

Education Update for Argyll & Bute Armed Forces and Community Partnership



April 2025

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.

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 may have.

Across Argyll & Bute we want to applaud and celebrate children and young people from Armed Forces families for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome

Ways to get involved

Identify – Parents/Carers let your child's School or Nursery know if you are an Armed Forces family (serving, veteran or reserve).

Encourage – Schools and Nurseries can take part in the celebrations e.g. hold a special assembly to learn about Armed Forces students' experiences, participate in Purple Up Day, encourage pupils to enter art and poetry competitions

Charity – Conduct fundraising activities and donate the proceeds to a local or national Armed Forces charity

Connect with other Armed Forces organisations and Charities who will be offering MotMC activities e.g.

**Little Troopers
Never Such Innocence
Forces Children Education
Forces Children Scotland**

**Purple Up Day
Friday 25th April**

Wear purple to show your support for Armed Forces children



Month of the Military Child 2025 Competition

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

This Competition is open to all children and young people across Argyll & Bute and West Dunbartonshire

We would love to hear from nurseries, schools, youth groups or children can participate at home with family and friends



Share homecoming photos or other special memories showing what life is like being a child from an armed forces family



Create Dandelion or Purple themed artwork



Participate in Purple up Day on 25th April send us photos of your child/children wearing purple at home and at school/nursery

#MotMChelensburgh
#Armedforceshelensburgh



Closing date is Friday 2nd May 2025

Please send your entries to
Emer Flett
Service Pupil Advisor
emer.flett@argyll-bute.gov.uk
Tel: 01436 658921

The dandelion is the official flower of the military child and purple was chosen because it symbolizes all branches of the military



Forces and Me Lunchtime Clubs

Forces and Me Lunchtime Clubs run in various schools across Helensburgh & Lomond, offering a supportive space for children and young people from Armed Forces families.



The clubs are designed to support pupils who may:

- Be experiencing a parental deployment or separation
- Be new to the school and looking to make new friends
- Want general support and to connect with others in similar situations

These clubs offer:

- A safe, welcoming space to talk with understanding adults
- Peer support — helping young people realise they're not alone

Lunchtime Clubs at Garelochhead Primary and Colgrain Primary P4-P7 finished up the week beginning of April where the children at both clubs celebrated their attendance with a party.

COLGRAIN PRIMARY

P4 - P7



GARELOCHHEAD PRIMARY

After the Easter break Forces and Me Lunchtime Clubs are being held in the following schools:-

FORCES AND ME LUNCHTIME CLUB

Hermitage Academy - Monday
Kilcreggan Primary - Monday
Rhu Primary - Tuesday
Colgrain Primary (P1-3) Thurs
Hermitage Academy - Friday

All Armed Forces young people from a serving, veteran and reserve family are welcome to attend

We play board or card games, create arts and crafts, make new friends and have fun

For further information please speak to the Head Teacher or contact Emer Flett (Service Pupil Advisor) on emer.flett@argyll-bute.gov.uk
 Tel: 01436 658921

OUR VISION

Argyll Bute COUNCIL



Hermitage
Primary School

'Forces and Me' Lunchtime Club:

Primary 4,5,6,7
 Wednesday 12.15 -1pm
 Drop in to the Giraffe Den
 Fun activities and friendly faces ☺

'Forces and Me' – Storytime with Mrs Bradbury

Small groups of military children from primary 1, 2 and 3 meet on a Monday afternoon, we share relevant story books and fun activities (30 minutes)

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust

Argyll & Bute Council were successful in their bid to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust: Service Pupil Support Programme and have been awarded funding (which is split into 2 projects) to support Armed Forces children and young people from serving families in our schools over a 2 year period.

Project 1 - Wellbeing, Literacy or Numeracy Sessions

We are delighted to announce that the organisation to provide this project is:-

The Exchange/Health is One

Sessions will start soon in Rhu Primary and Hermitage Primary as follows:-

- 2 days per week – Wednesday and Thursday with two 1 hour group sessions per day
- Each group could consist of up to 10 children or a smaller ASN group of up to 4 children.
- Open to children who have a parent currently serving in the Armed Forces either regular or reserve.

There are three different strands to this project, they can either provide wellbeing, literacy or numeracy sessions and have the qualified staff to provide all three.

