

POMPEY'S MILITARY KIDS NEWSLETTER



HELLO AND WELCOME TO ALL PMK/SMK SCHOOLS

How lovely it was to see so many of you at our final PMK/SMK Meeting for this academic year, on Monday 16 June at the Andrew Simpson Water Sports Centre. It was great to see old and new faces at the meeting and wonderful to see all the networking and exchanging of ideas happening. We do all this to better support those children whose parent/s are serving in the Armed Forces.

RNSA

The Royal Naval Sailing Association's Sail Together programme offers a whole range of fully funded sailing and windsurfing courses, sailing club activities and Family Days for the children, partners and families of Serving and Reservist RN, RM and RFA.

- RNSA Youth Crew - [Homepage](#) - [RNSA Youth Crew](#)
- RNSA Go Sailing - [RNSA Go Sailing – Free adult start sailing courses with the Royal Naval Sailing Association](#)
- RNSA Sailing Club and Family Days - [Homepage](#) - [RNSA Youth Crew](#)

Children from serving and reservist RN, RM and RFA Families, aged 8-17 years can join RNSA Youth Crew for sailing and windsurfing courses. Weekly or residential, held during the school holidays and in locations around the country. Also on offer are RNSA Youth Crew SEN sailability courses, advanced sailing courses and dinghy instructor courses.

RNSA Go Sailing offers free sailing courses to the partners of serving and reservists RN, RM and RFA. Delivered in Portsmouth, Plymouth and Blairvadach, Scotland.

RNSA Sailing Clubs and RNSA Family Days, found in Portsmouth, Plymouth and Blairvadach, Scotland are an opportunity for our RN Families and community to come together on and off the water to have fun, meet others and further their sailing journey.

RNSA Sail Together is fully funded by Greenwich Hospital and delivered through our partnership with the Andrew Simpson Foundation.

To find out more, please email Tracey our Southeast Outreach Co-Ordinator at youthsailing@rnsa.org.uk or call 0330 236 8090. For Outreach enquiries, please contact Helen, Outreach Manager on outreach@rnsa.org.uk



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SUMMER
2026

SCHOOL VISITS

The Aggie's Community Waves Portsmouth team have really enjoyed visiting your service children in school. In May alone we worked with just over 140 service children, as we visited schools and made Victorian Silhouettes of all the things that reminded us of Aggie Weston. The silhouettes have been bound together and will hang in the Dockyard Museum, glass walkway, before the Summer Holidays.

We look forward to visiting some more schools before the Summer holidays, however we will not be able to offer as many visits to schools this term. There are many community events we are attending over the next few weeks. Please find the dates we are available to visit below. Visits last between 45 minutes to an hour. A member of the school staff must be present during the visit. Get in touch with me at karen.baldwin@aggies.org.uk to arrange a visit between the times of 1000 – 1415.

- Please provide the time you wish us to visit – one 45min-60min slot
- How many children in the group (approximate number)
- Age range of children in the group

Monday

29/6/2026

06/7/2026

13/7/2026

Tuesday

30/7/2026

07/7/2026

Thursday

02/7/2026

09/7/2026

16/7/2026



We will be making insects to go around the planter at Victoria Park. The children will make one to keep and one to go on the planter. Please could you provide each child with a pair of scissors and some glue sticks?

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FORT NELSON

Fort Nelson has very kindly offered us two days at the Fort for service children, this July. Tuesday 14 July for upper KS2 service pupils (Yr 5 and 6) and Wednesday 15 July KS3 service pupils (Y7,8 and 9). Pupils will need to be accompanied by a member of staff (school to determine adult to pupil ratio depending on age of pupils) on the day. In the past the topics covered have been historical in nature and last year was the 'Big guns' topic. This year....It's 1941. A Nazi spy has infiltrated Fort Nelson and stolen some vital military plans. Your students will be put through their paces of decoding, decrypting and discovering to solve the mystery and catch the spy.



Pupils bring a packed lunch. The day is from 1000-1400 and schools are responsible for getting pupils to and from the venue. No other costs are involved.

