



**Dear Parents, Guardians**

**On Friday 11th March our School Community will stand together with Ukraine, in protest against the invasion by Russia, by staging a walk out at 12:45pm to line up on St Stephen's Green.**

**Our Amnesty Group, who are organising the walk out, have prepared the following statement:**

**The reason that the Amnesty Group is supporting the planned walk out of school on Friday 11th March is that the actions of the Russians are a violation of International Law. International Law is the body of rules that govern relations between states. Specifically, Russia's actions in relation to Ukraine violate Article 2 (4) of the UN Charter that requires all UN member states to refrain from "the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state". As you will know, the purpose of the UN is to maintain international peace and security and is based on the principle of equal rights and the self- determination of peoples.**

**In addition, deliberate attacks on civilians and on "civilian objects", such as attacks on schools, kindergartens, hospitals, apartment buildings etc, are violations of International Humanitarian Law which seeks to limit the effects of armed conflict. Any such attacks constitute war crimes. Amnesty International is calling on Russia to respect International Law, protect civilians and stop aggression against Ukraine.**

**The Wellbeing Committee, Mission Possible and the Multicultural Society, have made arrangements to raise funds on behalf of UNICEF. The conflict in Ukraine is exacting a harrowing toll on the lives and wellbeing of the country's 7.5 million children. Half a million children have already fled Ukraine to neighbouring countries, with the number of refugees continuing to grow. Hundreds of thousands of people don't have safe drinking water because of damage to water systems and infrastructure and many have been cut off from access to other essential services like healthcare. The funds raised for UNICEF will help them reach vulnerable children and families with essential services including health, education, protection, water and sanitation together with emergency items like warm blankets, fleeces, medicines and additional living essentials.**

**On Friday, blue and yellow badges will be sold for €2. The Committees will be collecting any additional donations that students would like to make to UNICEF. We have also set up this [link](#) to our donations page for any Parents or Guardians that would like to donate to the school collection.**

**Thank you for taking the time to read our letter.**

**Amnesty Group  
Mission Possible  
Multicultural Society  
Wellbeing Committee**