

Friday 11 March 2022

**Headline:**

A competition of which I have just become aware, and which has had its deadline extended to the end of March, is an invitation for children to design a stained-glass window to celebrate the Mayoralty of Sir William Russell. William is a good friend of the school and broke ground all that time ago for the building development. Details are here. If your child would like to do this at home, just bring the designs to me and I will send them in.

<https://www.lordmayorreflects.london/craftsmanship-culture/roundels/schools/>

Dear Everyone

Last Friday I wrote to explain that the older children in the school had expressed a strong desire to do something for the plight of people affected by the war in Ukraine.

We met again on Monday morning, but without Year 5. On reflection, and from some of the responses, we felt that perhaps Year 5 was a little too young for some of the discussion.

The discussion was wide ranging both about what we could do to raise money, and also how we communicate what we are doing and why.

The summary is this.

- We would like to align with the Cathedral's choice of charity, The Red Cross. As an organisation it seeks to help both refugees and those in need in country.
- We felt that the explanation of what is happening is a matter for parents of *younger* children, but that parents should be reassured that children can talk about their concerns with teachers.
- We felt that whatever we do must as far as possible remain politically neutral – so, for example, wearing Ukrainian colours becomes a political act, and we should avoid that.

Fundraising ideas include: Mufti days (respectful smart clothing, not casual), bake sales, a pop-up spring fair and music. Other ideas will emerge, and I know contributions from the PTA's second-hand uniform sale that happened this week will go towards the Red Cross. Thank you for that. We are also aware that Comic Relief is coming up, and we will be looking at how that might dovetail with the Red Cross fundraising.

Taking these ideas up and seeing which can work without derailing the school will be our Head of Charities, supported by Mr Walker and Mr Brown. However, as you know, we have this week been enjoying the company of the ISI's inspectors and that has somewhat distracted 'normal business.'

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Here is something beautiful to listen to.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j8e0fBlvEMQ>

Very best wishes

Simon