

# POMPEY'S MILITARY KIDS NEWSLETTER



## HELLO AND WELCOME TO ALL PMK SCHOOLS

Thank you to all who could make it to our PMK Autumn Term Meeting on Monday 25 November 2024, at Priory School, in Portsmouth. It was great to meet you all in person. We had four wonderful guest speakers, from great organisations that support service families. Thank you to Ruth and Martin from Fort Nelson, Helen from Youth Crew, Sam from Swim Free, Jessica a ED Phys Student from Southampton University, Jennie from NFF and Catriona Scully from the Portsmouth City Council.

### Fort Nelson

At Royal Armouries Fort Nelson, we are dedicated to bringing history alive for all pupils. Each of our carefully designed Discovery and Study Days are delivered by costumed characters who lead pupils in hands-on, immersive activities and drills, letting them experience what it would have been like to live so long ago. To ensure everyone has a fantastic day, we have developed a series of supportive resources, such as social stories, sensory backpacks, visual timetables, braille, large print, and tactile resources, available for you to use before and during your visit. Our core education staff are also trained in Makaton stage 1 and 2 and can use it during sessions if needed.

Our standard pricing is £5 per child for a day of three facilitated 45-minute workshops. We also offer two free bespoke visits for Aggie Westons per term with varied topics and themes, encouraging our military children to have fun in a new environment while socialising and building relationships with other military children.

As a national military museum, it is our moral responsibility to support our community, especially our military kids. So if there is anything at all we can do to support the learning of your pupils, do please get in touch via our email at [education.fn@armouries.org.uk](mailto:education.fn@armouries.org.uk).

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## Naval Families Federation

Thank you to the NFF for joining us at our last meeting. Please find below the links that were talked about during the meeting. The top link takes you to the Your Say page of our website - please encourage your service families to complete this survey. The second link is to the NFF Homeport Magazine's Sign up page and the bottom two links are to two Oxford Brooks University surveys on children with SEND. These surveys can be completed by both military and nonmilitary families and school staff that support them.

[Naval Families Federation – You Make A Difference](#)

[Homeport Magazine | The NFF's Magazine for RNRM Families](#)

[Supporting All to Thrive survey](#)

[Supporting ALL to Thrive project](#)

## Youth Crew

The Royal Naval Sailing Association's Youth Crew project offers fully funded Sailing Courses to the Young People of serving Royal Navy, Royal Fleet Auxiliary and Royal Marine personnel. Funded by Greenwich Hospital, delivered through the Andrew Simpson Foundation, Youth Crew sailing courses are bookable during School Holidays. Choose from weekly, Mon to Fri courses at your local centre or a Residential course at one of our 7 locations across the country. During their course, the young people work towards and achieve their RYA 1&2 and Swim Safe certificate. On completion, Youth Crew participants get "10 Punch Cards" giving them a further 10 sessions of fully funded Sailing to take their RYA qualifications further. Your local centre will be the Andrew Simpson Centre, Eastern Road, Portsmouth for Portsmouth based schools.

[www.rnsayouthcrew.org.uk](http://www.rnsayouthcrew.org.uk) for further details and to book your 2025 course.

## Schools

If you have a group of RN Young People at your School that would benefit from a taster day of Sailing with Youth Crew or a fixed block of weekly Sailing. Please do contact Helen, Outreach Manager for Youth Crew to discuss further. [Outreach@rnsa.org.uk](mailto:Outreach@rnsa.org.uk)

RNSA Youth Crew is also on Facebook and Instagram and keep an eye out for our new Youth Crew Families Club and returning RNSA Family Days in 2025.

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## Swim Free

Swim Free has been created to provide free swimming lessons for children and young people from serving Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary families, aligned to the Swim England and Scottish Swimming Pathways.

Funded by Greenwich Hospital and delivered in partnership with the Andrew Simpson Foundation, Swim Free also provides an opportunity for families to build new connections and support their sense of belonging within the Royal Navy community.

Learning to swim is an essential life skill for young people, but also supports and helps them maintain positive mental health, grow their confidence, resilience, and willingness to try new things – all while keeping active.

We are planning to launch in Portsmouth in the next few weeks, with lessons due to start in January 2025. The launch will be phased as pools around the city and surrounding areas come online. Our website <https://swim-free.org.uk/> has lots of helpful information on, as well as a register your interest option so we can contact families directly when a pool comes online in their area. I have also attached a QR code to scan and register interest in the same way for Portsmouth.

## Jessica Glover

My name is Jess and I am a doctoral student at Southampton university currently completing my doctorate in Educational Psychology. The focus of my thesis is to explore the experiences of naval service children who also have special educational needs. In particular my focus is on autistic naval service children and their experiences of separation and deployment, with a goal to draw out implications and best practice for schools and educational psychologists to better support these young people. I am looking to explore experiences from the perspective of the service children themselves, their parents, and the school staff that support them. Therefore, I am looking for naval service children (who have a diagnosis, are on the pathway, or self-identify as autistic), their non-serving parent, and the school staff that support them.

Register your interest here: [https://southampton.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eroTBZoojq4o2X4](https://southampton.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eroTBZoojq4o2X4)

## Could your school host a PMK Meeting?

If your school is able to host a meeting please email me, it would be wonderful to see your school and I thank Claire Weeks and Priory for hosting us for this, the first meeting of the year, it felt like we had been transported to the Library at Hogwarts. It was bracing but most enjoyable. I thank everyone who could attend, and for the guest speakers for sharing the wonderful work they do, and for supporting our service children. I realise that some people find it difficult to attend these meetings as schools are busy and some may be on duty etc. It was a so good to see you all, thank you for coming. I will look to schedule the next PMK Meeting in March 2025.

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## 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

### Naval Children's Charity

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

### Veterans Outreach Support

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

## PMK Planter

Aggie's together with the Naval Children's Charity have been given the opportunity to make use of one of six planters in the refurbished, Victoria Park, in Portsmouth. I have approached several schools in the centre of Portsmouth, to assist us in this endeavour. The idea is, if we have enough schools interested in taking part, to have one school a week come to the park during school time, to attend to the planter, watering plants, deadheading plants, planting plants when it is time to do so.... We would also like to 'make things' for the planter on special times of the year, Remembrance Day, Christmas, Easter etc.... the whole school can get involved in this or this could be something for service children only at clubs or get togethers you have at school. There will be an initial grand planting session, NCC and Aggie's have enlisted the help of a gardener to help us with planting suggestions and planning and maintaining a planter. Schools can get their service children involved in a community initiative in this way. If your school has not been contacted and you are interested in this initiative (maybe you have the use of a minibus and could come along once a half term to help out...) please get in touch with me, Karen Baldwin at [karen.baldwin@aggies.org.uk](mailto:karen.baldwin@aggies.org.uk) and I will add you to the list of schools that have shown an interest so far. The planter is still in its planning stage and I will share information as and when we know more.

## Up and coming events

Fort Nelson Christmas Day out is happening on the 17th and 18th of December 2024, this event is aimed at KS1 and KS2 children and sounds like a wonderful day out. The tunnels will be festively decorated, there will be arts and crafts on offer and a Pantomime too.

Bohle sailing dates will be published in the new year, so please look out for an email from me about this, once schools have started in January.

Thank you for your support this year. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2025!

Karen Baldwin

## 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.