

POMPEY'S MILITARY KIDS NEWSLETTER



HELLO TO ALL PMK SCHOOLS

I hope you all had a restful Festive period and a good first term back. January finally came to an end!! December saw our annual Christmas service; it is always so lovely to get together and celebrate Christmas. A huge thanks again to St Annes, who kindly hosted us and to the RM Band Service who provided the fabulous music to our Christmas songs. We hope you enjoyed your Christingles and goodies.

January finally saw the unveiling of our Coronation quilts, these have been a long time coming, but the Service children of Portsmouth each received a patch to decorate with a picture of their Service families. They look amazing and the children did such a great job. You can see them on display at St Annes church, Victory Building's café and the Lord Mayor's office, who kindly hosted some of our PMK Service children, they had such a blast and PMK now have a great relationship with the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth as well as Commander of the Base. Please do go and see them, if you are able and feel free to send your pictures of them to us.

February finally came – after what seemed like a never-ending January and several schools from the cluster gathered on Teams to take part in our termly PMK Meeting. We were joined by Never Such Innocence, who are a fantastic charity who offer schools and families road shows, ideas, and support with Service children.

Neurodiversity Navigator

This is a new navigator for families who may have family members who Neurodiversity needs. This navigator has been funded by RNRMC and may benefit families. Should you know of any Service families with Neurodiversity, please do direct them to the navigator [RNRMC Neurodiversity navigator](#) | [The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity](#).

BOLEH Remaining dates

16th, 17th, and 18th September

7th, 8th, and 9th October

Should any school wish to take SPP pupils sailing for the day, please do contact katie.white@aggies.org.uk for more information.



Never Such Innocence (NSI)

Celebrating their 10-year anniversary this year, this charity offers a wide range of things to do, not only for Service children, but inclusive of non-Service. Often it is overlooked that the non-Service friends of our Military children may also have struggles, having made friendships with children, who will relocate due to assignments. NSI offer schools workshops which are inclusive of both Service and non-Service children, allowing the children to come together to share their feeling creatively, expressing the highs and lows, proud moments, and struggles. These workshops are aimed at age 6 and over and are a great way to bring together your SPP and non SPP pupils. During March and April, NSI will be running workshops in the area so if you would like to enquire about them, please email enquiries@neversuchinnocence.com

St Jude's Primary and Milton Park Primary recently had workshops and the feedback was wonderful.

"Loved it, the staff and children raved about it."

"Loved the fact it allowed integration between SPP and non-SPP."

"The work created by the students was amazing."

Month of the Military Child

During the month of April, schools can celebrate their Service pupils and friends as well as showing that you are a school who understands the struggles that come with being a Service child or friend. Whilst you can hold an event anytime in April, the MOD will be celebrating on 26th April.

This years theme is "Life of a Dandelion" NSI are running competitions in art and poetry, which your school can participate in. Each child will receive a personalised certificate with the winners being invited to MOD London for a celebratory event. You can access more information on this as well as free resources for your school here [Month of the Military Child — Never Such Innocence](#)

Ways schools can help raise awareness and celebrate – several of which are easy to do, so hopefully with enough time to plan, we can see more celebrations from schools across Portsmouth and the surrounding areas.

NSI have created a song called "Dandelions" – The music and lyrics have been attached along with this newsletter.

Ways to celebrate:

- Wear purple on 26th April.
- Hold an assembly inviting Service parents to talk about their role.
- Dress up in Military fancy dress.
- Special lunch for Service children and their friends
- Learn the Dandelions song and sing this in assembly or have your school choir learn and perform.

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

Naval Families Federation (NFF)

We say a fond farewell to Rebecca Lovell, who has been the PMK representative from NFF for the last 3 years, she is remaining with NFF, but has a new role. We welcome Jennie Laidler, who is a Family Advocate for NFF, she has 2 school aged children, and her husband serves in the RN, and she is a Veteran. Jennie has a keen understanding of Service life and is passionate about SPP pupils and their schools. To help schools and trusts to better understand the educational related challenges that Service children may face, and to help them thrive in education, the National Governance Association (NGA) has issued new guidance for school governing boards and trustees. The NGA created this guidance in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence – who provide statutory guidance for schools on the Armed Forces Covenant Duty – and the Service Children's Progression (SCiP) Alliance.

The guidance:

- Outlines the education-related disadvantages that can arise for Service children and the potential impact of parental deployment, separation, and family mobility.
- Explains the role of governing boards in allocating school funding to meet the needs of Service children and has questions for boards to ask and consider. · Explores how the SCiP Alliance's Thriving Lives Toolkit can be used as a self-assessment tool by schools to monitor and improve their practice and support for Service children.
- References the Armed Forces Covenant Duty, and which education functions of a school are in scope.

Wrap around Childcare (WAC)

Many of you will be aware of the WAC which offers funding for ages 4-11 to help fund before and after school clubs. This has now been integrated to JPA – which is accessed by the Serving Person. Should any parents have any questions on how to claim for the WAC, please ensure they are aware of this.

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. 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.



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