

Welcome to the first edition of our Forces Newsletter this academic year. We aim to distribute this newsletter to you termly, to share and celebrate the experiences that we provide for our Forces children.

The Forces Leaders

Following the departure of Mrs Laura Thwaites on her new adventure, Miss Olivia Grimley (Year 4 Class Teacher) is very excited to take over as our Forces lead. Should you have any questions, do catch her on the door at drop off and pick up (at the back of the school) or send an email to the school office to be passed on for her attention.

Support we offer:

- A weekly lunch time drop in 'Forces book club' in Miss Grimley's classroom for Key Stage 2 children. This aims to share literature related to Forces experiences and provide the opportunity for informal chat.
- Weekly sessions for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children with Mrs Ford in the woodland den.
- A Forces library located outside of Miss Smyth and Miss Grimley's Year 4 classrooms. These books can be shared at home and in school to support the needs of pupils.
- Countdown charts, diaries and memory books for children with parents that are working away from home.
- The opportunity to Zoom/Skype within school time with parents that are deployed. We understand that time differences can limit contact during the week, and we are happy to support contact between families.
- Trips to military bases and to alternate venues to build a sense of community within our Forces pupils.
- Forces family events for our pupils and their parents and carers.
- The opportunity for children to lead whole school projects to promote an awareness of our Forces community.

Deployments and Postings

If a parent or carer is deployed or posted out of area, please contact the school office to request a deployment letter to complete and return to us.

The information that is provided allows us to ensure that the best possible provision is in place for your child to ensure that this period of time is as positive as possible in relation to both their education and emotional welfare.

admin@withamsthughs.org

Did you know?

Information on the Service Pupil Premium, such as how this can be used to meet to the needs of our Forces children and our forecast of spending, can be found on our school website following the link below.

<https://withamsthughsacademy.co.uk/service-pupil-premium/>

Exciting upcoming events!

- The launch of our new lunchtime 'Forces book club'.
- Whole school Remembrance Day Service led by our Forces pupils.
- Our first family event of the year, Forces family breakfast– 15th November (details to follow).

How can you help?

If you have any further suggestions with regards to how we can further support the Forces pupils in our care, or if you are able to offer support with organising trips to your place of work, please contact the office or catch Miss Grimley on the door. It truly would be much appreciated!