

Month of the Military Child

Wow, what a month April was! Many thanks to all the school/nursery staff, youth groups and young people across Helensburgh & Lomond for taking part in my Month of the Military Child Competition.

Also many thanks to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust for funding the resources and prizes for this project and to Reading Force for providing some books to the winning 'Purple Up' schools.

I received lots of fabulous artwork, poetry, family photos and Purple Up day photos, it was hard to choose but here are the winners!

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Best Dandelion Artwork

1st

Gwen P7

Hermitage Primary



2nd

Giorgia P3

Cardross Primary



Best Poetry

Life of a Military Child

By Lily and Molly – S1 Hermitage Academy

We are made strong
Don't know if we can belong
But we'll always join along

As we move from place to place
Sometimes we have to change our pace
But it still feels like a race

Even though it is tough we still make friends
Sometimes we just have to pretend
When we don't know when it will end

It may be hard
But we can still send a card
Although you are on guard

1st

Lily ad Molly S1
Hermitage Academy

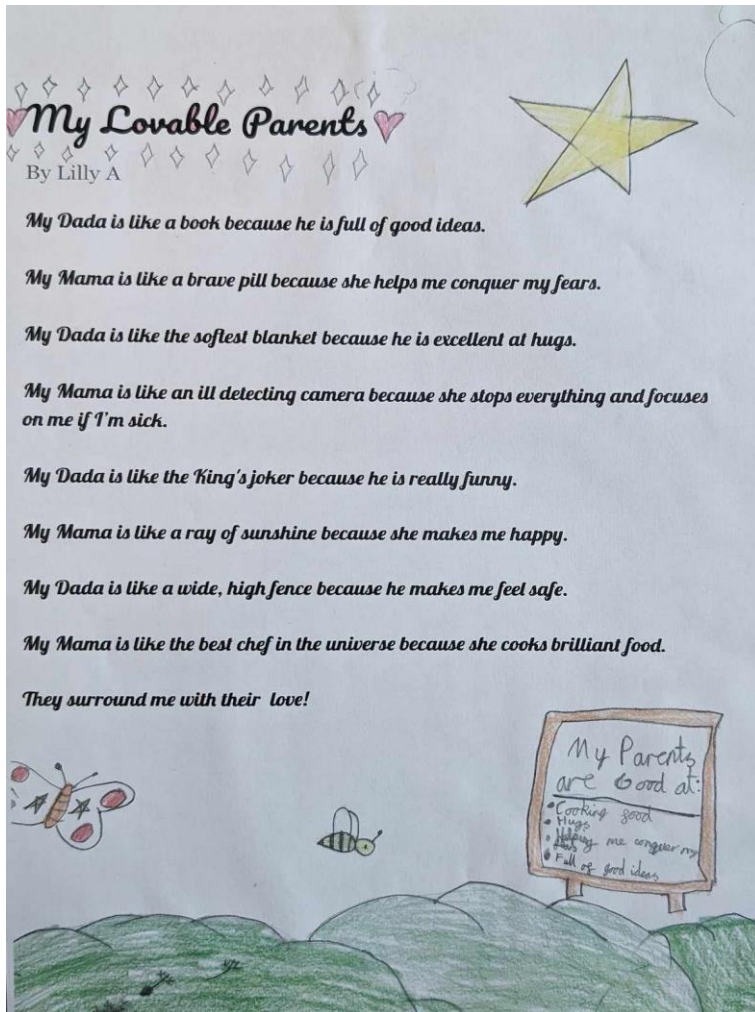
2nd

Elsa
Kilcreggan Primary

Month Of The Military Child

Children's parents go away,
Off to the air or sea.

Many children cry with tears for their parents who have gone away
But doing their duty those parents are when off to the seas they go
To help our country fight and be strong even if they are away.
So purple we wear to symbolise forces united.
For together we are stronger bolder and braver.
For together we can be strong and true.



3rd

Lilly

Rhu Primary

Best Family Photos



1st

The Grigg

Family

2nd

The Dunbar Family



3rd

J



Best Individual Purple Up Photos

1st

Charlie Sawyer



2nd

Ethan Howard



3rd

Victoria Gerdes



Best Schools Purple Up Photos

1st

JLB Primary



2nd

Colgrain Primary

3rd

Rosneath Primary

The Submarine Family

The Submarine Family brings together all parts of the submarine community: serving, veteran, family and supporter; it provides a framework for fundraising and coordinated support for benevolence, commemoration, heritage and projects which support our 'family' in any way.



What they do:-

- Funds small and large projects
- Awards Grants to all members of the family
- Annual grants to WRS, SA and friends of RNSMM
- Award Respite Breaks
- Wellbeing Support
- Targeted signposting
- Caseworkers
- Resilience course

There are two types of membership:

- **Submariner Member.** Royal Naval submariners from the beginning of their submarine training through their service career and retirement.
- **Family and supporter.** Family members of submariners and those who wish to support the Royal Navy Submarine Service.

To become a member please click on the following link <https://submarinefamily.uk/free-to-join/>



School of the Month

Hermitage Academy



Armed Forces Day June 2023

On Monday 26th June 2023 Hermitage Academy celebrated Armed Forces Day with a fayre offering sports activities, Royal Navy STEM Team, MOD Police, Army and Air Cadets, Royal Navy Medics, Forces Children Scotland, RN FPS/Royal Navy Youth Network Group, British Legion and Hermitage Academy Armed Forces Ambassadors.

All pupils had the opportunity to visit the stalls and take part in the activities. An invitation went out to the Secondary Schools in West Dunbartonshire Council and some young people from Our Lady and St Pats attended the event in the afternoon.

