

# POMPEY'S MILITARY KIDS NEWSLETTER

**HELLO,**  
TO ALL PORTSMOUTH  
SCHOOLS AND  
SERVICE CHILDREN

For those of you who are not aware of Pompey's Military Kids (PMK), we are a gathering of Portsmouth schools, led by Aggie Weston's and in partnership with Portsmouth City Council and Naval Families Federation. We work closely with Portsmouth Parent Board. Our aim is to share in good practice when supporting our Service pupils and the best use of Service Pupil Premium. We offer special events for SPP children and welcome any newcomers to our cluster.

**KATIE**



**HELLO TO ALL PORTSMOUTH SCHOOLS  
WITH SERVICE CHILDREN.**

Thank you to all who were able to attend our meeting last term and a huge thank you to St Jude's Primary for hosting us – the doughnuts were delicious.

We were fortunate to be joined by the Royal Navy Families and People Service (RNFPS), Community Development Worker, Sarah Holland. She talked about the many ways in which RNFPS can support Naval families with deployed parents.

## **RNFPS**

Schools were informed about the RN Forum, in which families with Serving personnel can register and log on to find out all the information, from all charities and organisations who offer support and activities in their areas.

Available on the RN Form:

- Register to your Ships page for up to date information.
- Families Welfare Grant (FWG) days out. FWG days out are for families with a deployed person only, they are free days out to various fun places, such as Longleat, Paulton's Park and many more places, across the country. The aim of these are to allow the families a well deserved day out with no expense other than getting to the venue and providing their own food.
- Memory Box for children, which allows the child/ren to keep their memories during deployments. Aimed at children under 11, but RNFPS are working on Memory Box for 11+
- Youth Forum and the Residentials that they have been running. This is aimed at 11+ and allows the older children to come together in a safe area to discuss the struggles with Service life. The Residentials are limited on space and run a couple of times a year.
- All this information can be found on the RN Forum and families are strongly encouraged to sign up to it.

# POMPEY MILITARY KIDS NEWSLETTER

SPRING  
2023

## USEFUL CONTACTS



Pastoral Support for RN,  
RM, RFA and families.  
023 9265 0505

**Naval Families**  
FEDERATION

Accommodation,  
education, employment  
finance, leaving the  
service, assignments, UK  
visas, citizenship wellbeing  
023 9265 4373



Pastoral Support for RN,  
RM, RFA and families.  
023 9263 9534

**ssafa** | the  
Armed Forces  
charity

0800 260 6767



Health and Well-being,  
benefits local support and  
compassionate support.  
023 9272 8777



Welfare, Well-being and  
mental health for veterans  
023 9273 1767

## JUNIOR FIELD GUN

As discussed at the last meeting, we have been investigating the opportunity of the Junior Field Gun for Primary Schools. I have met with Future Fit, who are the charity behind the Junior Field Gun and they are keen to grow within Portsmouth Schools. Junior Field Gun has really taken off in Plymouth and it would be lovely to see it blossom in the Portsmouth Area. Schools have the opportunity to take part in Interschools Competitions over the year as well as the Armed Forces Day on Southsea Seafront, where there will be a Field Gun Village for the schools in between competing. There is a cost of £950 – however, funding can be sought from various charities and organisations to help cover this cost. This initial cost is purely the cost of the labour for building the Field Guns and Future Fit will travel to your school to help train up the team as well as the teachers – who will be given a Field Gun Trainer Certificate. After which there is an annual registration fee of £125, which gives you access to full support, repairs and maintenance – if your gun cannot be fixed, they replace it free of charge.

Northern Parade have just signed up to the Junior Field Gun and Sarah Rose from Northern told those in attendance the benefits of having this team in place. They allocated spaces with SPP children having priority, but it is a mix of SPP and non SPP pupils. It is a great way to bring the children together and build on a team, forming a special bond and support network amongst them. Storage is not an issue, as the equipment comes apart and can be stored in a sports cupboard or shed. Northern Parade are happy to show case the Junior Field Gun to any school interested in signing up to this and all are strongly urged to go and visit to see what it is all about. It is difficult to put into words just how fantastic this really is. We were also informed that some schools have had full funding from Portsmouth City Council for this. Should anyone want ideas on where to seek funding – please do email [katie.white@aggies.org.uk](mailto:katie.white@aggies.org.uk), who will be able to offer some suggestions.

