

Naval Service Family & People Support (NS FPS)

Newsletter – RNAS Yeovilton

July – Sept 2019



RNRMW is now NS FPS!

Royal Navy Royal Marines Welfare has been rebranded as part of the Royal Navy's Transformation Change Agenda.

The new Naval Service Family and People Support (NS FPS) continues to keep sailors, marines and their families as their top priority.

Since 1977, the RNRMW has been looking after the wellbeing of the serving members of the Naval Service and their families, wherever they live in UK and Overseas. And over the years, it has grown and adapted to meet the changing needs of our people and the operational capability requirements of our Fleet. The combined workforce of civilian and military staff boasts a range of qualifications, skills and experience; well versed in agility and coping in pressured circumstances.

Changing the name from RNRMW to NS FPS comes firmly in line with Second Sea Lord Vice-Admiral Nick Hine's drive to modernise, mobilise and transform Navy Command so ensuring its readiness to deal with the challenges of the future.

"Too often it is difficult to identify what an organisation does and who you need to speak to through their title. Therefore, we have changed the name to Naval Service Family and People Support to say 'what it does on the tin' and make it easier to identify the valued information, community and casework services provided for all our people" said 2SL.

NS FPS Name Change Launch Events

Extensive work was undertaken by a dedicated team in NS FPS to ensure the name change rolled out to the Naval Service by September 30th, with name change events held at RNAS Yeovilton on Friday 27th September and Tall Trees Community Centre in Ilchester on Monday 30th September. These events were intended to bring prominence to and raise the profile of NS FPS to all members of the Naval Service and the wider military communities we serve.

At the launch events, those that attended were able to watch a video explaining the role of NS FPS and access information about the support offered.

Refreshments were on offer, as well as some activities for the children who came along with their parents.



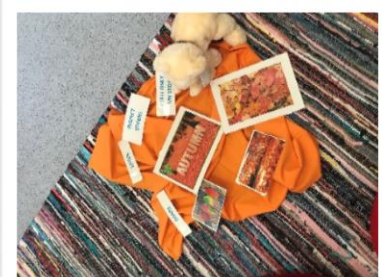
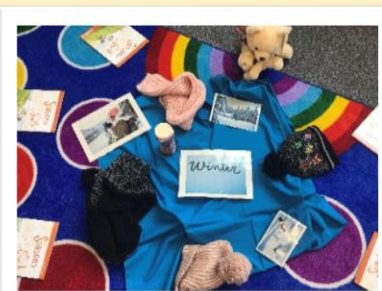
Seasons for Growth

Two local schools, Ilchester Primary School and Milford Junior School warmly welcomed and subsequently completed the 'Seasons for Growth' programme this summer (the programme aims to support children from aged 6 to 18 to help them understand how change, loss and grief impacts upon our lives and provides coping strategies as well as peer support through the groups) which had been delivered by two of our Integrated Support Workers – Gill and Stacey.

This programme was met with extremely positive feedback from the children that had taken part which included:

- When asked what the most important thing they had learnt was ...
 - Be sensible
 - There are people I can talk to
 - My friends; to take care of them and to share
 - That it is okay to cry
 - Making the best choices to do
 - How to control my feelings because it is hard for me
- When asked what their favourite part of Seasons for Growth was ...
 - Seeing some of my friends in a private club
 - Is having a friend
 - When we got to play a game together
 - The feelings, flower gardens, my choices and people I can talk to

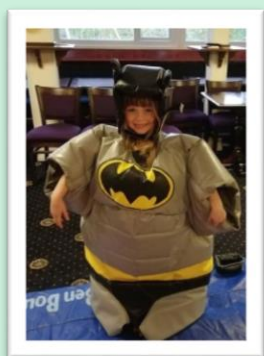
Following this success our NS FPS team is now looking at delivering this structured programme further.



Junior Youth Club Monthly Events Launch

The new style Junior Youth Club was launched on Monday 9th September with a party at Tall Trees Community Centre, Ilchester with 11 service children coming along to join in the fun. The kids had a great time with padded sumo wrestling outfits and could make their own pizzas for tea.

