



Brockley Primary School Newsletter

Issue 21

Friday 6th March 2026



***The Brockley Way –
‘Only my best is good
enough’***

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Our Responsibilities as a Community

- What YOU must do:
- Telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

The national attendance target is 96%

| Attendance Band | Class Performance |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Zebra | 90.1% |
| Monkey | 91.72% |
| Giraffe | 96.55% |
| Elephant | 91.67% |
| Lion | 90.43% |



School Contact Information

Click the link below to access the person or information

Report Absences or Ask Questions:

01246-823344

Website:

<http://www.brockley.derbyshire.sch.uk>

Headteacher:

headteacher@brockley.derbyshire.sch.uk

Safeguarding:

safeguarding@brockley.derbyshire.sch.uk

General Enquiries:

info@brockley.derbyshire.sch.uk

School Facebook Page:

[Facebook](#)

School Website:

www.brockley.derbyshire.sch.uk

Safeguarding Info:

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

School Calendar:

[Calendar - Brockley Primary School](#)



Supporting Children as the Middle East Conflict Continues

Dear Brockley Families,

Many of you will be aware of the ongoing conflict across parts of the Middle East. Recent reports describe growing violence affecting several countries, with children in particular facing disruption, fear, and instability. The continuing hostilities have led to displacement, school closures, and damage to essential services such as health facilities, raising concerns for the wellbeing of young people across the region.

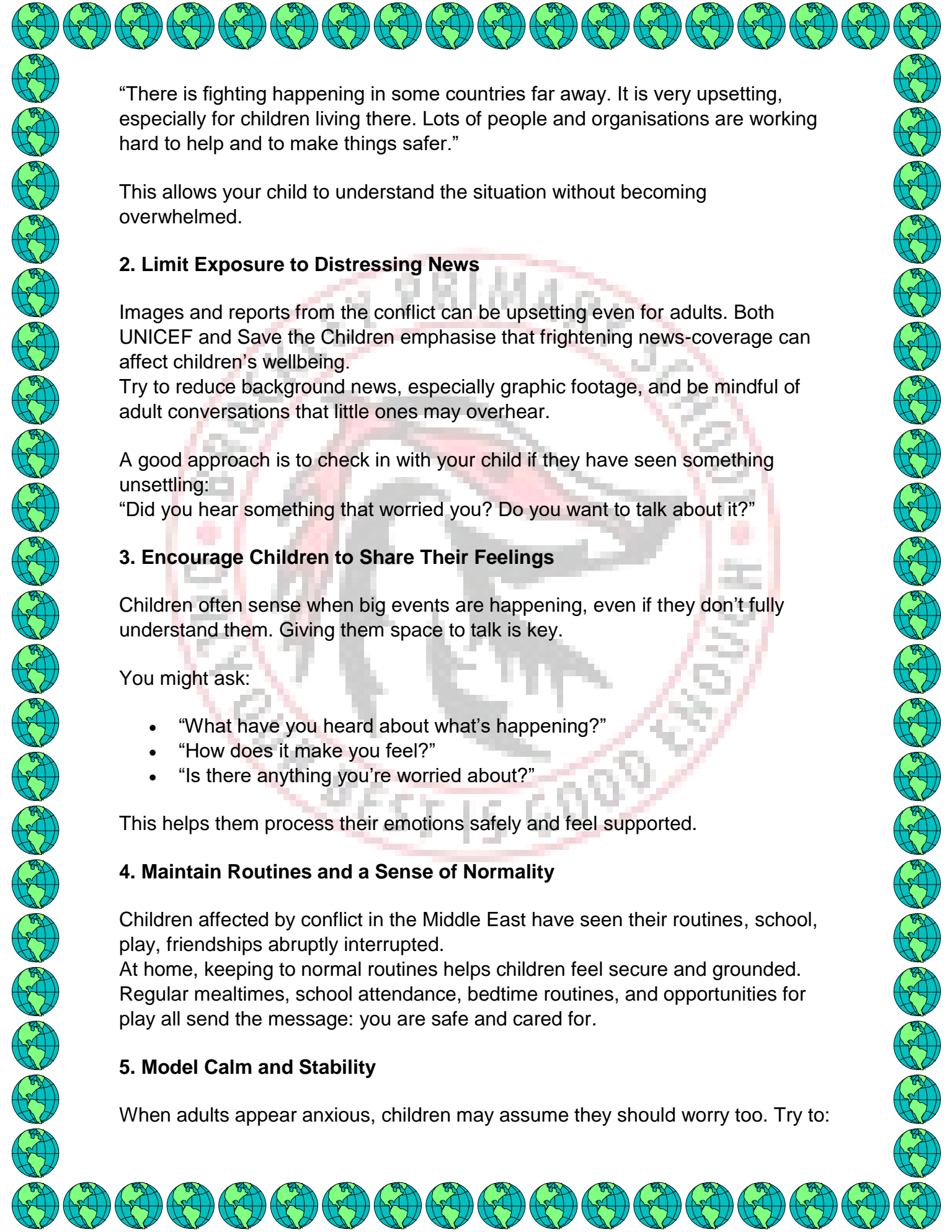
Organisations such as UNICEF have highlighted that children in some affected areas have been killed, injured, or forced from their homes, and that everyday routines like attending school have been severely disrupted. Save the Children has also reported that many children across the Middle East are frightened by the violence and uncertainty around them, often coping with disrupted routines and a loss of normal childhood experiences.

