

How do we talk about the news?

Are you the kind of person who now avoids watching the news? The global news media now barrage us with such an avalanche of disturbing news, images and videos that it is hard to know where to look, or whether to look at all.

If, as adults and parents, many of us find facing the news of the day hard, how do our children feel?

Do we talk about the news enough?

Do we explain the important items of news to our children, or do we leave them to work it out for themselves?

Are they as scared as we are?

In the last academic year, our children were faced with two huge pieces of news. Firstly, in September 2022, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II passed away. It was news on a global scale that most of us had not experienced before. In school we took time with the children to discuss the importance of her passing, and what would happen next. We prayed together. Later in the year, the children shared the news and joy of the Coronation of the late Queen's successor as King Charles III. Again, we took time in school to talk about this, pray for the new king, and our School Council wrote to him and received a reply.

In order for our children to deal with the world in which they live, we all need to talk to them more about the news of the day and to explain and discuss the implications of what we are told. This is the only way that we can allay their worries.

The extra element for us all as Christians is to use the news we receive as a call to action.

This action can be through prayer, like we did at the Coronation, or through Charity. Both are important.

Please feel free to use this checklist as a help and support for discussing the news with your child:

Where does this news come from? Can we trust the source?

How often do we buy a newspaper and read a wide range of news? Do we share newspapers with our children? Do we highlight good news?

How do we consume news? Is it helpful to have social media as the main source of the news we receive?

Can the news we discuss with our children be a call to action and education?