in Hampstead where she has been teaching for the last decade, and is a Year 10 form tutor. In a previous role at UCS, Laura organised the Sixth Form volunteering partnerships with local charities, care homes and primary schools. Before joining UCS, Laura worked at Burlington Danes Academy in White City where she did her teacher training, and prior to that in financial PR and journalism.

#### **Parent Governor Vacancy**

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor. Notice of this vacancy were shared with parents via e mail on Monday. The deadline for nomination forms to be returned is noon on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

#### **Fundraising for St. Aidan's**

Many thanks to Claire Hollington, who is setting out on another 100km walk and has kindly offered to raise money for St. Aidan's.

[This link](#) has further details. Many thanks Claire and good luck!

### **Anchor project research project**

At St. Aidan's, we have been using the Anchor Approach to support the wellbeing of children, parents and staff. I have been approached by a team at UCL who are conducting research into its impact.

*The Anchor Approach resilience (<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/public-health/haringey-anchor-approach>) is being run at your child's school, and the impact of this intervention is currently being evaluated by researchers from University College London. We are particularly interested in your views as a parent, for example, whether you are aware of the Anchor Approach and what you think of it. This research will help to further strengthen the Anchor Approach, and its outcomes on your child's well-being.*

*We are organising one-hour long focus groups in order to hear your feedback. If you are interested in finding out more about the research or would like to participate, please identify your interest using the link [in this letter](#) by **March 25th**.*

*Best wishes,  
The UCL Research Team*

*Dr Jennifer McGowan  
([jennifer.a.l.mcgowan@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:jennifer.a.l.mcgowan@ucl.ac.uk)) and Isabella Rubens ([bella.rubens.18@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:bella.rubens.18@ucl.ac.uk))*

### **PSA update**

The minutes of this week's PSA meeting are attached to this edition of Headlines.

### **Do you drive your child to school?**

There are very few parents and carers who drive their children to St. Aidan's, as the vast majority of children walk, scoot, or cycle.

However, I would ask those that do drive to be mindful of others when dropping or collecting their children at school. A number of drivers are stopping on the yellow zig-zag lines, double parking or stopping their car in the middle of the road. This is putting their own children and others at risk.

There are also some drivers who are idling their engines, which will have an adverse impact on the air quality and for which you may receive a fixed penalty notice. [More details are available on the Haringey website via this link.](#)



Tickets for the Haringey Schools Music Festival – and the Haringey Music Service's highly anticipated and long-awaited return to the Royal Albert Hall on Friday 1 April 2022 (start 7pm) – are now on sale to the general public.

Featuring the St. Aidan's choir and other local primary and secondary school choirs and young musicians from all over our borough, there will be performances from the Haringey Young Musicians' ensembles including their Big Band, Guitar Orchestra, Percussion Group, Steel Band, Symphony Orchestra and Youth Choir. There will also be a specially commissioned piece featuring performers from SEND settings here in Haringey, along with world premieres of multiple works and a large-scale performance of the new work Songs for Unsung Heroes by Ty Lowe and Peter Desmond.

For further information or to purchase tickets for this joyous musical extravaganza, visit the Royal Albert Hall website.

## PSA Meeting Minutes 07.03.2022:

### Attendees

Anne-Louise Craven  
Hannah Robson  
Elaine Gutzmore  
Lucy Lorraine  
Alison Moriarty  
Kerryn Rossander  
Alexandra O'Dell  
Anne Etchells  
David Sansom  
Ela Karel  
Juliet Thornback  
Jessica Wilson  
Sophie McCullagh

### Spend Requests

Agreed spend for Red class toilet refurb today, with a view to reviewing works on Orange & Yellow class toilets imminently. Funding of curriculum-based items as per the breakdown in a recent letter to parents. Survey responses met with a resounding 'yes' to using PSA funds to pay for the following items:

- Target tracker subscription- £1269.75 *this is a platform used to track pupil attainment and progress across the school. Class teachers upload data about each child on a regular basis. The platform allows us to interrogate the data, looking for possible trends, and track the progress of groups of pupils.*
- Mathematics Mastery subscription- £2565 *we use Mathematic Mastery to deliver maths teaching across the school. Our annual subscription provides materials which teachers use on a daily basis to deliver lessons to their classes and ensure that we have a well-sequenced and interlinked Early Years, KS1 and KS2 curriculum. The subscription also enables us to access training and professional development, to ensure all staff keep up to date with the delivery of this core subject, as well as updates for the maths subject leader.*
- Islington Education Library Service- £1410 *we use the Islington Education Library Service to supplement our curriculum offer with a range of artefacts. Teachers can order boxes related to a subject they are teaching, with the librarians then making up a bespoke box of resources to support teaching. For example, history teaching may be supported by a box containing costumes, artefacts and relevant books.*
- ICT support, £5148 *our subscription to our ICT technician ensures that any issues with our ICT infrastructure are addressed in a timely manner. We all appreciate the frustrations and challenges of working with ICT when things go wrong! This support means that a weekly half day visit from a technician, specialising in schools' ICT support, keeps our systems and hardware running smoothly and allows any issues to be addressed in a timely manner*

Costs associated with the removal of a diseased tree in the corner of the ball court which posed a safety risk. An unexpected spend incurred by the school which required the use of a cherry picker.

### Voluntary Contributions Letter

Ali and Helen to draft a new letter to include a request for donation references for payment tracking purposes

### Admin

Trustees report to be uploaded to Charity Commission website by David/Anne-Louise

### Garden update

A big thank you for the PSA grant which was spent on hard landscaping.

The greenhouse is full of plants that the children have been growing from seed, the plan is to grow a mixture of veg and pollinating flowers.

Plan to do a whole school project this term following last term's 'rainbow of bulbs' project. The sunflower is this term's project which is the national flower of Ukraine. Every child will grow a sunflower.

The school garden has a Friday lunch time gardening club which is eagerly attended by 12-14 children each week. It would be ideal to hold a second weekly gardening club to encourage as much participation by the children as possible; any parent volunteers able to get involved please contact [hannahfayrobson@gmail.com](mailto:hannahfayrobson@gmail.com) or [susie.m.may@gmail.com](mailto:susie.m.may@gmail.com)

### Fundraising Events

Quiz – Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> May

Summer Fair – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

School Disco – date in June TBC – parents bar to be held in school garden

Parent volunteers needed for all of the above please.

*Note to PSA – licences needed for all of the above*

Additional fund-raising initiatives

Second Hand Uniform – potentially look to combine with something else i.e. cakes/books/anything else. Ela Karel has volunteered to support.

Community Library – Ela has also kindly volunteered to support.