While these events may feel far away, children here in the UK often hear or see news reports, overhear conversations, or pick up on adult emotions. This can lead to confusion or worry, and it is important that we help them process information in safe, calm, and age-appropriate ways.

Below are some suggestions to support families during this time.

1. Keep Explanations Simple and Reassuring

Children do not need detailed political information. A simple explanation such as:



“There is fighting happening in some countries far away. It is very upsetting, especially for children living there. Lots of people and organisations are working hard to help and to make things safer.”

This allows your child to understand the situation without becoming overwhelmed.

2. Limit Exposure to Distressing News

Images and reports from the conflict can be upsetting even for adults. Both UNICEF and Save the Children emphasise that frightening news-coverage can affect children’s wellbeing.

Try to reduce background news, especially graphic footage, and be mindful of adult conversations that little ones may overhear.

A good approach is to check in with your child if they have seen something unsettling:

“Did you hear something that worried you? Do you want to talk about it?”

3. Encourage Children to Share Their Feelings

Children often sense when big events are happening, even if they don’t fully understand them. Giving them space to talk is key.

You might ask:

- “What have you heard about what’s happening?”
- “How does it make you feel?”
- “Is there anything you’re worried about?”

This helps them process their emotions safely and feel supported.

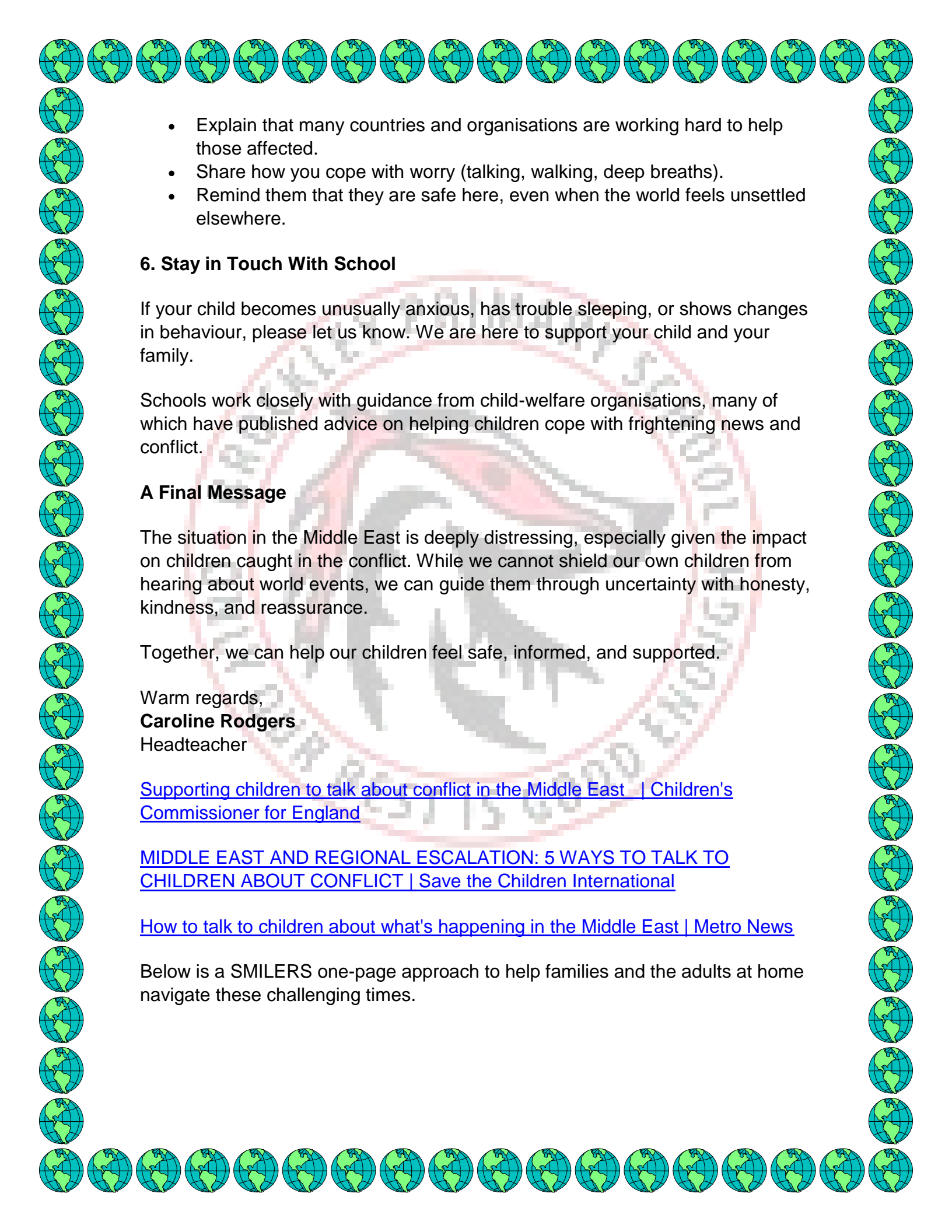
4. Maintain Routines and a Sense of Normality