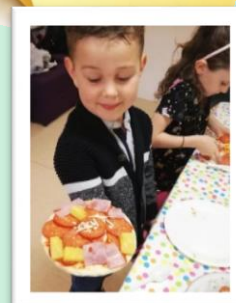
Comments from the children included



We had lots of fun & would like to do it again!

We are looking forward to the next event

It was fun fun fun!



A programme of monthly events has now been put together by the team for the rest of 2019:

- Bat Walk at Ninesprings Country Park on 14th October
- Science Session on 11th November
- Christmas Craft on 9th December

Look out for further details of these events at www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news-and-latest-activity/events or our Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/YeoviltonNavalServiceCommunity/. Booking will be essential for all events and will be taken on a first come-first served basis.

Summer Community Events 2019 Round Up

It has been another full summer of community events and activities for those service personnel and families based at or living in the RNAS Yeovilton area. Here is a quick round up of what your NS FPS team has provided over the last few months.

Children's Craft Sessions

Three separate craft activity sessions were put on this year during July and August to provide entertainment and a learning experience for service children living in the RNAS Yeovilton area. The activities included various crafting and creating with the final session being a water rocket workshop.

These sessions provided the children with the opportunity to express their creativity while the water rocket workshop added some excitement and anticipation of whether the rockets would fly when launching and if so ... how high!! It was clear that the adults enjoyed this session as much as the children!

The aim of this project was to provide a social environment for service children and families where they could mix with other families from other SFA areas.

The 21 families that attended these events all had a great time which was reflected in the feedback received:

'It was brilliant, thank you'

'Fantastic morning -we all had super fun'

'The rocket building was brilliant, very involved, the kids absolutely loved it – so did the adults'

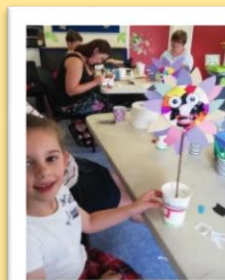
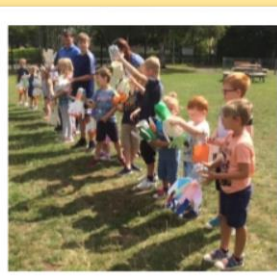
'The boys have enjoyed making the rockets, favourite bits – decorating and launching'

'The children had lots of fun as did the adults'

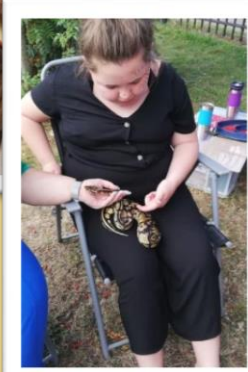
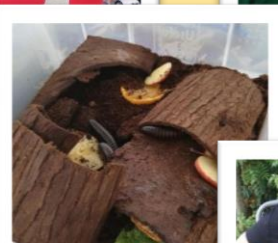
'Fantastic session – really engaging for all ages, a lot of fun'

'Really great activity, the children and adults had a fab time – thank you'

'Fantastic event – kids really enjoyed themselves and would love to attend more'



Summer Families Day at Tall Trees Community Centre



NS FPS kicked off the summer break with a 'Summer Families Day' at Tall Trees Community Centre in Ilchester on Saturday 3rd August when the families that attended were treated to a fun afternoon in the sun in the park outside the community centre. There were bouncy castles, a kiddies race track, outside games and a hog roast – entertainment for all ages!

There was also the opportunity – for those brave enough! – to handle a variety of reptiles and creepy crawlies ... The day also benefited from having the newly opened play park for the children to play on, which now has much improved play equipment including a wooden pirate ship!

This event was put on free of charge for the service families of RNAS Yeovilton with a small charge being made for the hog roast which no-one seemed to mind.



Messy Play

This is the 3rd year NS FPS have run baby & toddler messy play sessions at Tall Trees Community Centre in Ilchester for the service families of RNAS Yeovilton. This year two sessions were held on 1st and 20th August and were attended by 24 families.

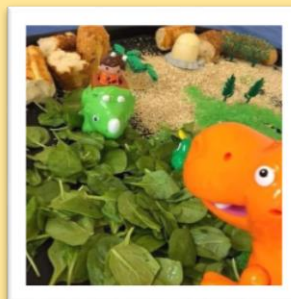
These events provided the fantastic opportunity for babies and toddlers to get messy whilst using all their senses to explore the world around them. Activities this year involved the children having to hunt for dinosaurs hidden in amongst green leafy vegetables and baguette 'rocks' as well getting to grips with cooked spaghetti, dry rice and cous cous and unicorn foam.

