



Dear supporter of Service children

If you have Service children at your school they can take part in *Reading Force* activity for free.

Reading Force is a charity and **gives books to Service children of all ages** (from babies to young adults), and scrapbooks to complete at home, to encourage families to share and talk about books.

Getting involved in *Reading Force* is a great way to express your school's pastoral support for the Service children and families you work with, and is a good way to support individual children during parents' postings and deployments.

Participating families experience the following benefits:

- Maintaining good contact with a parent when they are away from home
- Improved communication within the whole family, including extended family and grandparents
- A sense of community
- A way to provide continuity during separations

"I think the main thing we will remember is the fun time we had together and the children have realised they can share stories with their Daddy over the phone."

Schools with families who do *Reading Force* experience the following benefits:

- Children find out who are the other Service children at their school
- Children's literacy confidence improves
- Parental relationships with the school are enhanced
- More fathers get involved with their children's reading

"They don't like being labelled as Service children but they were being acknowledged with Reading Force and they liked this. They were touched that they got a free book. It started lots of discussion with friends and family. Doing Reading Force increased their reading age. It improved their literacy skills and vocabulary. We've seen a real difference."

Service Pupil Champion, Risedale Sports & Community College

To get involved and receive your free resources pack (scrapbooks, parent letters and leaflets) to include as part of your pastoral support for Service families, please sign up on our website: **www.readingforce.org.uk/organisations**. We look forward to your school taking part.

Best regards

Hattie Gordon

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Communications and Liaison Reading Force team

Please email **hattie@readingforce.org.uk** if you have any queries.

www.readingforce.org.uk

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Reading Force is generously supported by various sponsors, charities and trust funds including:



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Does your school have a Service children's club?

Service Pupil Champions and leaders of Service children's clubs find Reading Force helps children make new friends and feel part of a community. Introducing children to Reading Force and giving them scrapbooks in support clubs and *Military Kids Clubs* is a fantastic way to get children involved and started.

SCHOOL STORY

Military Kids Club, Parc Eglos Primary School, Helston, Cornwall

'It has been lovely to see families sharing books together. We invite parents in for a chat, and we send the scrapbooks home with them. Some of our dads spend the best part of two years away and they've read on a Kindle while the kids at home read the book. Parents now realise it's really good and worth doing. Every time a parent is preparing to deploy, I send a scrapbook and leaflet home. I think it's brilliant, I've seen the benefit, and I'm doing a scrapbook with my own son. It's having that common goal to share a book and the calmness reading together gives. I love it.'

Tricia Monks, TA and MKC Co-ordinator



SCHOOL STORY

Military Kids Club, Le Cateau Primary School, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire



*'We have 300 Service children and we've done Reading Force since 2014. I hand out the scrapbooks and information flyers to the children in the MKC, for them to take home. When they get their free books the kids love it! Some of our kids don't necessarily have a lot of books at home, and **they really love getting a book to keep.**'*

Louise Porter, Military Kids Club Co-ordinator

SCHOOL STORY

Service Pupils' Champions, North Yorkshire



Annabel Hall and Nickie Young work as Service Pupils' Champions in many schools across North Yorkshire

*'North Yorkshire has 3,000 Service children across hundreds of schools, with 32 MK Clubs and other clubs. Some North Yorks schools send scrapbooks home, we also give scrapbooks through the clubs. The children love having their free books, and have really enjoyed having that link with their Service parent. We think **having a free book makes the children feel special** and has their unique needs recognised. It sends all the right messages – connecting and bonding families through reading.'*

Military Kids Club (MKC) Heroes are ambassadors and young advocates for Service families. Most importantly, they are friends for each other – especially in times of need. Find out more at www.plymouthcurriculum.swgfl.org.uk/hmsheroes