

Supporting Children and Young People from Armed Forces Families in Schools

Newsletter
August 2026

NeuroDiverse Community CIC (Scotland)

Moving to or from Scotland? Support for Neurodivergent Families.

Relocating can be an exciting opportunity, but it can also feel overwhelming, particularly when you are supporting a neurodivergent child or young person.

Check out this new Facebook page created by NeuroDiverse Community CIC (Scotland) to help support Armed Forces families moving to and from Scotland.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/988048347147366>

Armed Forces Survey for Together While Apart Pilot

We are also exploring the development of **Together While Apart**, a new neuroaffirming programme designed to support neurodivergent children, young people and their families during periods of military separation, including deployment, training, exercises, weekending and other time spent away from home.

Have your say! Please click the link below to complete our short survey. Every response will help us better understand the needs of neurodivergent children and young people from Armed Forces families during periods of separation.

<https://wkf.ms/4wgVPm6>



Forces and Me Summer Sessions

Thanks to funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, free "Forces and Me" Woodlandwise Forest School and The Exchange Wellbeing sessions took place this summer for children from serving Armed Forces families (regular and reserve).

The Exchange Wellbeing Sessions

To further support young people from serving Armed Forces families, two wellbeing sessions were delivered during the summer holidays as follows:-

-  Tuesday 28th July
- ✦ Morning Session (P1- P7) 10a.m. - 12p.m.
-  Creative Writing
-  Arts & Crafts using paint and a variety of creative materials
- ✦ Afternoon Session (S1 - S4) 1p.m. - 3p.m.
- ♥ Exploring Positive Relationships
- 🧶 Friendship Bracelet Making

WHATS IN THIS ISSUE

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What's on in August

Woodlandwise Forest School Sessions

Woodlandwise Forest School delivered four summer holiday sessions as follows:-

📅 Sunday 26 July
🕒 10:30am – 12:30pm and 1:00pm – 3:00pm

📅 Friday 31 July
🕒 10:30am – 12:30pm (ASN Session - smaller group) and 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Across the four sessions, approximately 35 children and young people from serving Armed Forces families benefited from taking part in outdoor learning, wellbeing and nature-based activities.

We look forward to re-starting our Forces and Me Lunchtime Clubs in schools after the summer holidays!

Lunchtime clubs provide a friendly, supportive space for children from Armed Forces families to connect, share experiences and take part in activities together.

From August to October clubs will take place in the following schools

New Forces & Me Afterschool Club

A new Forces & Me After School Club for P1 - P7 children from serving Armed Forces families (regular and reserve) will start the end of August and will be facilitated by The Exchange and funded by The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust.

The club will be a fun, friendly space where children can:

- ✨ Meet others from Armed Forces families
- 👉 Build friendships
- 🎨 Take part in fun activities/crafts
- 💖 Feel supported and connected

- 🕒 Proposed time: 3:30pm after school
- 📅 Possible days: Wednesday or Thursday
- 📍 Possible venue: Central Helensburgh, Drumfork Club

👉 If your child/children would be interested in attending, please complete the following expression of interest form

<https://forms.gle/V1s7nT5QwrVepL4m9>



Argyll & Bute Council Website

I'm pleased to share that the Armed Forces Families section within the Education and Learning area of the Argyll and Bute Council website has been updated. This now includes information and resources for:

- **Families moving to the area** – guidance and information to help make the transition as smooth as possible.
- **Families currently living in Argyll and Bute** – including access to a dedicated Google Drive containing useful resources and information.
- **Children and Young People** – information about the Armed Forces Ambassadors programme, Forces & Me Clubs, and videos designed to help children and young people prepare for moving to Helensburgh and settling into their new school and community.
- **Schools and Early Years settings** – information on supporting children and young people from Armed Forces families, along with training and webinar opportunities for education staff.
- **The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust** – information about the funding awarded to support serving Armed Forces children and young people in schools across Helensburgh & Lomond during 2025 – 2027, including the projects and initiatives being delivered through this funding.
- **Partner organisations** – details of organisations that provide support to Armed Forces children, young people and their families.

We encourage families, schools and education professionals to explore the updated section and make use of the wide range of information and support available.

To view please click on the following link <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/armed-forces-families-information>



Applications for the Naval Children's Charity University Education Bursary Award Scheme 2026 – 2027 open in August!

Our University Bursary Scheme is now named The Kilmorey Bursary Scheme in memory of The Kilmorey Fund for Naval children at The Royal School Haslemere, which sadly closed its doors in 2025. The name comes from Kilmorey House, the original site of the school in 1840. We are very grateful to the Trustees of The Kilmorey Fund who have given the remaining money in their Fund to The Naval Children's Charity.

The Naval Children's Charity are delighted to launch their new University Education Bursary Award Scheme in collaboration with the JS Group through their innovative Aspire platform.

The Bursary scheme has three parts to it:

Resource Award

For year 1 of study only, to be spent on equipment and resources for your course.

Cost of Learning Award

Annual bursary to be spent primarily on helping with the cost of rent groceries/utilities.

Living Away From Home Award

Annual bursary if you are living away from home in student accommodation.

If you fit the following criteria you can apply for a University Education Bursary today!

- You are the child/dependant of someone who is either a Serving or Veteran of the Royal Navy and 25 years or under (includes Royal Navy, Royal Marines, QARNNS, WRNS, Reserves and Royal Fleet Auxiliary)
- Your annual gross household income for family < £80,000
- You are starting or currently studying for an Undergraduate First Degree only NOT Masters/PhD/degree apprenticeships.