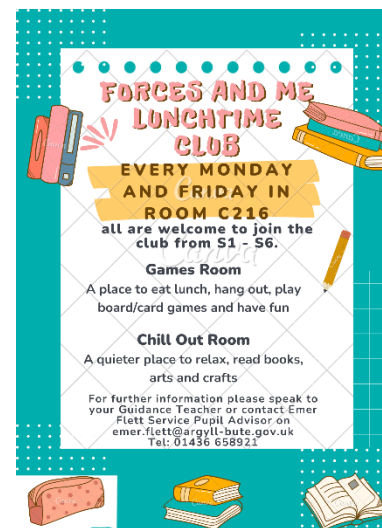
The School are planning to run another Armed Forces Day on Monday 24th June 2024.



Forces and Me Lunchtime Club

The lunchtime club takes place every Monday and Friday in room C216 and is run by Emer Flett (Service Pupil Advisor), Gillian Gray (Forces Children Scotland) and Christine Stewart (RN FPS).

It is an opportunity for young people to get together and have lunch, play games, have some chill out time and speak to an adult about support required.



Armed Forces Ambassadors

Hermitage Academy have 10 Armed Forces Ambassadors ranging from S1 to S6 who are the voice of the Armed Forces young people at the Academy.

At the in-service day on 27th November 2023 the whole school staff took part in training provided by Forces Children Scotland on deployment, separation from their parents and how best staff can support armed forces young people at the school.

The ambassadors campaigned for this training to take place and spoke to staff about their experiences of deployment and separation from their parent(s). Well done to all involved.



Armed Forces School Reps

Hermitage Academy have 3 Armed Forces Representatives – they help support the Armed Forces young people in the school and are a link between the school and the Armed Forces Community.

Bethan Mullis, Teacher of Modern Studies and History

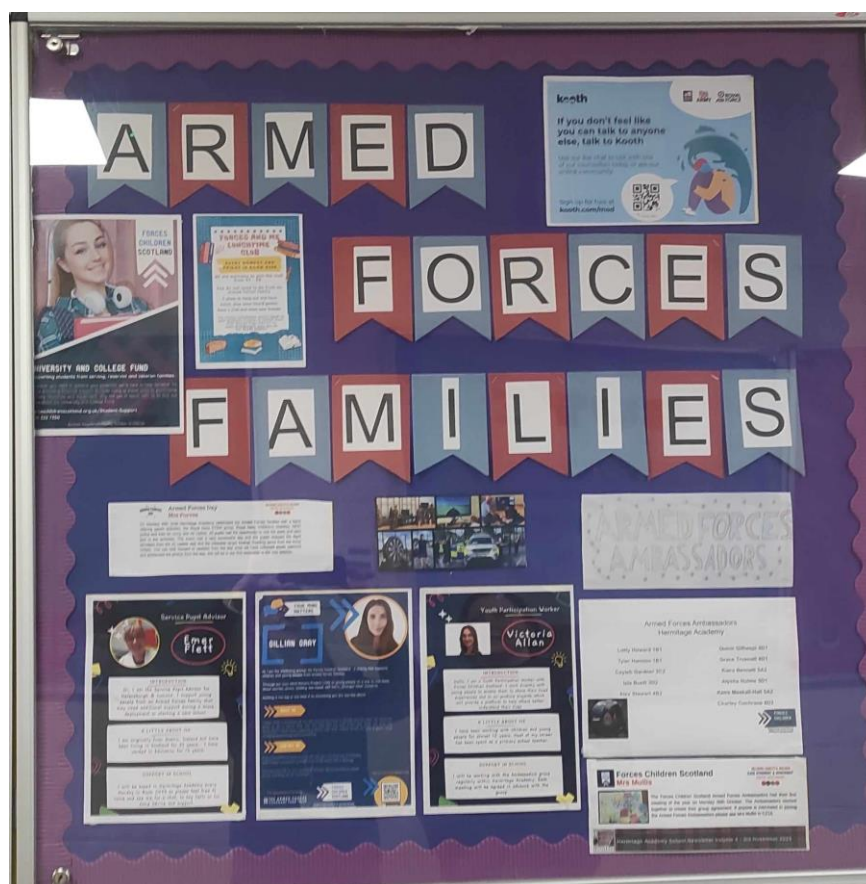
Kirsty Fraser, DHT (Acting) and PT Guidance & Raising Attainment

Lindsay Purves, PT Guidance & Raising Attainment

The armed forces community is large and unique part of our wider community. As part of both, it is incredibly rewarding for me to be involved in working to improve the school experience of our service pupils and to bridge the gaps in understanding of service life'. Bethan Mullis

Notice Board

The Armed Forces Notice Board can be found on the ground floor in the corridor between the school office and the music corridor. It contains information about services and support available for young people and families.



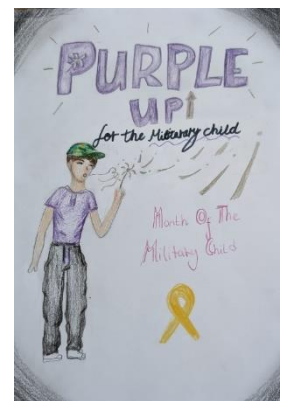
Month of the Military Child 2024

Some of the current S1s and members of the Forces and Me Lunchtime Club from Hermitage Academy took part in the Argyll & Bute Council Month of the Military Child 2024 Competition where they produced some fabulous poetry and artwork.



The school also participated in Purple Up Day where both staff and students wore purple accessories to raise awareness and celebrate the unique experiences this group of young people have.

All artwork, poetry and photos can be viewed at the Drumfreck Community Centre. See below for some photos



If you have any questions or would like to add an article to the next Newsletter then please contact:-

Emer Flett - Service Pupil Advisor

01436 658921

emer.flett@argyll-bute.gov.uk



@AdvisorPupil



Service Pupil Advisor Helensburgh & Lomond

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