Children affected by conflict in the Middle East have seen their routines, school, play, friendships abruptly interrupted.

At home, keeping to normal routines helps children feel secure and grounded. Regular mealtimes, school attendance, bedtime routines, and opportunities for play all send the message: you are safe and cared for.

5. Model Calm and Stability

When adults appear anxious, children may assume they should worry too. Try to:

- 
- Explain that many countries and organisations are working hard to help those affected.
 - Share how you cope with worry (talking, walking, deep breaths).
 - Remind them that they are safe here, even when the world feels unsettled elsewhere.

6. Stay in Touch With School

If your child becomes unusually anxious, has trouble sleeping, or shows changes in behaviour, please let us know. We are here to support your child and your family.

Schools work closely with guidance from child-welfare organisations, many of which have published advice on helping children cope with frightening news and conflict.

A Final Message

The situation in the Middle East is deeply distressing, especially given the impact on children caught in the conflict. While we cannot shield our own children from hearing about world events, we can guide them through uncertainty with honesty, kindness, and reassurance.

Together, we can help our children feel safe, informed, and supported.

Warm regards,

Caroline Rodgers

Headteacher

[Supporting children to talk about conflict in the Middle East | Children's Commissioner for England](#)

[MIDDLE EAST AND REGIONAL ESCALATION: 5 WAYS TO TALK TO CHILDREN ABOUT CONFLICT | Save the Children International](#)

[How to talk to children about what's happening in the Middle East | Metro News](#)

Below is a SMILERS one-page approach to help families and the adults at home navigate these challenging times.



A One-Page Parent Guide

Using the SMILERS Wellbeing Messages to Support Conversations About the Middle East Conflict

Children may pick up worrying information from the news, school, or conversations happening around them. The Derbyshire **SMILERS** approach offers simple, practical ways to help children feel safe, supported, and emotionally secure. These strategies can guide gentle, age-appropriate conversations about difficult world events.

S – Stay Connected

Healthy relationships help children feel secure and supported.

How to use this at home:

- Let your child know they can talk to you anytime they're unsure or worried.
- Create calm moments—like at breakfast or bedtime—to chat naturally.
- Use simple, reassuring language: "You're safe here. Lots of adults are working hard to help those affected."

M – Move

Being active boosts mood and reduces anxiety.

How to use this at home:

- Go for a walk, dance together, kick a ball—help your child release tension.
- Use movement after conversations that feel heavy or worrying.



I – Interest

Special interests keep children’s minds engaged and provide emotional balance.