Feedback from the events included:

'This was brilliant, thank you. We had a great time'

'Thank you, we had a lovely time'

'Thank you – the kids loved it!'



Wincanton Summer Families Day

Despite this being billed as a 'Summer' Families Day, we were unlucky enough to have the largest low-pressure system descend on us meaning summer was temporarily suspended ... and we were faced with high winds and torrential squally downpours for this event which was held at the Wincanton Sports Ground Pavilion on Saturday 10th August.

This regrettably meant that the outside bouncy castles had to be cancelled and the weather was too bad for the birds of prey display which also was cancelled. However, we did have access to indoor space within the pavilion of the sports ground which gave us the opportunity to have some smaller inflatables, games and soft play equipment with healthy fruit kebabs which the children could make themselves (strawberries were an obvious favourite!) as well as cakes. Alongside all this, the adults were able to speak to the NS FPS staff that were present and our local NFF and Royal British Legion reps.

6 families braved the inclement weather to join us at this event which wasn't as many as we had hoped would turn up but we appreciate that the weather probably played a big part in these low numbers. The feedback received included:

'We had a lovely time, thank you'

'Thanks guys, the kids had loads of fun'

Children's Science Workshops

Following the success of the pilot science workshop held last year, NS FPS put on 3 separate workshops for children of various ages this summer. Children under 6 were invited to the session on the 6th August and children aged over 6 having the other 2 sessions on the 7th and 13th August.

The children that attended these workshops learnt all about volcanoes and were able to make and decorate their own exploding volcanoes as well as learning how to make multi-coloured slime! The children of all ages had an absolutely fabulous time at these events – the looks on their faces and squeals of delight when everything exploded was amazing.

The younger children had the perfect opportunity to have quality interactive time with mum and/or dad doing an activity that was messy and fun whilst the older children were able to do more of the activities un-aided and were able to show mum and/or dad what they had achieved.

The feedback from all 3 events was fantastic and included:

'Great science & slime session, my 3yr old little girl really enjoyed it. The sessions were run well and the children never got bored. Many thanks for the opportunity'

'Great event and good price. Children had a great time' 'Kids absolutely loved this, thank you – so much fun'

'Such a brilliant activity, my 3yr old loved it' 'Once again a great event put on to keep children entertained, my girls loved it – thank you'

'Once again a great event put on to keep children entertained, my girls loved it – thank you'

'Great fun for all ages – even better when we don't have to clear up the mess. Thank you for organising'



Summer Fun Day at Tall Trees Community Centre

NS FPS hosted this 'Summer Fun Day' at Tall Trees Community Centre on Saturday 17th August for all service families based at RNAS Yeovilton. The weather did not provide much optimism given the rain and gales the day before but the skies partially cleared to give us a nice summer day – dry and warm albeit a little breezy.

The families that attended were treated to a fun afternoon in the park area outside the community centre where there was a bouncy slide, gladiator fun and small soft play area for younger children along with various outside games and toys. NS FPS staff were also on hand to provide glitter tattoos to both young and old alike!

A hog roast was available to those that wished for a small £1 charge – money that will be returned to the pot of funds from which further community events and activities can be provided.

There was a science corner as well where the children could make ginormous bubbles and coloured slime!

It was clear from speaking with the families that had attended that all had enjoyed the event and valued the opportunity to get together with other service families in a relaxed social environment.



Song Bus



Following the success of the Song Bus activity held last year, the decision was made to host another this summer and on Friday 9th August 2019 19 eager under 5's came to Tall Trees Community Centre in Ilchester to engage in this fun event.

The small group meant that everyone could engage with each other and the children could enjoy some quality time with mum or dad. A fabulous morning was spent singing nursery rhymes and telling stories. The children were also able to play musical instruments as they sang along.

This event was again really successful and will probably become a regular summer holiday activity for our families.

For further information on activities and events within your area visit
www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news-and-latest-activity/events