Supporting Armed Forces Children & Young People

In our Schools and Nurseries

Monthly Newsletter

April 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 nurseries, schools and youth groups to carry out activities during this month to understand, raise awareness and celebrate the unique experiences this group of young people have.

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 26th April)

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 26th 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**

Remember to share on Social Media

#MotMCHelensburgh

#Armedforceshelensburgh

Never Such Innocence 10 Year Anniversary Celebration

On 29th February some children from Colgrain Primary and Hermitage Primary got the opportunity to attend the 10 year anniversary celebration of Never Such Innocence in Edinburgh Castle where they collectively read their poem about HMS Oardacious

Over the past few years, Never Such Innocence have had a great partnership with HMS Oardacious. Ahead of this year's race, NSI practitioner Nik Perring visited Hermitage, Rhu and Colgrain Primary schools to write poems about mental health, resilience and the race HMS Oardacious were about to undertake.

The 2023 Captain of the team, Matthew Main, spoke about the positive impact on the team reading the poems from the children, it even inspired them to write their own poems about their journey!

We Row Together Perfromed by Students from Hermitage and Colgrain Primary Schools

Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust

Applications for the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust: Service Pupil Support Programme is now open and I plan on submitting a cluster bid for the schools across Helensburgh & Lomond. We can apply for between £5,000 and £80,000 for stand-alone projects lasting up to two years.

This year they are encouraging clusters of 3 or more schools to apply for projects supporting Service children under one of three themes:-

- Closing the gap in attainment between Service and non-Service pupils.

- Addressing the needs of Service pupils with additional needs.

- Identifying and addressing the needs of small cohorts of Service pupils within educational settings.

If you have any suggestions or ideas as to what we could apply for as a cluster then please let me know by Friday 19th April 2024. The deadline for this grant is 8th May 2024.

For further info please click on the following link https://covenantfund.org.uk/programme/the-service-pupil-support-programme/

PLC Meeting

The next Professional Learning Community (PLC) Meeting is taking place on Wednesday 29th May at 4.00p.m. and will be online. An invite will be sent out shortly to participants.

The previous meeting took place on Thursday 21st March at the Drumfork Community Centre where we had presentations from the following organisations:-

RN Youth Network Group

RN Youth Network is a place for young people from Service families to share their opinions and to help RN FPS gain a better knowledge of the needs for young people aged 11-18. To bring fresh ideas as to what we can deliver and to gain a better understanding of the gaps in the services we provide for Service families.

If you would like to join this group they meet every fortnight after school in Triton House, Churchill Square and sometimes they have team's meetings for those who don't live in Helensburgh.

If you feel you would like to take part in their forum, please contact Navypeople-psrnfpsscot@mod.gov.uk

The Submarine Family – John Lewis

Single Support Network for all serving, retired submariners and their families.

What they do:-
- Funds small and large projects
- Awards Grants to all members of the family
- Annual grants to WRS, SA and friends of RNSMM
- Award Respite Breaks
- Wellbeing Support
  - Targeted signposting
  - Caseworkers
  - Resilience course

Contact details:- john.lewis@rnrmc.org.uk or TSFsupport@rnrmc.org.uk and https://submarinefamily.uk/

Reading Force – Fiona Maxwell

At Reading Force, we are passionate about using books to bring Forces children and families closer together. Our shared reading initiative encourages families to read, talk, and scrapbook about a book, improving communication and enriching relationships with books and each other – one page at a time.

Fiona would be happy to come into your school/nursery to discuss this further.

Contact details:- fiona@readingforce.org.uk and https://www.readingforce.org.uk/

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

@AdvisorPupil

Service Pupil Advisor Helensburgh & Lomond

Servicepupiladvisor

This post is funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust

Ministry of Defence

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST