

Armed Forces Children & Young People

December Update 2023



Welcome to our monthly update for school/nursery staff which provides information on resources available, useful websites, books and organisations, funding and CPD opportunities etc. which could help support the young people in your establishment. Please feel free to circulate to staff/colleagues.

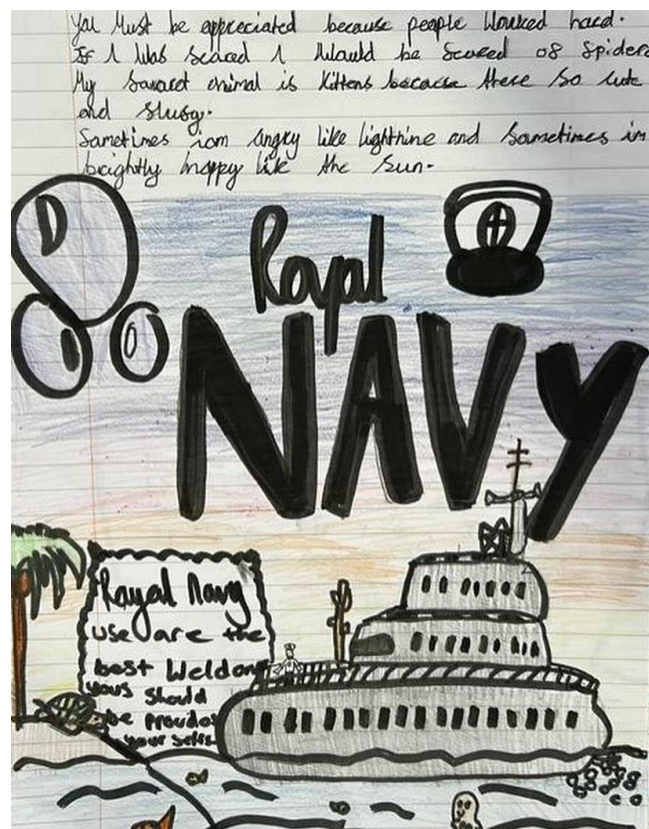
Never Such Innocence – Visit to Schools on 29th, 30th November and 1st December

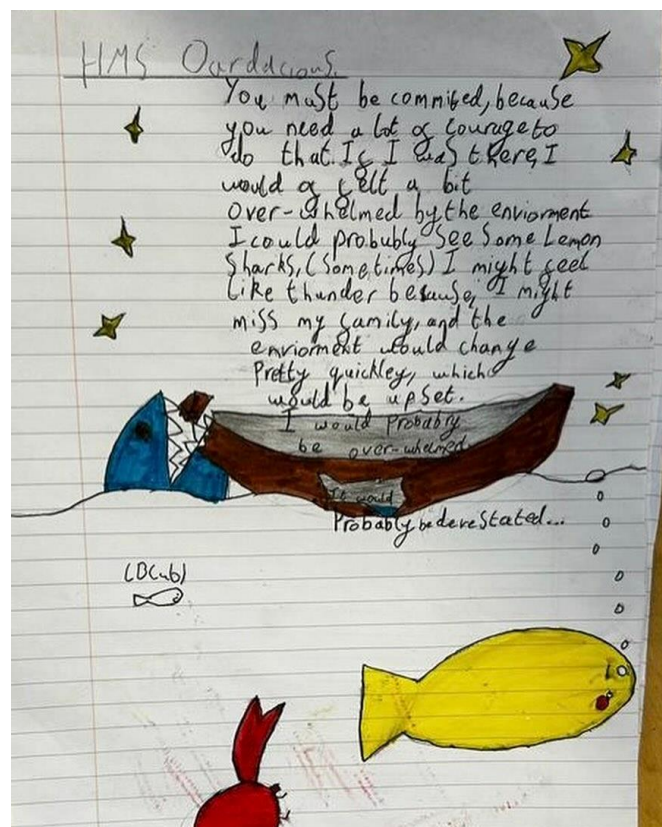
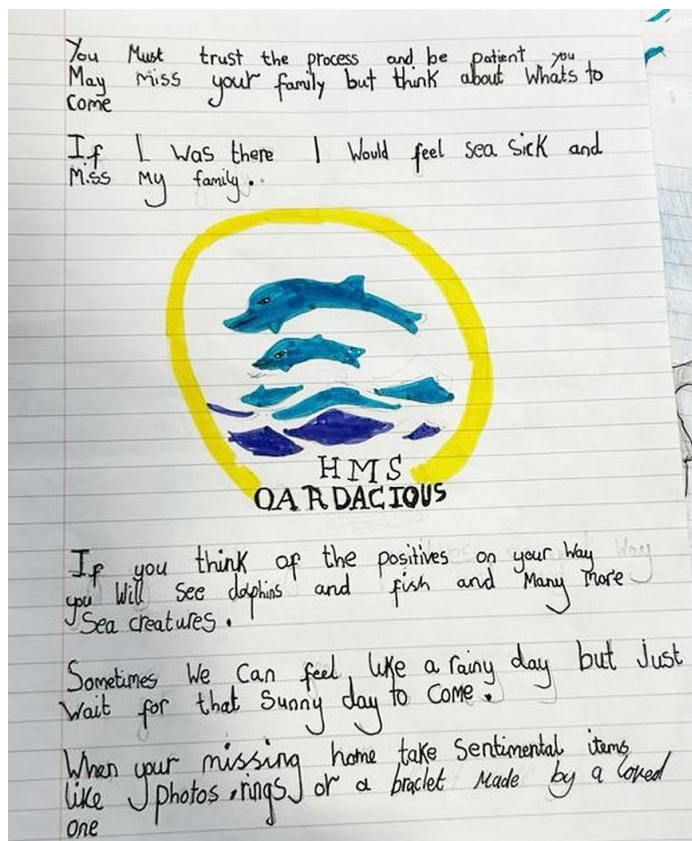
Never Such Innocence is an educational charity which operates to give children from all over the world a voice on conflict. Our mission is to provide tools for children and young people to reflect upon the realities of war