Spaces are limited so please let me know by Monday 6 July 2026, if you would like to attend. There will be another offer in December for Christmas at the Fort, this will be for the younger service children, Yr R to Yr 4, and more details for this will be given closer towards the time.

BOLEH SAILING DAYS FOR SERVICE CHILDREN

BOLEH has also given us a week of sailing in September 2026. The following dates are still available:

Tuesday 22 September

Wednesday 23 September

The boat/yacht can take 10 passengers, 1 skipper, 1 first mate, 8 spaces remain for service pupils and members of staff, depending on ages and adult to child ratios.

This is a brilliant team building experience, and new skills are learnt. Pupils bring a packed lunch, and schools need to transport their pupils to and from Hasslar Marina. No Further costs are involved. Please let me know, by email on karen.baldwin@aggies.org.uk by Thursday 10 September 2026, if you would like to sail on the dates available above.



www.aggies.org.uk



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

GOLD AWARD 2023
Proudly supporting those who serve.

RACE TO THE SAILORS' REST: A POLLY AND HECTOR ADVENTURE!

We are absolutely delighted to launch our new KS1 book "Race to the Sailors' Rest: A Polly and Hector Adventure". Based on Aggie Weston's pets, Polly the parrot and Hector the dog, the pair go on a wonderful adventure. We're so proud of our history at Aggie's, and this introduces a small amount to our young readers in a fun and exciting way. As we celebrate our 150 Anniversary as a charity, we are pleased to announce that we are able to gift copies of the book to your school libraries. Please do request your copies now by emailing Storybookwaves@aggies.org.uk, stating the number of service children you have in KS1.

JUNIPER JACK - KS2 BOOK AND LESSON PLANS

Adam Shackleton, author of both our books, and formerly a primary school teacher with over a decade of experience, has come up with a scheme of work to accompany our new KS2 book. Our second book, Juniper Jack and the Pillars of Hercules, will be launched in October and is not only a brilliant read but has lesson plans that should fit in perfectly with those studying Victorians. Again, for more information, a copy of a couple of chapters complete with lesson plans, with no obligation, please email storybookwaves@aggies.org.uk and we will get these out to you.

SCHOOLS #150CHALLENGE

To celebrate our 150 Anniversary, Aggie's is launching the #150Challenge for schools – a fun and flexible way for pupils, classes, and school communities to work together while supporting a great cause.

The challenge is simple: complete an activity based around the number 150, either as a class, year group, club, or whole school. Ideas could include reading 150 books, completing 150 laps of the school field, carrying out 150 random acts of kindness, collecting 150 food bank donations, or creating your own unique challenge.

The best part? There's no rush. Schools have until May 2027 to complete their challenge, giving plenty of time to plan something fun and meaningful.

While taking part is the main objective here, if you can raise a little bit of sponsorship alongside your challenge to help support Aggie's work, we would be super grateful!

Be sure to capture your challenge with photos or videos and share your progress on social media, tagging Aggie's or send stuff over to comms@aggies.org.uk. Why not also nominate another school to take on the #150Challenge and help spread the challenge even further?

RED/WHITE/BLUE DAY

If the #150Challenge isn't your thing, perhaps you could hold a Red/White/Blue day for Aggie's, where pupils come in wearing those colours or their Cadet uniforms. We can pop in and give a brief presentation on the history of Aggie's and even run a couple of activities for service pupils if you'd like us to! Contact Karen or comms@aggies.org.uk to get involved!

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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



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

UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH - COSMOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Would you like a visit to your service children club from the outreach team at the Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation, University of Portsmouth? We're delighted to be embarking on a new project to engage Naval Service Families with our astrophysics research and would love to visit your school to run some space activities with service children as part of it. We have a variety of activities that we can offer and can tailor the session to best suit you and your pupils. All our outreach is free of charge to schools and there's no minimum number of students required. If you'd like to find out more, please send an email to jen.gupta@port.ac.uk.

Please do not share the entire Newsletter with parents, but feel free to signpost as you see fit.

My Team and I wish you all a great Summer Holiday and we look forward to seeing you in the new academic year when we will return as 'Solent Military Kids' or SMK, with our NEW and exciting logo!

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. 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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