



Kilnwood, Walters Ash, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP14 4UL
Headteacher: Kerenza Gwynn
01494 562813
office@nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk
www.naphillandwaltersashschool.co.uk

Service Families Newsletter – September 2025

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.

A quick introduction from myself. I am the family liaison officer (FLO) within our school and I look after all our forces family children. I may help them settle into our school or if they are leaving I will help them transition to their new school and location – this includes any overseas postings. In addition to helping your children settle in or leave I look after and spend time with them if their parent(s) are deployed - should they want this to happen. I am also one of two of the school staff who are ELSA's trained (Emotional learning support Assistance) and I am a trained EBSNA (Emotional based school non attendance), so your child(ren) may see me working and helping children in different roles throughout our school.

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 in 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 yourselves about their pending move. If support is agreed by yourselves, 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 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, 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

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