<https://www.neversuchinnocence.com/>

Our creative practitioners visit schools and present workshops in poetry, art, speech and songwriting. Our practitioners give young people the tools they need to create powerful pieces of work that explore themes of war, conflict, peace and change.

As part of a partnership with [HMS Oardacious](#), our poetry practitioner Nik Perring visited several schools in Helensburgh for a series of poetry workshops. We would like to send our extended thanks to Colgrain Primary, Rhu Primary School and Hermitage Primary as well as Emer Flett who helped make this possible.





Starcatchers

Starcatchers are Scotland's Arts and Early Years organisation. They create performances and creative activities for babies and children from birth to 5 years and the adults who care for them. <https://starcatchers.org.uk/>

They have a project called Wee People Big Feelings (funded by the MOD) where they produced resources for Scots Corner Early Learning and Childcare setting by using creative experiences to help wee ones with the Emotional Cycle of Deployments. <https://starcatchers.org.uk/work/wee-people-big-feelings/>

They have some funding left and would like to provide a taster session for early years staff in the Helensburgh and Lomond area which would be a fantastic opportunity for the nurseries here who have a lot of armed forces children in their settings.

This session is open to all early years staff and is taking place on Wednesday 31st January from 4 – 6p.m. in the Drumfork Centre. To book a place please click on the following link <https://forms.office.com/e/qe8ynZX5nG>



When you work with young children, you are their inspiration. Let us inspire you.

The Ministry of Defence has resources for forces families and educators to help older children process the emotional challenges of deployment, but there was a lack of resources for early years. Talking about your feelings can be useful, but what if you don't have the words to describe how you're feeling?

This taster training shares learning from our recent research project [Wee People, Big Feelings](#). Tuning into ways wee ones express themselves and learn about the world – using bodies and faces, movement and music and stories. We listen to what they tell us, both verbally and non-verbally. By taking a child-centred approach, we can be responsive to the needs and interests of wee ones in our settings and using creative experiences to help wee ones with the emotional cycle of deployment.

Learning Outcomes:

- Knowledge of arts provocations as opportunities for young children developing emotional literacy and resilience
- The importance of exploring emotional literacy every day – emotional literacy isn't developed in moments of crisis
- Links between emotional literacy and non-verbal communication – practising FEELING your feelings

Wednesday 31st January 2024

16:00 - 18:00

Drumfork Community Centre

Booking: <https://forms.office.com/e/qe8ynZX5nG>

The Creative Skills Approach

Starcatchers Creative Skills approach shares open ended expressive arts provocations designed to give babies and young children a voice. For young children to develop a sense of agency and fulfil their rights, they need responsive adults who tune in to their interests with a playful and creative approach. You are their inspiration, and we want to develop your skills and confidence to inspire new thoughts and ideas that will help develop the emotional literacy and improve outcomes for the children you work with.

Starcatchers training is about more than just the sharing of ideas – it's about investing in the Early Years Workforce as individuals and recognising that creative responsive adults are the most valuable "open-ended resource" our children need.

"Every forces family is different, and every deployment is different: sometimes we cope well with the transitions, and sometimes it can bring a lot of challenges. There's no one size fits all approach, it's important we develop a repertoire of techniques to support wee ones and their families."

- Early Years Practitioner and Forces Family member

Forces Children Scotland

Forces Children Scotland delivered their accredited Deployment CPD Module to all staff at Hermitage Academy at the recent in-service day on Monday 27th November.

It was also great to hear from the young people as well - the Armed Forces Ambassadors at the school who spoke about their experiences of deployment and moving. Well done to all involved



Armed Forces - Staff Training Mrs Purves

WELLBEING, EQUALITY & INCLUSION
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On the In-service day on Monday 27th November the whole staff took part in training provided by Forces Children Scotland on deployment, separation from their parents and how best we, as school staff can support the young person and their family.

Our Armed Forces Ambassadors campaigned for this training to take place and spoke to staff about their experiences of deployment and separation from their parent(s).



Hope you have a great Christmas break and best wishes
for the New Year



If you would like further information on any of the above then please contact:-

Emer Flett - Service Pupil Advisor

 **01436 658921**

 **emer.flett@argyll-bute.gov.uk**

 **@AdvisorPupil**

 **Service Pupil Advisor Helensburgh & Lomond**

 **Servicepupiladvisor**

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