

POMPEY'S MILITARY KIDS NEWSLETTER



HELLO AND WELCOME TO ALL PMK SCHOOLS

It was great to see so many of you at our last meeting. A lot has happened in the world since our meeting, some schools have gotten in touch with Aggie's to ask for support and guidance for their service children whose family members may be deployed due to the situation in the middle east. I have reached out to various organisations, and I have included what I have been sent in this newsletter. I hope you find these useful. Naval families can join the RN Forum where ships will have specific news and details regarding their situation.

Below are the highlights of the meeting, along with contact information of the organisations that spoke to those gathered.

RNSA

The Royal Naval Sailing Association (RNSA) delivers fully funded sailing courses for the families of serving personnel from the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary. Generously supported by Greenwich Hospital and delivered in partnership with the Andrew Simpson Foundation.

For 2026, we have launched:

- 300 'Go Sailing' spaces for partners of serving personnel (2 days for RYA Level 1 and 2 days for Level 2)
- 600 'Youth Crew' spaces for children of serving personnel, delivered Monday–Friday during school holidays. Alongside this we also offer windsurfing in Poole and Portsmouth and residential weeks in Scotland, Dorset and Birmingham.

Bookings are already progressing well. This year we are introducing two new centres in Liverpool and Bristol, alongside Welton Waters in Hull, ASC Reading and Flow Watersports in Poole — all of which successfully joined the Youth Crew programme last year. We are up to thirteen centres ranging from Cornwall to Scotland!

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Our RNSA Family Days continue to be hugely popular in Portsmouth, with 120 spaces booked within just six days. We are currently directing families towards Reading, where availability remains.

Community engagement is a key focus for us in 2026. I have been visiting schools and Military Kids groups to share information about Youth Crew and Go Sailing. If you would like to arrange a visit, please contact me at tracey@andrewsimpsonfoundation.org.

We are keen to attend and support as many community events as possible across the Solent area this year. If you have an upcoming event, we would love to hear from you and explore how we can support your military families.

Kind regards,

Tracey Downie



NEW FOR 2026 IN PORTSMOUTH!

Free Sailing courses specifically for neurodivergent young people aged 8-17 years from serving Royal Navy, Royal Marines or Royal Fleet Auxiliary families.

Inclusive, Friendly, Small Groups



To book contact:
youthsailing@rnsa.org.uk

Funded by
 GREENWICH HOSPITAL
SUPPORTING THE ROYAL NAVY SINCE 1594

Delivered in partnership with
 ANDREW SIMPSON FOUNDATION



Book Now for 2026!



FREE RYA Sailing and Windsurfing
for 8-17 year olds of serving RN, RM and RFA families.
Residential & Weekly courses, Beginners & Improvers
Across the UK!

rnsayouthcrew.org.uk



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SAIL TOGETHER



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SciP Alliance

Presenting at the PMK meeting was Liam Satchell Director of the Impact Centre at the Service Children's Progression (SCiP) Alliance. The Alliance works in a triservice and four nation approach to equip, connect, and inspire anyone working with Service children. This is done by linking practitioners (anyone working directly with Service children), funders, researchers, and policy makers. There's three main ways we do this:

1. Through the Hub network. Local regional groups interested in having a voice in and improving outcomes for Service children. Your local hub is the South hub, led by Tian Barratt at the University of Portsmouth. Reach out to them if you are interested in being involved with local activities - upforuni@port.ac.uk . If you have events to share with them, they have a form here - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfNAVWnjfGy-krKSdMfuyi0pHUhYKyM3wc8IHosYFRreTpyBYg/viewform>
1. Thriving Lives Toolkit - this is a self-assessment tool for schools (and soon universities and early years providers) to check in with where they are supporting Service pupils. If you are interested in signing up to the free to us toolkit, see here <https://www.scipalliance.org/thriving-lives-toolkit>. We are at an interesting time in redeveloping our website and toolkit feedback is very welcome. I made some notes from colleagues in schools at the PMK meeting which I have passed on. If you are an active toolkit user and want to give us honest feedback about how you'd like to see the toolkit iterate, please do reach out - SCiPAlliance@winchester.ac.uk
1. The Impact Centre- for all things evaluation and monitoring. If you are setting out to monitor outcomes for Service children and want advice with 1) what data to collect, 2) how to analyse, and 3) communicate your outcomes (including celebrating successes of good programmes) let me know (liam.satchell@winchester.ac.uk).

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I also have a list of useful links to other organisations, but may be familiar to those in the room anyway? Here they are if wanted.

