

Supporting Armed Forces Children & Young People

In our Schools and Nurseries

Monthly Newsletter

February 2024

Welcome to the newly Revamped Monthly Newsletter

This is the first edition of the newly revamped newsletter.

If you would like to advertise anything your school, nursery or organisation are doing to support your Armed Forces children and young people then please get in touch with me.

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Professional Learning Community (PLC) Meetings

The next PLC Meeting is taking place on Thursday 21st March 2024 at 4.00p.m. in the Drumfork Community Centre. The aim of this meeting is for school/nursery staff to understand the practical, emotional, educational and social challenges some young people may face as a result of deployment or mobility and identify strategies for supporting children within both teaching and pastoral roles through sharing good practice, resources and supporting each other.

If you would like to attend this meeting then please let me know by emailing emer.flett@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Next PLC
Meeting is on
21st March @
4p.m.

Royal Navy Family and People Support (RN FPS)

Royal Navy Family and People Support (RN FPS) Scotland have developed a new referral form (see Appendix 1) which is to be used for any new referrals into their team. This will allow them to prioritise any new referrals appropriately and triage as required.

As always the RN FPS Portal (0800 145 6088) continues to be the main point of contact for all new referrals to RN FPS however, if your referral is Scotland specific then you can now utilise the referral form attached as Appendix 1.

All referrals are to be sent to navypeople-psrnfpscot@mod.gov.uk

Any queries please contact RN FPS Scotland: 01436 672798



School of the Month

Hermitage Primary



I would like to highlight a school in Helensburgh & Lomond every month and share all the good work they are doing to support their Armed Forces children and young people. We are going to start with Hermitage Primary.

Forces and Me Lunchtime Club

This club takes place every Wednesday which is open to P4 – P7 pupils and is run by Lucy Impey with the support of 5 P7 Forces and Me Leaders who are Josie, Jessica, Eilidh, Lexie and Lucy (not pictured). They also have a notice board in the main hall for all children, visitors, parents and staff to view.



Storytime Club

Storytime Club will be starting after the Easter break for P1 – P3 pupils and will be run by Lucy Impey, Madeline Paton and supported by the Forces and Me Leaders.

Armed Forces Pupil Council Ambassadors

Amos and Paige from P6 are the Armed Forces Pupil Ambassadors on the school council.

Amos said ***“I feel like I can make a difference on the school council as I am in a forces family and represent these families.”***



Armed Forces Staff Representatives

The school have 2 Armed Forces Representatives – they are a link between the school and Armed Forces Community.

Lucy Impey - *My husband has served in the Royal Navy for over 22 years and is currently working on the V class submarines. I have 2 grown up sons, we have moved with the forces several times. I have worked at Hermitage Primary for the last 7 years and started the group 2 years ago because I felt that the military children of Hermitage Primary School needed a place to discuss their experiences and receive support from peers and adults. The Club is continually developing, with new ideas added each term. I recently created the noticeboard in school. The newsletter will be shared from February. I am hoping to start a Primary 1,2,3 Storytime club after the Easter Holidays.*

Madeline Paton – *I am the Health and Wellbeing Family Liaison Officer at Hermitage Primary and I am honoured to be an Armed Forces Rep. We at Hermitage want to strive to help these families who are experiencing longer deployments and who go through so many transitions in their life's whilst in the Armed Forces and then after too. The beginning of the Forces and Me Club was one of my happiest times for Armed Forces Families as it gave the children the beginning of their much deserved and needed voice within the school community. We are also offering our children a morning toast club which provides a free healthy breakfast for all pupils before the school day begins. We were fortunate to have received some funding for this by Naval Children's Charity.*

PLC Meetings

Madeline Paton represents the school at the Professional Learning Community (PLC) Meetings.

*I have been going to the PLC meetings now for many years and these meetings have helped me understand more about the needs of armed forces families, through passionate speakers from the many amazing services and agencies we can access for the families and I get to meet likeminded people who care about the Armed Forces Families in our community. **Madeline Paton***



Never Such Innocence



Never Such Innocence visited Hermitage Primary twice in 2023 where pupils were invited to engage with the HMS Oardacious mission through poetry and art facilitated by practitioners Nik Perring and Emily Hopkins. The pupils produced work which showed the varying emotions of having a relative deployed, the pride, the strength and struggles one might face alone and together at sea for 35 days. Their work can be viewed at the Drumfork Community Centre.

HMS Oardacious is a group of 4 Royal Navy submariners who rowed 3000 miles from the Canary Islands to Antigua & Barbuda in 35 days in January 2023. The submariners rowed the Atlantic to fundraise for the wellbeing, mental health and welfare of all Submariners, serving and retired, and their families.

Marianne Docherty (Head Teacher), Madeline Paton and some children from the school have been invited to attend Never Such Innocence's 10 Year Anniversary Celebration taking place on 29th February in the Great Hall at Edinburgh Castle.



Forces Children Scotland

Victoria Allan and Nina Collins from Forces Children Scotland have been visiting 10 pupils from Primary 6 and 7. They have been developing a cartoon that describes their experiences as a forces child, this will be shared with schools and non-forces children so there is a greater understanding of their experiences.

Month of the Military Child

Some children from Hermitage Primary took part in the Argyll & Bute Council Month of the Military Child 2023 Competition where they produced some fabulous poetry and artwork which can be viewed at the Drumfork Community Centre.

Beth Culverhouse received 3rd place in the Best Poetry Category. Well done Beth.



Marianne Docherty has indicated that they are very keen to participate again this year in Month of the Military Child and one of the things the school will be doing is to Purple Up on Friday 26th April.



Forces & Me Clubs



These Clubs are held in schools across Helensburgh & Lomond either as a lunchtime or after school club to support the Armed Forces children and young people.

Evidence indicates that children and young people from Armed Forces families may suffer high levels of emotional distress before, during and after deployment of a relative and learning can be interrupted during the transition process which sometimes can involve more than one change of school during the pivotal primary years.

The aim of the club is to support the children and young people as follows:-

- A safe space to hang out and have lunch
- New to the area/school and looking to make new friends
- Looking for support when a parent is deployed, about to be deployment or just back.

If your school would like to run a lunchtime or afterschool club then please contact Emer Flett on emer.flett@argyll-bute.gov.uk

If you would like further information on any of the above then please contact:-

Emer Flett - Service Pupil Advisor

01436 658921

emer.flett@argyll-bute.gov.uk

 @AdvisorPupil

 Service Pupil Advisor Helensburgh & Lomond

 Servicepupiladvisor

This post is funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust



APPENDIX 1

**Annex F to
RN FPS P&G 017
Dated 27 Jun 22**

REFERRAL TO ROYAL NAVY FAMILY AND PEOPLE SUPPORT SCOTLAND

Information contained in this form is subject to the Data Protection Act 2018 and as such may be shared with individuals concerned.

Information is processed under Article 6e Official Authority

Referrer's Details (Third Party)

Name:	Rank / Appointment	Tel:
Relationship to Serving / Referred Person:	Email:	Date:
Is the Service User aware of this Referral? Yes / No		Has the Service User consented to this Referral? Yes / No

Details of Serving Person (SP)

First Name:	Service No:	Date of Birth:	
Address:			
Telephone Contact:	1. Home	2. Mob	3. Work
Email address (required):			
Is it ok to contact you via email if required? Yes / No			

Details of Service User (if not SP)

Title:			
First Name:	Date of Birth:	Relationship to SP:	
Address:			
Telephone Contact:	1. (Home)	2. (Mob)	3. (Work)
Email address (required): Is it ok to contact via email if required? Yes / No			

Family Composition

First Names	Date of Birth	Relationship to SP	Address (if different)



Brief Summary of Issue

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Additional Information

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Other Agencies Involved

Full Names	Agency	Contact Information (Tel / Email)

If at any time you have reasonable concern that a child or young person has suffered significant harm or may be at immediate risk of suffering significant harm (including emotional harm), telephone Local Authority Children and Families Social Work Team immediately to discuss your concerns with a Social Worker, or contact the Police (999) if you feel the child is at imminent risk.

Send referral to: navypeople-psrnfpscot@mod.gov.uk

Any Queries please contact RN FPS Scotland: 01436 672798

If you require Emergency Out of Hours support please contact the Duty RN FPS Worker through the DNBO: 01436674321 ext. 4005