To apply for a bursary please email golearn@navalchildrenscharity.org.uk and request an application form.



The Cave, Churchill Square, Helensburgh, opened its doors on Tues 9th June to showcase the new facility for local young people in S1 - S6. This was followed up with a Summer Workshop on the 28th July involving fun team building games and challenges. This also involved unveiling and testing out the new air/pool table donated by Naval Children's Charity.

A new youth group in Churchill Square will provide weekly activities from Tuesday 18th August 2026 with further activities being planned.



The Cave was a response to a reported lack of provisions in the Churchill area for young people 12 yrs and over. With support from Sophia McArdle, RN FPS Community Development Worker, who has been involved in the project since it started, this is seen as a valuable addition to services within the local area.

Sophia said, "It has been a lengthy process to finalise and get The Cave open, and we are delighted RN FPS are now able to offer this facility to young people in the area. The two recent events have been well attended, and we are excited to watch The Cave grow into an integral part of the local community."

To stay up to date of what RN FPS has happening locally, join the forum <https://forum.royalnavy.mod.uk/>.

What's on in August

ROYAL NAVY & ROYAL MARINES CHARITY

FREE ONLINE

SEMINAR

An Introduction to Parenting Children with ADHD

Insights and strategies for families of children who have or might have ADHD

Monday 10th August 2026

7.30-9.00 pm

Book a place by emailing info@sftrust.org.uk

Part of the Strengthening Families programme for all Royal Navy and Royal Marines families in the UK and abroad

www.sftrust.org.uk

Are you part of a Submariner family?

Take part in an informal group to help shape future support for Submariner families (children welcome)

Tuesday 18th August 1730 - 1930

Helensburgh

To book email: anna.rogers@rnmrc.org.uk or scan the QR Code:

The CAVE

Tuesday's
starting on 18th August
1800 - 2000
S1 - S6
Free to attend

The Cave, Churchill Square, G84 9HL

The Cave
Starting on 18th August 2026, 1800 - 2000

RN FPS brand new meeting place for our local young people
The Cave, officially starts on Tuesday 18th August 2026, 1800 - 2000.

Open to all S1 - S6

To join please email NAVYPEOPLE-PSRNFPPSCOT@mod.gov.uk

AUGUST SUMMER 2026

Fun First

Mondays 3RD AND 10TH AUGUST
HELENSBURGH LIBRARY, Funtime session,
0-5yrs 10am
MONDAY 10TH AUGUST
ROSNEATH, St Modans Church Hall 0-5yrs 10am

TUESDAY 4TH AUGUST
CARDROSS LIBRARY, 0-5years funtime session 1.30pm.
Tuesday 11TH AUGUST
HERMITAGE PARK, Toddler Outdoor session 10am
18 months+ Booking required

Wednesday 5TH AUGUST
FUN FIRST FRIENDS,
10-11.30am DRUMFORK CENTRE
WEDNESDAY 12TH AUGUST
GARELOCHHEAD, GIBSON HALL 0-5YRS
Friends with Funtime 10am

Thursday 6TH AUGUST
DRUMFORK CENTRE Toddler Fitness 18mths +10am
Suggested donation £3 per child per session
(cash or cardless options in session)
FUN - FRIENDSHIP - COMMUNITY

South Ayrshire Council 01812296
www.funfirst.org.uk

What's On
AUGUST
at the beep group

MON ECHOS PLUS ~ HELENSBURGH
EXPLORERS ~ DUMBARTON

TUE BEEP MIXED ~ FENWICK

WED ECHOS ~ DUMBARTON
EXPLORERS ~ DUMBARTON

FRI ECHOS ~ KILMARNOCK
EXPLORERS ~ KILMARNOCK
BEEP CONNECT ~ DUMBARTON

01 AUG BEEP ~ THE PLAYDATE

15 AUG TAB IN THE PARK ~ KILMARNOCK
no booking required

27 AUG WEANING & CHOKING FIRST AID
DUMBARTON

FOR MORE DETAILS AND UPDATES, PLEASE FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA.
THE LINK TO BOOK IS IN OUR BIO

Contact Us
groupthebeep@gmail.com
07907420955

FREE EVENTS

Summer family events
at
Helensburgh Community Club

TUESDAY 28 JULY
11AM AND 1PM
FAMILY STORYTIME AND CRAFTING

SATURDAY 22 AUGUST
11AM-2PM
FAMILY FUN DAY

DROP IN EVENTS AT
HELENSBURGH
COMMUNITY HUB
116 EAST PRINCES STREET
01436 678088

**AND JOIN THE GUARDIANS OF
THE HIDDEN TALES FAMILY
SUMMER QUEST!**

HELENSBURGH COMMUNITY HUB SC050459

Stay Connected

We welcome contributions to future newsletters.

If you would like to share a story or event, please contact me.

**Google Drive for Armed Forces
Parents/Families**

**Check out this Google Drive full of info and
resources for parents to access**

**Support locally and
nationally for
parents**

SCAN ME!

**Moving to
Scotland**

**Info and
resources on
deployment**

**Argyll & Bute
COUNCIL**

Contact Me

Emer Flett
Service Pupil Advisor

01436 658921

emer.flett@argyll-bute.gov.uk

**Service Pupil Advisor Helensburgh
& Lomond**

@AdvisorPupil