- Families Federations
  - Naval Families Federation: [NFF | Championing Royal Navy & Royal Marines families](#)
  - Army Families Federation: [Army Families Federation - Supporting Army personnel and families worldwide](#)
  - RAF Families Federation: [Support for RAF personnel and families < RAF Families Federation](#)
- Never Such Innocence: [Never Such Innocence](#)
- SEND
  - Garrison Assist Project: [The Garrison ASSIST Project - Resources | SCiP Alliance](#)
  - SCISS: [Voice of Schools SEND Project | Service Children in State Schools](#)
  - Oxford Brookes: [About the project | Supporting All to Thrive](#)



[www.aggies.org.uk](http://www.aggies.org.uk)



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- Service Children in State Schools: [Home](#) | [Service Children in State Schools](#)
- Nexus Project (Young Carers from Armed Forces Families): [The Nexus Project](#) | [The Children's Society](#)
- Reading Force: [Home - Reading Force](#)
- Scotties Little Soldiers: [Charity for Bereaved Military Children](#) | [Scotty's Little Soldiers](#)
- Forces Employment Charity: [Forces Employment Charity](#)
- Armed Forces Education Trust: [Home - Armed Forces Education Trust](#)

Dr Liam Satchell

## Storybook Waves

To celebrate Aggie's 150<sup>th</sup> Year we have commissioned 2 children's books to be written, Race to the Sailors' Rest and Juniper Jack and the Pillars of Hercules. They are lively, funny, adventurous and highlight the wonderful work that Aggie Weston did.

The FS/KS1 book, launching in June 2026, is a playful picture book based on Aggie's real life pets, Polly the Parrot and Hector the Golden Retriever, who greeted the Sailors through the doors of the Plymouth Sailors' Rest.

The KS2 book, launching in October 2026, is a chapter book that has been written to support your Victorian Curriculum and follows orphan Juniper Jack, 12, on an adventure smuggled aboard HMS Warrior to find her long lost father in Gibraltar.

We would love to offer the following

- Gift these books to your school libraries
- Storytime sessions at School with the Author/member of Aggie's
- Take assemblies to highlight the amazing work Aggie did
- Provide Lesson plans for the KS2 book so it can be taught as part of your Victorian Curriculum (the Author is an experienced teacher and former Head of English at a Primary school)
- Have a Chapter reading and Q&A session with the Author, where possible, for the KS2 kids

More details will follow but if you are interested in learning more or registering your School's interest please get in touch with Alexa and Liz from Storybook Waves at [storybookwaves@aggies.org.uk](mailto:storybookwaves@aggies.org.uk)

Kind regards,

Alexa



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## Naval Families Federation

Hi Solent Military Kids Network.

The Naval Families Federation has been contacted by a few schools asking about support for service families during this uncertain time. I have put together a list of everything that is available to schools and families from all three services. I have broken it down into sections for ease, as some things are service specific and some are available to all.

One small bit of advice from a mum of two service children, having open lines of communication with the parents in the school helps. It shows the families that the schools are listening and there to support. The service leads at my daughter's schools are approachable and willing to listen. Get your families engaged with the school service clubs and groups and make things fun.

Schools are doing a marvellous job and during these uncertain times it isn't just service children who feel lost or confused. In that light some of the services I have added below are available to nonmilitary families for you to have in case it is needed.

### Naval Support

#### [Aggies](#)

[Naval Childrens Charity – Supporting Naval Children since 1825](#)

[Royal Navy Forum](#)

[Strengthening Families Booklet 2025 Digital.pdf](#)

[Anchoring Minds | Mental health and wellbeing support for Navy and Marines serving personnel and military families](#)

### Tri-service Support

[Home - Little Troopers](#)

[Home - Reading Force](#)

[nff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/6656-NFF-Parental-Absence-Guide-DI.pdf](#)

[Book-list-updated-Jan-24.pdf](#)

[SCiP Alliance](#)

[Home | Service Children in State Schools](#)

[Service pupil premium \(SPP\) - GOV.UK](#)

[Education Support for Armed Forces Children](#)

[Schools > Services Children's Champion](#)

[Mental health services for veterans | Com](#)



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## Naval Families Federation

[Home - Kooth in association with Ministry of defence](#)  
[Royal British Legion | Armed Forces Charity](#)  
[Never Such Innocence](#)

### RAF Support

[RAF Personal Support and Social Work Service | SSAFA](#)  
[Serving families | Royal Air Force](#)

[Support for RAF personnel and families < RAF Families Federation](#)

[Military Minds | Mental health and wellbeing support for serving British Army and Royal Air Force families.](#)

### Army Support

[Army Families Federation - Supporting Army personnel and families worldwide](#)  
[Army Benevolent Fund](#)

[Army Welfare Service | The British Army](#)

[Military Minds | Mental health and wellbeing support for serving British Army and Royal Air Force families.](#)

### Non-Military support

[YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds](#)

[Home - Kooth](#)

[Togetherall](#)

[Children's mental health - Every Mind Matters - NHS](#)

[Support & advice for families | NSPCC](#)

I know the list is very long and I know that it can be confusing as to where to start, but hopefully this helps break it down into chunks for you. If you have any specific questions or a family is needing extra support please don't hesitate to contact me.

