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Service Families Newsletter – June 2025

My apologies for the lateness of this newsletter – Time has run away with me during this school year. However, I have been fully active in engaging with your children whether that be supporting them through your deployments, their friendship's or their general wellbeing.

A very warm welcome to the families that have joined us – I have been meeting with the new children to say hello and getting to know them all.

Thank you to those families that attended the coffee morning

It was lovely to see so many of you in and out of uniform helping celebrate our 'dandelion's'. I know the children enjoyed it and also liked being included in the school assembly.

CAMO DAY! I NEED YOUR HELP!

What is CAMO day? – In SSAFA's words 'Camo Day is an exciting way to get children thinking about the bravery and sacrifices made by members of our Armed Forces'.

All of our children both from a Military family and non-Military would be involved in this day. It allows the children to get involved in things they may have never done or seen before.

Why do I need your help?

I am looking for people that can offer help in getting the things we need to set up a CAMO day. The sections involved would need to be present and organise the stations. We would organise the groups of children throughout the day. We would hope to hold the event towards the end of June/beginning of July.

- Helicopter(s) to land on school field and allow the children to climb in and see the inside etc
- Trucks - Teach the children the dangers of blind spots
- Police/ Medical Vehicles – Talk to the children about what the jobs entail
- CAMO tent – allow the children to CAMO up
- Rations table/tent – Let the children look at what ration food looks like – If possible, try it?
- PT course – A small assault course run by the PTI's
- SSAFA – a small table set up with (possible freebies) leaflets explaining all about what SSAFA is and does to help
- Marching – children to march in time – quick, slow, etc in a timely beat to band or modern music around the playground.
- Life raft – allowing the children to see what they look like – feel what it is like to all be inside one
- ANYTHING ELSE that the children could complete safely

CAN YOU HELP? Please contact Mrs Henig or the school office if you think you may be able to help. PLEASE STEP FORWARD and help me make this happen.



Coffee morning being planned for September!

I will be arranging a coffee morning for all our forces families which will allow all the new starters to meet and greet each other. Please look out for the details nearer the time on ParentMail as you will need to sign up, so we can cater for the all attendees.

Questionnaire!

I have compiled a questionnaire please can you fill it in, either by copying the form , editing it and then emailing it to me direct Khenig@nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk or printing it off, filling it in and returning to the school office where they will be passed on to me.

I cannot guarantee all your suggestions will be met however, I will read them all and see what can be amended in the way we do things now or put in place if the request is feasible..

Please find a copy of the questionnaire at the bottom of this newsletter

Are you due to be posted ?

Please, let the office know as soon as possible. Then, should you wish, I can begin to work with your child(ren) and help with their transition to their new school. To widen the help and support given to your child it is helpful if you know which school your child(ren) have been offered places at and you let us know as soon as you hear.

To be able to assist your child(ren) they will need to have been told by you about their pending move. If support is agreed by you, your child(ren) will receive a leavers booklet which will include pictures of themselves and their friends.

Are you thinking about or have been offered a posting abroad ?

Do you know how to apply for education in schools when serving abroad accompanied by your family ?

Accepting a posting abroad can be an exciting time for some families but it can also come with its confusions, knowing which schools are served by an MOD school, and which are not. Children's education in the locations which are not can either be provided by local state schools or by schools from the independent or international school sector. FULL information can be found on the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-overseas-for-service-children>

If you would like the latest educational suitability reviews please visit the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/the-childrens-education-advisory-service-ceas>

If you are in receipt of an overseas assignment order, you should first contact the Families Section at MOD Abbeywood in order to obtain the family travel pack. The email for the Families Section is:

desdscom-famsec-gp@mod.gov.uk



Does your child have SEN or an EHCP ?

The educational clearance process can take up to 9 weeks (**currently up to 12 weeks**) if a service child has an additional need as checks will take place to ensure that those needs can be met in the new assignment location.

The availability of educational, medical and social care facilities to support children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) is different in overseas commands and varies between commands.

Prior to a service parents posting overseas, the needs of all service children will be assessed to ensure that the educational needs can be met. This process is part of the MOD's Assessment of Supportability (MASO)

If you are in receipt of an overseas assignment notice, and have a child with a special educational need or disability, you are required to register your child with CEAS. It is recommended that this is done as early as possible for advice to be given in a timely manner.

It can be difficult as a parent to move a child abroad with special educational needs, and MOD schools and CEAS, depending on assignment location, will endeavor to support families in the process. If it is determined that a child's needs cannot be met overseas; you will be advised not to proceed with the posting.

More advice is available from [CEAS](#) on the SEND provision in non-MOD schools' location on the following website .

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/the-childrens-education-advisory-service-ceas#special-educational-needs-andor-disability-sendan>

It is advised that you do not proceed with your posting until you have heard the outcome of the MASO process.

All the above guidance has been sourced using the Governments UK guidance for education overseas for service children and is in no way a personal view of Naphill and Walters Ash primary school.



Are you due to be Deployed ?

We always ask that you make us aware of any deployments, either to myself, 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

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 book(s)

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

Study of service children's identity and experiences of education

Thank you to the parents who allowed for the participation of your children in a study of service children's identity and experiences of education. (This project is being undertaken as doctoral research at the Department of Education, University of Oxford and for yr5 and Yr 6 service children only.) The groups met and began this week.

Kind regards,

Karen Henig
Family Liaison Officer

Staying in contact



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



Using the little troopers pack at home



FORCES FAMILY FEEDBACK FORM

Please tick or fill out the relevant information

Name			SP or Dependant	
			SP <input type="checkbox"/>	Dependant <input type="checkbox"/>
What year is your child /Children ?				
Reception <input type="checkbox"/>	Year 1/2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Year 3/4 <input type="checkbox"/>	Year 5/6 <input type="checkbox"/>	
What would you like to see offered as support for your child as a forces child ?				
What if anything has been done well, to support your child, as a forces child, within our school?				
Have you/your spouse been deployment whilst your child has been at our school? <input type="checkbox"/>				
What year date where you/they deployed? <input type="text"/>				
If you/your spouse was deployed, did you agree for your child to receive FLO support? <input type="checkbox"/>				
Did/Do you feel your child was/is being supported whilst the serving member was/is deployed? <input type="checkbox"/>				
Any other comments				