How to use this at home:

- Encourage activities they enjoy—drawing, reading, building, music.
- If they’re curious about the conflict, explore neutral learning: maps, geography, cultural facts—avoiding graphic or political media.

L – Look

Using the senses helps children stay grounded and calm in the present moment.

How to use this at home:

- Try simple grounding: “**Tell me 3 things you can see... 2 you can hear...**”
- Use this when your child becomes anxious after news exposure.

E – Eating Well

A balanced diet supports both physical and emotional wellbeing.

How to use this at home:

- Keep mealtimes routine and screen-free.
- Shared meals provide natural, gentle opportunities to talk.

R – Rest

Good sleep supports emotional balance and resilience.

How to use this at home:

- Maintain bedtime routines, stories, cuddles, calming activities.
- Avoid news or online content close to bedtime.
- Offer extra reassurance if they heard distressing information during the day.

S – Support

Helping others and knowing where to seek help builds confidence and resilience.

How to use this at home:

- Remind children that many organisations are helping families affected by the conflict.

- Encourage acts of kindness at home or school—children feel empowered when they can contribute something positive.
- Model seeking support: “When I’m worried, I talk to someone I trust. You can too.”

A Final Reassurance

You do not need all the answers. Children benefit far more from calm presence, honest reassurance, and predictable routines than detailed explanations. Using the SMILERS principles helps create a home environment where children feel safe to ask questions, express feelings, and find comfort, even when the world feels uncertain.

If you ever have concerns about your child’s wellbeing or reactions to world events, please contact us. We are here to support your family.





RED NOSE DAY

Red Nose Day – Do Something Funny for Money!

Friday 20th March is **Red Nose Day**, and we can't wait to celebrate with plenty of smiles, silliness, and shared laughter across school! This year, we're joining in with the national theme: "**Do Something Funny for Money!**" Children are invited to take part in a day filled with fun as we raise money for a fantastic cause.

Bring a Joke to School!

To spread as much joy as possible, we would love every child to bring in their best (school-appropriate!) joke to share with their class. Whether it's a knock-knock joke, a silly pun, or something they've made up themselves, we're looking forward to a giggle-filled morning!

Wear Something Silly!

As part of the fun, children are invited to come to school wearing silly clothes, bright colours, mismatched items, funny accessories whatever makes them smile!

The sillier, the better (as long as it's still practical for a school day).

Reading Month – A Funny Photo Challenge!

March is also our Reading Month, and we're combining the celebrations with a special challenge:



Take a photo of your child reading a book in a funny or unusual place!

This could be:

- Reading upside down on the sofa
- Reading under a table
- Reading in a costume
- Reading in the garden, in a blanket den, or anywhere imaginative!

Please make sure photos are safe, appropriate, and do not reveal personal information such as house numbers or car registrations. Send your photos via Dojo to your child's teacher and we'll create a school display of all the brilliant and creative reading locations!

A Day of Smiles, Laughter and Kindness

Red Nose Day is all about having fun while helping others. Any donations, big or small, will go directly towards supporting vital projects through Comic Relief. Collection buckets will be available at the school gates or you can donate directly: [Donate | Comic Relief](#)

We'll host our traditional Cake Stall at playtime for the whole school – prices from 20p to £1 so please send your child into school with some pennies to spend. Any donations of cakes can be dropped off on the 19th March to the school office.

Thank you for helping us create a joyful day full of positivity, reading fun, and community spirit. We can't wait to see the jokes, the outfits, and those wonderfully funny reading photos!



**RED
NOSE
DAY**

**Do Something
Funny for Money**



Easter Bonnet Parade & Decorated Egg Competition

Wednesday 25th March



We are excited to celebrate Easter in school with two of our Brockley much-loved annual traditions: our Easter Bonnet Parade and our Decorated Easter Egg Competition!

Easter Bonnet Parade

On Wednesday 25th March, children are invited to come to school wearing their wonderful, creative Easter bonnets.

We can't wait to see the colourful hats, spring-themed designs, and imaginative creations as the children parade them proudly in school.


There's no pressure simple, handmade, or shop-bought decorations are all welcome. The aim is to have fun and celebrate together!

Decorated Easter Egg Competition

We will also be holding our annual Decorate an Easter Egg Competition on the same day.

Important information:

- Egg entries should be brought to the school office on the morning of Wednesday 25th March.
- Please do not send eggs into school before this date as we unfortunately do not have the space to store them safely.