[jennie.laidler@nff.org.uk](mailto:jennie.laidler@nff.org.uk)

Kind regards,  
Jennie

## Boleh Sailing

Boleh have again very kindly granted us 2 weeks of sailing, if there is appetite for more sailing days, there is the potential to have more days in October.

The sailing weeks we have been granted are as follows:

### Week 1

Monday 18 May 2026 to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2026

Get back to me by Monday 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2026

Karen.baldwin@aggies.org.uk

### Week 2

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2026 to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2026

Get back to me by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of June

Karen.baldwin@aggies.org.uk

If there is enough interest, then also the week of  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2026 to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2026

Get back to me by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2026

Karen.baldwin@aggies.org.uk

## PMK/SMK

Pompey Military Kids/PMK will be changing names to Solent Military Kids/SMK. This would enable schools with service children in the greater Portsmouth area i.e. Gosport and Fareham to feel more included.

We will be holding a design competition, and we are asking service children to design a new logo for Solent Military Kids.

You can do this in your service club time, or we can do this with your service children when we come visit you at your school.

The closing date for all entries is Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026. With the winning Logo being revealed at the start of the new academic year, September 2026.

**At the end of this newsletter, you will find the competition form that your service children can complete their entries on!**

## Aggie's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year

It was so lovely to be able to share a little bit of the history of Aggie's with you in the lead up to our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Agnes Weston started her journey teaching the 'unmanageables' at Sunday School, who quickly grew to love and respect her. When they were too big for Sunday School, they asked her to open a cafe where they could visit. This quickly led to Aggie putting on events for an army batallion in the area, where she began writing to soldiers. When a soldier headed to India and was stationed with a sailor who very much wanted a penpal, Aggie wrote her first letter to a 'Blue Jacket' Inundated with further requests from sailors, Aggie couldn't meet the need and so began to publish Ashore & Afloat - which is still in publication today! She experienced the dire conditions sailors lived in and so set up the Sailors' Rests - a safe haven for them to stay at when alongside. Although the rests are no longer required in the modern Navy, the support, listening ear and care that Aggie provided still is, and so our Pastoral Workers complete this work across the UK. In our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, we are celebrating all that work and raising vital funds for this work to continue.

We would love you to join us in celebrating Agnes Weston at our upcoming Sports Day for service pupils, where we would appreciate each pupil being sponsored a very small amount to take part. Further details will be sent out asap!

We'd also love for your school to join us by running a Red, White and Blue Non-Uniform Day in support of the work Aggie's does. This could be on Friday, 26 June to tie in with Armed Forces weekend. Children can wear any combination of red, white and blue, or their Cadet uniform / mini forces uniform. Again, further details will be sent out shortly for you to take part in this, if you wish to. The team would be happy to come in and do a short presentation about Agnes Weston and bring some artifacts from the old Sailors' Rests, which could tie in with some history schemes of work (especially from our new KS2 book launching soon).

We have lots coming up this year and are looking forward to putting on more events for Service Pupils to really celebrate their backgrounds.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me:  
Nikki.Burge@aggies.org.uk

Kindest regards,  
Nikki

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## USEFUL CONTACTS



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

**Naval Families**  
F E D E R A T I O N

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

The Aggie's Portsmouth Community Waves Team looks forward to seeing you when we next visit your school. We will be focussing on decorating the Planter in Victoria Park for the Month of the Military Child, April. Aggie's celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> year this year too. New dates for school visits to be released after the Easter Holiday.

*We hope you all have a great Easter holiday!*

*Warm wishes,*

*Karen Baldwin  
and the Portsmouth Community Waves Team,  
Jo Spurgeon  
Jess Cook  
Lucy McDonough*

## JOIN PMK

Should any schools, not currently part of the PMK cluster, wish to attend our termly meetings please contact [karen.baldwin@aggies.org.uk](mailto:karen.baldwin@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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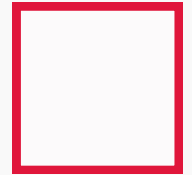
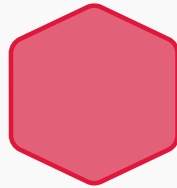
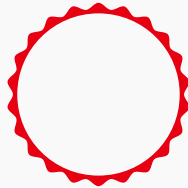
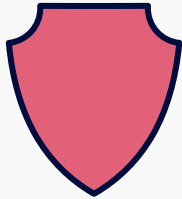
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# Solent Military Kids (SMK) Competition

We want to make our group of service pupils feel more inclusive, so we are changing the name from Pompey Military Kids to Solent Military Kids. We need your help to create a NEW logo!

Get creative in the space below and return your design to the Community Waves Team by FRIDAY 26 JUNE 2026. There will be a prize for the winner!

Your logo can be any shape that you would like. For example:



Name:..... Age: .....

School: .....