Wellbeing

This program is to support Armed Forces children who are separated from family members due to deployment or are struggling emotionally and/or are new to the school/area. Sessions could consist of how to handle worries/anxiety, separation from loved ones, regulating emotions and fostering friendships, confidence and self-worth.

A Wellbeing Holiday Club will also be offered which will provide a safe outlet during the holidays.

Literacy/Numeracy

These sessions are ideal for children who are not making academic progress, have plateaued in their learning, have been identified as not reaching their potential in literacy or numeracy or have just moved to the area and have gaps in their learning.

For further information on this organisation please click on the following link <https://healthisone.co.uk/about-us/>

Project 2 - Forest School

We are delighted to announce that the organisation to provide this project is:-

Woodlandwise Forest School

Sessions will be starting in Hermitage Academy and Colgrain Primary as follows:-

- 1 day per week – two 1½ hour group sessions a day
- Each group could consist of up to 10 children or a smaller ASN group of up to 4 children.
- Open to children who have a parent currently serving in the Armed Forces either regular or reserve.

Forest School sessions will also be offered during the holidays which will provide a safe outlet to deepen a sense of belonging, acceptance and fun while developing an understanding of life's challenges and opportunities and how to thrive in both.

For further information on this organisation please click on the following link <https://www.woodlandwiseforestschool.co.uk/>



Forces Friday Events

Forces Friday events have been taking place in various schools across Helensburgh and Lomond, providing a welcoming opportunity for our Armed Forces families to come into schools, connect with partner organisations, socialise with other Armed Forces families, meet school staff, and take part in a range of activities and experiences.

So far, Forces Fridays have been held at:

- **St Joseph's Primary & ELC – 8th November**
- **Colgrain Primary & ELC – 31st January**
- **Rhu Primary – 28th February**

These events have been a great way to strengthen relationships within our school communities and celebrate the contribution of our Armed Forces families.

RPS IS HOSTING

FORCES FRIDAY EVENT

FRI 28TH FEB
1.45 - 2.45PM

All Rhu Service families are welcome

come and meet:

Fiona Maxwell - Reading Force
Emer Flett - Service Pupil Advisor
AJ Harrison - RNSA Youth Crew
Christine Stewart - RN FPS
Sophia McArdle - RN FPS
Gillian Gray - Forces Children Scotland

Email: enquiries-rhu@argyll-bute.gov.uk
Phone: 01436 820 316

Forces Friday

Saint Joseph's Primary School invite you to join us for our Forces Friday celebration.

This will be an opportunity for you to meet other Forces families and take part in fun activities with your child.

Date - Friday 8th November 2024
Time - 1.45pm

Forces Friday

Colgrain Primary School & ELC

Please say hello to...

Naval Families Federation (NFF)
Service Pupil Advisor
Forces Children Scotland
Royal Navy and Family People Support (RNFFPS)
Drumfreck Centre
Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RN/RMC)
Reading Force
Naval Children's Charity
Royal Navy Diving Team

Let's Get Busy!

Decorate your own biscuit
Time to celebrate YOU! Make your own special moments jar
Block play
Share a story
Board games
Coding - can you write your name with a 'sphere'?
Make a friendship bracelet

Future Dates

- **Hermitage Primary** – 28th April
- **Hermitage Academy** – 13th June

More schools will be hosting Forces Friday events after the summer holidays — watch this space for further dates and details!

Feedback from Partner Organisations and Parents

Our recent Forces Friday events have been a huge success, bringing together Armed Forces families, partner organisations, and school communities. Here's what some of the attendees had to say:

"Meeting other military families and finding out about the charities and organisations that can support us as we prepare for a new draft was so helpful."

"It would be great to have this event again!"

"It benefitted me as I was able to meet parents I hadn't connected with before, explain the work I do, and let them know how they can access support. I also spoke to other professionals about potential working partnerships, which is fantastic."

"It was great meeting families we weren't previously aware were Forces families, and welcoming new families to share what's happening in the community. Networking with other partner organisations and chatting with school staff was really beneficial too."

If you are interested in finding out more information on any of the above, then please contact me on:-

Emer Flett
Service Pupil Advisor

 01436 658921

 emer.flett@argyll-bute.gov.uk

 Service Pupil Advisor
Helensburgh & Lomond

 @AdvisorPupil

