

# Supporting Armed Forces Children & Young People

## In our Schools and Nurseries

### Monthly Newsletter

March 2024

## Month of the Military Child



April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, which highlights the important role children play in the Armed Forces community. It is a time to applaud Armed Forces families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome.

We would like to encourage all children and young people from schools and nurseries to carry out activities during this month to understand, raise awareness and celebrate the unique experiences this group of young people have.

### WHATS IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1 ~ Month of the Military Child

Page 2 ~ School of the Month  
JLB Primary

Page 4 ~ Reading Force

Page 5 ~ Contact Details

Appendix 1 ~ MotMC  
Competition

### There are lots of ways that you can get involved:-

**Celebrate** – Encourage children to display banners, purple/dandelion themed artwork around the school and also to enter my MotMC Competition (closing date 26<sup>th</sup> April) – see Appendix 1

**Identify** – Ask parents/carers to let you know if they are serving or have served in the Armed Forces.

**Listen** – Hold an assembly to learn about Armed Forces students' experiences and the support they feel would help them to thrive in education.

**Connect** – Connect with HMNB Clyde who may be able to offer outreach activities and highlight support that is available to Armed Forces families.

**Inform** – Share information in your school newsletter, noticeboards or website to raise awareness of the support you offer to children from an Armed Forces background.

**Purple Up** – 'Purple Up' day is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April - wear purple to celebrate children from Armed Forces families. Purple was chosen as it combines the various colours associated with different branches of the military.

If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact me on [emer.flett@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:emer.flett@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Remember to share on Social Media

#MotMCHelensburgh

#Armedforceshelensburgh



# School of the Month

## JLB Primary



### Forces and Me Club

The Forces and Me Club takes place on a Monday after school and is run by RN FPS and Aggies with support from a member of staff.

Huge thanks have to be offered to all the staff and ladies involved who have supported the children. The activities have been great fun and well researched and resourced.

One child said, ***"I hope this club never ends. I want to keep coming every Monday."***

The jars are Separation or Deployment Jars that are full of great suggestions about activities to do when loved ones are far apart.



### Armed Forces Staff Representative

The Armed Forces Rep at the school is very active and is a link between the school and Armed Forces Community. She also attends the PLC Meetings.

***"I am so pleased to be part of the support system for the children of our Armed Forces. We have a strong, supportive system in place. I have been involved with children who belong to the Armed Forces Community for many years and I am so impressed with the way that the community gathers and supports the children in this area."***

John Logie Baird Staff Member

### Never Such Innocence



Never Such Innocence visited JLB Primary in January 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.





## Carol Service

In December the children from P1-P7 worked with the Padre to tell the Christmas Story.

They sang, read Bible passages and acted the story for families and friends at The Drumfork Centre.

They were accompanied by the Neptune Band and The Military Wives' choir. It was a beautiful evening full of festive spirit and the Christmas story.



## ASL Armed Forces Teacher

The school has benefitted from having the ASL Armed Forces Teacher Carol Holloway attend the school every Wednesday to help support some of the AF children.

## Month of the Military Child

Some children from JLB 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.



# Future Projects

## Garden Party May 2024

John Logie Baird has a close association with the military and the children wish to celebrate Armed Forces with a Garden Party on 17<sup>th</sup>.

This is early but the school has had many successful Garden Parties at this time. The Parents' Committee are helping to organise it this year and they have many, many exciting ideas.

We think that they are inspiring the children because the party will definitely be bigger and better than last year. The school will inform their parents nearer the time but we look forward to seeing everyone in their Garden Party finery.

## Month of the Military Child 2024

Carolyn Randall (Head Teacher) 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.



**Calling all primary and secondary schools with pupils who have parents/carers currently or previously in the British Armed Forces**



Reading Force is a tri service charity supporting the families of serving, veteran and ex-service (due to separation, divorce, or bereavement)

Our book clubs can be a fantastic way to support your service pupils to make connections with others who have a link to the Armed Forces and encourage reading for pleasure.

The coordinator\* and each book club member will receive three free books, plus either our fabulous scrapbook or our amazing teen journal and the coordinator will receive our adult reading record.

[www.readingforce.org.uk/book-club-suggested-titles](http://www.readingforce.org.uk/book-club-suggested-titles)

Get in touch with Nicola, our Book Club Ambassador to find out more about setting up a book club at your school - email [nicola@readingforce.org.uk](mailto:nicola@readingforce.org.uk) or call 07519 665410



If you have any questions or would like to add an article to the next Newsletter then please contact:-

**Emer Flett - Service Pupil Advisor**

01436 658921

[emer.flett@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:emer.flett@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

 @AdvisorPupil

 Service Pupil Advisor Helensburgh & Lomond

 Servicepupiladvisor

This post is funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust



# Month of the Military Child 2024

## Competition

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, which highlights the important role children play in the Armed Forces community. It is a time to applaud Armed Forces families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome.



*Purple was chosen because it symbolizes all branches of the military, a combination of Army Green, Air Force Blue, Coast Guard Blue, Marine Red and Navy Blue.*

*Did you know the official flower of the military child is the dandelion because it's seeds are blown far and wide by the wind but it will always plant roots and blossom wherever it lands.*

Remember to share on social media

**#MotMCHelensburgh**

**#armedforceshelensburgh**

### We want to hear from all children and young people

Open to all nurseries, schools, youth groups  
or participate at home with family and friends

- ✚ Get creative and write your own stories about being an armed forces child, e.g. a poem, song etc
- ✚ Create dandelion/purple themed artwork
- ✚ Take photos showing what life is like being a child from an armed forces family
- ✚ Purple Up day 26<sup>th</sup> April – wear purple to show your support for armed forces children



1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes will be awarded to the winners of each category



Please send the originals or photos of the above pieces of work along with the young person's name and age to:-

[emer.flett@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:emer.flett@argyll-bute.gov.uk) by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024

If you have any questions then please contact:-

**Emer Flett - Service Pupil Advisor**

01436 658921

[emer.flett@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:emer.flett@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

 @AdvisorPupil

 Service Pupil Advisor Helensburgh & Lomond

 Servicepupiladvisor

This post and project is funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust

