

POMPEY'S MILITARY KIDS NEWSLETTER

HELLO,
TO ALL PORTSMOUTH
SCHOOLS AND
SERVICE CHILDREN

For those of you who are not aware of Pompey's Military Kids (PMK), we are a gathering of Portsmouth schools, led by Aggie Weston's and in partnership with Portsmouth City Council and Naval Families Federation. We work closely with Portsmouth Parent Board. Our aim is to share in good practice when supporting our Service pupils and the best use of Service Pupil Premium. We offer special events for SPP children and welcome any newcomers to our cluster.

KATIE



**HELLO TO ALL PORTSMOUTH SCHOOLS
WITH SERVICE CHILDREN.**

We hope you have been enjoying the sunshine!

April saw the Month of the Military Child with schools across Portsmouth celebrating the uniqueness of Service Life. Some schools held assemblies, inviting in Serving parents or Veterans to talk about their life in the Armed Forces, others held special lunches or dressed in purple for the day. Many schools took part in the Never Such Innocence Poetry competition and were recently invited to HMS Nelson to perform their thought provoking and emotional poetry. Here they were also joined by the HMS Oardacious crew, who spoke to the children about their EPIC 3000-mile row across the Atlantic, which was to raise awareness for the Mental Health and Wellbeing of Service Personnel and their families as well as raising awareness of the support out there for our fantastic Service Children and their families. They are setting their oars into action again in December – so get your cheering hats out and banners at the ready – you can follow their progress and cheer them on!

They were also joined by Penny Mordant MP, who recently met with PMK to discuss the work we do and the support that is out there for our Service families and schools. Penny spoke about her own Service in the Royal Navy Reserves and that she now has an honorary commission. She inspired the children to follow what they love and are passionate about.

Never Such Innocence is a charity who work alongside the MOD and can offer creative workshops to schools and help schools understand the struggles of SPP pupils and offer ideas on how is best to support them. Should you wish to reach out to them, please visit [Never Such Innocence](https://www.neversuchinnocence.org.uk) The work they do is truly amazing!

Aggies aim to provide termly events to bring SPP pupils together and allow trips specifically for SPP children in the PMK cluster, free of charge with schools arranging transport to and from venues. During May, we were lucky enough to go to Fort Nelson for a bespoke day, with 2 trips, one for KS2 and the other for KS3. The children who attended had a fantastic time, imagining the sea levels had risen and they were living on an island called Fort Neslonia. They were able to use their imaginations and create artwork of new creatures that might live on the island as well as ancient maps – all of this was put together to create posters about their new island and the inhabitants of it.

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SUMMER
2023

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
023 9265 4373



Pastoral Support for RN,
RM, RFA and families.
023 9263 9534



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

JUNIOR FIELD GUN

We were hoping to show case the Junior Field Gun in action this term but unfortunately, due to a busy period, we were unable to hold our final meeting of the school year. However, should anyone wish to see the Junior Field Gun in action, please contact Northern Parade sarah.rose@kingsacademies.uk.

Caitriona Scully from PCC met with David Evans (Seafront Manager) who has been providing funding to schools for the field gun initiative. As far as can be worked out, Caroline Hopper (via the armed forces covenant) has provided him with some funding to roll it out to schools. It is available to any school interested, and it isn't restricted to Service children.

BOLEH Sailing dates 2023

Many schools have enjoyed a days sailing with BOLEH, but there are still some dates available for September and October

Available dates

- 18/09/23
- 21/09/23
- 11/10/23
- 12/10/23
- 13/10/23

This is aimed at Year 6 and above and spaces are limited to a maximum of 6 pupils and 1 adult.

They do have flexibility to offer to Year 5 and 4, but this decreases the number of spaces – for safety reasons. Year 5 = 5 pupils and 1 adult, year 4 = 4 pupils and 1 adult. If you want to mix up the year groups, then spaces are allocated IAW the youngest member. Please email katie.white@aggies.org.uk to secure your date.

CORONATION PROJECT

A huge thank you to all who took part in our Coronation Project, we now have all the patches back and are in the process of putting together 3 quilted tapestries and having them displayed. The venue is still to be confirmed, but we are in talks with the Commander of the Base – fingers crossed! The effort the children put into decorating their patches with pictures of their families were fantastic and we are really looking forward to unveiling the final products.

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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ssafa | the
Armed Forces
charity

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TOOLKIT

Caron Wallace and Caitriona have been working hard on a Toolkit for schools, with all the information you need for your Service children and families – we have seen a first draft and it really does look fantastic, it is nearly finished and they have applied for some funding via ESF to help with the roll it out to schools. This should be with you after the Summer holidays.

SPORTS DAY

Many of you have been enquiring about our annual Sports Day, we are aware that you need notice for approval and transport. Sadly, our usual venue at HMS Temeraire is no longer an option this year, with maintenance of the track required. We are working hard to secure a new location and hopefully we will have more information for you all soonest. We are really hoping to still hold this event.

REMINDERS

SPP is for all Service children identified on the school census and for children of Veterans, for 6 years after the Service person has left the Service. This is known as Ever 6. Many Veterans are not aware of this, so it is encouraged that schools keep websites, leaflets, prospectus' up to date with clear concise and easy to find information on SPP pupils support and the expenditure of SPP.

Schools are accountable for the expenditure of SPP to OFSTED and along with the above suggestions, we are sending out other ways schools can use SPP to support Service children and Veterans.

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