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Service Families Newsletter – Dec 2021

Welcome to the last Service Families Newsletter of 2021 I will use this space to Wish you ALL 'A MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR' in advance.

A very warm welcome to the families that have joined us this term, I hope you enjoy your time with us.

I am pleased to announce I have recently been in contact with 'Reading force' who are a charity that provides reading books to children who have a parent(s) serving in the armed forces. They also supply scrap books that let the children record the book as they read with their family which allows the children to show and recall the story to a family member who may not live close by.

This service is free and once you are in receipt of the scrap book package you can go ahead and apply for your free book. (A book is supplied per child, living within the household as they are chosen based on the child's age)

If you know you are to be deployed you can apply for two copies of the same book, allowing you to read the book with your child whilst you are away.

I have applied for the scrapbook packages which will contain all the information you will need to apply for this scheme. Once I am in receipt, I will begin to hand them out.

**Children who have parents currently on Deployment or have informed me of a pending deployment – The charity have kindly agreed that they will send me their books now. Please allow time for Reading force to send them and once I am in receipt, I will pass them on.*

Are you due to be Deployed ?

We always ask that you make us aware of any deployments, either to myself, your child's class teacher or the school office. We can then make sure your child is supported where necessary.

Children are given the opportunity to send letters, pictures and e-mails to their deployed parent so please pass details of e-mail and BFPO Address on to us – However with the School holidays pending I thought I would pop some photos in the Gallery with ideas of how to display the Separation packs your children are sent home with.

Photo Gallery



Example of a younger readers 'READING FORCES' pack



FLAT STANLEY is on his travels again! He certainly gets to go to some great places and the children enjoy hearing and seeing of his adventures.



Little troopers pack



Each child with a deployed parent is given a Little troopers separation pack that they can take home.

The pack contains:

- 10 x Chuff chart sheets + stickers – to help you countdown your time apart
- World Map + stickers – so you can see where your Mum or Dad have been and also where you have lived around the world
- Colour in postcards x 6 – to keep in touch
- Photo frame – to keep Mum or Dad's photo precious
- Child and Parent separation diaries – to help you keep your memories to share when you are back together again
- Separation booklet – packed full of ideas and tips

- A reading force information scrapbook that allows you to claim a FREE boo(s)

More recently the children with deployed parents have been putting together some bits and pieces ready to send in a Christmas parcel. These parcels have been packaged up and are on their way.

Tracey Clark is the HIVE information Officer at RAF HIGH WYCOMBE (the hive is located in the building on the left as you enter 3 site)

Tracey has access to deployment-based resources and her team can also offer support to service families during times of need. Tracey can be contacted on:

Tracey.Clarke100@mod.gov.uk - 01494 497831 OR 07971 828876

Kind regards,

Karen Henig
Family Liaison Officer



Christmas parcels to Deployed parents are on their way



Using the little troopers pack at home