## BOLEH Sailing dates 2023

BOLEH are delighted to be able to offer more sailing dates this year for SPP pupils. This is aimed at Year 6 and above and spaces are limited to a maximum of 6 pupils and 1 adult.

They do have flexibility to offer to Year 5 and 4, but this decreases the number of spaces – for safety reasons. Year 5 = 5 pupils and 1 adult, year 4 = 4 pupils and 1 adult. If you want to mix up the year groups, then spaces are allocated IAW the youngest member.

Dates for 2023:

- 4 & 5 May
- 18-21 September
- 11-13 October
- 23 & 24th October

To secure your place, please email [katie.white@aggies.org.uk](mailto:katie.white@aggies.org.uk)

## JOIN PMK

Should any schools, not currently part of the PMK cluster, wish to attend our termly meetings please contact [katie.white@aggies.org.uk](mailto:katie.white@aggies.org.uk). Our special days are for children with SPP only, but should any private schools with Service children, wish to attend the meetings for sharing of good practice and information on support for Service pupils – you are most welcome.

# POMPEY MILITARY KIDS NEWSLETTER

SPRING  
2023

## USEFUL CONTACTS



Pastoral Support for RN,  
RM, RFA and families.  
023 9265 0505

**Naval Families**  
FEDERATION

Accommodation,  
education, employment  
finance, leaving the  
service, assignments, UK  
visas, citizenship wellbeing  
023 9265 4373



Pastoral Support for RN,  
RM, RFA and families.  
023 9263 9534

**ssafa** | the  
Armed Forces  
charity

0800 260 6767



Health and Well-being,  
benefits local support and  
compassionate support.  
023 9272 8777



Welfare, Well-being and  
mental health for veterans  
023 9273 1767

## Month of the Military Child

April is the Month of the Military Child, a time to celebrate the magnificent children that are our Military Children. Military Children have many challenges that non Military children would not normally experience. They move home often, leaving their friends and social circles behind, having to re-establish new social groups time after time. There is disruption to their education and on many occasions, communication between schools is poor – leading to struggles with interventions or mental health and well being.

The flower for the Military Child is the dandelion, they grow and bloom anywhere they plant their roots – much like our Military Children. It symbolises happiness, joy, perseverance, endurance and hope.

The MODs Official day for this celebration this year is 28th April.

Suggested ways schools can celebrate the MotMC

Wear purple

Have poem and writing workshops

Hold a special lunch for SPP

Special assemblies, inviting in Service personnel and veterans to talk about their experiences

Dress up as a Service person.

Whole schools can take part in these celebrations – not just Military Children, after all, its not just the Military child who has to say goodbye to their friends.

NEVER SUCH INNOCENCE is a charity who work alongside the MOD and can offer creative workshops to schools and help schools understand the struggles of SPP pupils and offer ideas on how is best to support them. They are holding a Poetry and Art competition for Month of the Military Child and is open to Service and non Service children. It is for ages 6-18. The theme is " Friends near and Far". Each participant will receive a personalise certificate and is a really good way of integrating both SPP and non SPP children and allow them all to express their feelings on Service life.

## Projects - Coronation

We have been fortunate enough to secure funding from Naval Children's Charity, for a PMK Coronation project. This will consist of a giant patch work quilt. For schools wishing to take part, each SPP child will receive a patch, to decorate with a picture of their Service family on, these will then be joined together, to show the amount of Service families in Portsmouth and the hope is to have it put on display somewhere for the public to see.

Please contact [katie.white@aggies.org.uk](mailto:katie.white@aggies.org.uk) with the number of SPP in your school, should you wish to take part in this lovely project.

**Our next meeting will take place at  
Northern Parade - Date TBC**

## JOIN PMK

Should any schools, not currently part of the PMK cluster, wish to attend our termly meetings please contact [katie.white@aggies.org.uk](mailto:katie.white@aggies.org.uk). Our special days are for children with SPP only, but should any private schools with Service children, wish to attend the meetings for sharing of good practice and information on support for Service pupils – you are most welcome.