



Compassion, Joy, Perseverance, Respect

28th February 2022

Picture News at Home

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Hunton, in our commitment to develop children's critical literacy skills we have teamed up with Picture News to help develop their understanding and appreciation of the news. Our children are growing up with technology and devices meaning that news, both real and fake, is ever present and they are very aware of it.

You may or may not have heard your children talking about Picture News. We have been using it for a few months now. Whichever is the case we want you to be more informed about how our children learn about the world around them and how this is put across. Picture News is used both in class worship and PSHE time.

We use the news as a stimulus for discussion, debate and challenge linking it to our school's values as well as British values. It provides a real life learning opportunity whether it be local or global news. Sometimes it inspires our children to be empathetic and actively make a difference.

We are sent weekly news packs which include a Picture News newspaper and we wish to share this with you. Each week we will be emailing this out as well as also adding each edition to our website.

Ukraine

We are aware that the tragic Ukraine crisis has led to our children asking questions and wanting answers. We are open to those questions and are concerned that some children want informed answers whilst others maybe anxious. This week we will be holding assemblies to help explain the situation to them. We will also be helping to support the Ukrainian people by collecting clothes and other necessary items. More information will follow this week. I am sure this will help our children too.

BBC Newsround is excellent in its explanation and reporting of Russia's invasion. Please click on this link [Advice if you're upset by the news - CBBC Newsround](#) . It is important to know that they are not alone in feeling anxious, that situations like this are rare and that their worries must be shared. We also emphasis that children need to do things during the day that makes them feel happy.

Having age-appropriate conversations with your child about the news keeps them interested and informed about what's happening in the world...and you too!

They move from wanting to know what happens in MY world to what is happening in THE world and their place in it. By having regular conversations about the news, you are able to share a whole range of topics and together make more sense of different events, issues and stories.

There are no rules or script to follow but you might want to watch, listen, read and discuss the news selectively. Some significant news stories can be frightening, and you will need to consider what your child can cope with and whether they are developmentally ready to understand certain events. For example, you might decide to listen to the news rather than watch it as there may be images they might find upsetting.

Talking about the major headlines of the day and current affairs is important so that children grow up as global citizens but it's important too to share a variety of fun and exciting news stories from the worlds of sport, entertainment, music, science etc. as well as local news closer to home.

Compassion, Joy, Perseverance, Respect

Here are some quick tips:

- news using the Picture News resources.
- **Read and watch** some news stories together from different sources.
- **Find out** what your child knows about the news and explore their understanding.
- **Listen** to what your child says and value their opinions.
- **Explain** simply and in a way that makes sense to them.
- **Promote** a habit of enquiry and make asking questions your child's default setting.
- **Help** your child to spot fake news and how-to fact-check.
- **Develop** a news habit by accessing the news daily.
- **Defuse** bad news and offer reassurance.
- **Protect** your child from distressing and disturbing news.
- **Avoid** repeated viewings of the same news event.
- **Monitor** your child's exposure to the news.

Discussing the news of the day doesn't have to be formal but can be done naturally and casually in everyday moments such as on the way to school or preparing a meal.

The important thing is to keep the conversation going about the news and make it a feature of your daily lives.

By working together, we can help children become critical consumers of the news so that they are 'news savvy', articulate and confident citizens.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Makey
Headteacher