

# POMPEY'S MILITARY KIDS NEWSLETTER



## HELLO TO ALL PMK SCHOOLS

Hello and welcome to all the new schools who have joined the PMK Cluster, we now have several schools from the surrounding area in which is fabulous for supporting the SPP pupils. It is wonderful to share the work we do to help you support your SPP pupils and so wonderful to welcome new faces to our events that we organise for your SPP pupils.

Whilst this term has been quiet meeting wise, we have been busy beavering away to organise some real treats for you all.

September and October once again saw various schools taking part in the BOLEH Trusts sailing days. The pupils had a fantastic day sailing the on the Solent, working together as a team, forming friendships with fellow Service children in their school and building the all-important support network that is vital to our Service Children, who live such a unique life of family separation and relocation. Often leaving behind their friends and clubs to start anew – this opportunity really allows them to form a bond with children who understand the difficulties that Service Life holds.



## November

This month sees Armistice Day, which Aggies will be marking on 11th November with our Lantern Walk, which will take place in 2 locations.

Eastney Seafront – meeting at the RM Yomper Statue for 16:20 and walking along the seafront with our light up balloons.

Portchester Castle – meeting at the castle gates at 16:20 and walking around the Castle wall with our light up balloons.

This is a lovely way for children to mark the day, keeping the memory of those fallen alight.

## The PTI Pass out

will take place on 14th November, a wonderful opportunity for our SPP Pupils to experience the acrobatic and physical amazement of the Royal Navy Physical Training Instructors passout. This really is a wonder to behold and those of you lucky enough to be attending will be astonished!

## Reminders

With Christmas looming and the cost of living having an effect of everyones lives, I wanted to remind you, should any of your Service Families show signs of struggling, there is help available. Schools have the unique position of seeing changes in pupils' appearance, uniform, quality of lunches etc, we continue to feel it is important to arm schools with the knowledge of support out there for Service families who may be struggling financially.

## Naval Children's Charity (NCC)

Support families of Naval children (including Veterans) up to the age of 25. The type of help they can offer can include:

- Offer financial grants to enable help to cost of living.
- Uniform grants
- Activity grants (Often Extra Curricular activities are the first thing families drop, to cut costs. At NCC they do not believe a child should miss out)
- Energy grants
- Groceries

Families can contact NCC directly via their website [www.navalchildrenscharity.org.uk](http://www.navalchildrenscharity.org.uk) or telephone 023 92 639 534.

## SSAFA

Unlike NCC, SSAFA are not a grant giving charity. They help all Service personnel and Veterans. A person can contact them directly via their website [www.ssafa.org.uk](http://www.ssafa.org.uk) or telephone 0800 260 6767 SSAFA assess the need on behalf of all charities. This can take 2-3 weeks. If emergency support is need – they will advise individuals to contact Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Types of support SSAFA can offer:

- Clothing Grants
- Food Vouchers
- White goods replacement.
- Short fall of income over expenditure.

## USEFUL CONTACTS



Pastoral Support for RN,  
RM, RFA and families.  
079 7764 1876

**Naval Families**  
FEDERATION

Accommodation,  
education, employment  
finance, leaving the  
service, assignments, UK  
visas, citizenship wellbeing  
02392 654374



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

## Sailors Children Society

A charity whose aim is to help children of seafarers, who may be experiencing financial difficulties. (Royal Navy, Merchant Navy, Fishing Fleets). Tel: 01482342331 or email: [info@sailorschildren.org.uk](mailto:info@sailorschildren.org.uk)

What they can offer:

- Child Welfare Grants are paid monthly to each child to help pay for day-to-day children's living costs.
- Clothing Grants are paid twice a year to each child for school uniforms and winter clothing.
- Special Grants. These are paid on an adhoc basis to help towards educational trips or essential children's items.
- Christmas Grants are a small grant paid to each child to ensure everyone gets a gift at this special time of year.
- Each family will receive a desktop computer so they can do schoolwork at home.
- Every family has the option to have support from a Family Support Officer.
- Each family receive a desktop computer, if they do not have access to one at home already.

## Upcoming Dates

7th December – PMK Christmas Service at St Annes, HMNB Portsmouth, please email to reserve seating.

12th December – PMK KS1 Fort Nelson trip. This is fully booked.

13th December – PMK KS2 Fort Nelson trips – spaces still available, should you have KS2 children who wish to attend, please do get in touch.

Christmas Leave close of play 15th December 2023 – 2nd January 2024,

## 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.