- 
- Eggs can be decorated in any theme funny, cute, artistic, or imaginative. We're always amazed by the creativity our pupils show each year!

The entries will be displayed in school, and winners will be announced later that week.

A Fun-Filled Spring Celebration

We look forward to a joyful day filled with colour, creativity, and Easter cheer and invite parents to join us from 2pm to see all the amazing creations in our parade and take a look at the fantastic entries for the decorate an egg competition.

Thank you for your support in making these traditions so special for our children.



it's about me

The HAF Club is available over the Easter Break and booking is essential (opens 9th March) whichever venue you choose.

Our school unique code is:

8302046IAM2025DCC

Please see below for information and booking guidance.

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION-FUNDED

HOLIDAY CLUBS IN DERBYSHIRE

it's about me
Derbyshire's Holiday Activity and
Food Programme

2026

MORE INFORMATION

Did you know that, as well as free school meals during term time, your child can also access funded spaces at holiday clubs?

Through the Department for Education's Holiday Activity and Food Programme, known in Derbyshire as It's About Me, children can attend local holiday clubs packed with fun activities, learning opportunities and healthy meals—all at no cost to you.

If your child is aged 4–16 and eligible for benefits-related free school meals, they're entitled to funded places at It's About Me holiday clubs.*

Our clubs offer a wide variety of activities, including sports, arts and crafts, cooking, dance, music, and more—so there's something to suit everyone! Each session also includes a nutritious meal to keep children happy, healthy and energised throughout the day.

Every club runs its own unique programme depending on its location, meaning there's always something new to discover.

Not eligible? Many clubs also offer paid places, so every child can still get involved and enjoy the fun.

*See website for full eligibility criteria.



IMPORTANT DATES

SPRING

Bookings open: 9th March 2026

Holiday clubs open: 30th March 2026 - 10th April 2026

SUMMER

Bookings open: 29th June 2026

Holiday clubs open: 23rd July 2026 - 4th September 2026

WINTER

Bookings open: 30th November 2026

Holiday clubs open: 21st December 2026 - 31st December 2026

All dates exclude bank holidays and weekends.

HOW TO BOOK

- 1 Get your unique IAM/ HAF code from your child's school
- 2 Go to our website itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk
- 3 Follow our handy How to Book Guide
- 4 Subscribe to the It's About Me Newsletter



MORE INFORMATION:
itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk



HOW TO BOOK

it's about me

Derbyshire's Holiday Activity and Food Programme

GET YOUR CODE

1

Get your IAM code from your child's school. If you haven't received your code, but believe you are eligible for the programme, please contact your child's school.

CHOOSE YOUR CLUBS

2

Go to itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk and click **BOOK NOW**

3

Enter your criteria E.g Location, participant age, date and click **SEARCH**

To view the session details click **MORE INFORMATION**

4

Once you've found a holiday club you like, click 'BOOK NOW' and choose a date and time that works for you.

5

Enter your child's details- you can add more than once child.

You may need to add 'Supplementary Information' Please write 'none' in any fields that do not apply.

6

Repeat to add more sessions.

Why not take a photo of these instructions?



CREATE A LOG-IN

7

Once you have chosen all your sessions, go to your cart and click **CHECKOUT**

8

To complete your booking, you will need to create a log-in. You can then view/ edit and add any additional bookings at any time by logging in.

Create a Log-in

- Add your details
- Sign up for session reminders
- Enter your child/ children's details
- Sign up for our It's About Me newsletter

COMPLETE BOOKING

Click **COMPLETE BOOKING**

MORE INFORMATION:
itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk



STREET GAMES

DERBYSHIRE
County Council

Department
for Education

Wellbeing Session – Focusing on Anxiety



Join us for another Wellbeing session led by Nicole Woodcock (Hummingbird Hypnotherapy) A supportive and compassionate practitioner focused on parent/carer wellbeing.

What the Session Covers

- How anxiety is created,
- The role of brain chemistry and thought patterns,
- And how adopting a solution-focused mindset can help us navigate challenges more effectively.
- We'll finish with a soothing relaxation experience – so feel free to bring along your favourite cosy blanket and settle in comfortably.

Workshop Details

Date: Friday 20th March 2026

Time: 7:30pm – 9:00pm

Location: Online via Team

**For more information and to book please visit
<https://derbyshireparentforums.co.uk/>**