## **Supporting Service Families at Grange Infant School**

As a school that is proud to serve 80 military families, we recognise the importance of getting the provision right for our service children and the impact the support can have on their wellbeing and success throughout their time at Grange Infant School.

Whether a parent is on deployment or shore based, our fantastic team of forces support ensures that the children have the opportunity to talk and share experiences with their peers. We do this by providing emotional support in the form of small group or individual activity time, which can be led by the team or initiated by the child.

The door is always open to any parents who may wish to come and have someone to talk to and allay any concerns they may have about their child during their time at school.

These sessions provide the children with the opportunity to write to their parents, keeping them up to date with what they are doing at school or simply to just say hello.

Sharing feelings and emotions that a child might be experiencing with other children going through a similar experience supports the children with managing feelings and any anxieties they might have.

Our after school Wednesday club, which runs every Wednesday throughout the year, gives the children the opportunity to share a meal with their friends and take part in social activities that are themed around calendar events. This provides the perfect platform to take photographs that can be shared in our forces section of the website which allows parents home or away to interact with their children and stay up to date.

Being a school with multiple forces families, we understand how important it is for all our children to be able to support their peers.

In July we celebrated Armed Forces day and welcomed a number of our parents to come and share their experiences of life within the military with the children. This developed all our understanding and we now have many aspiring soldiers, sailors and pilots across the school.

We are always looking for ways to improve the facilities we provide for our families and are looking forward to working with other local schools in the community and The Naval Families Federation.

This year Grange will take part in the Forces family picnic which happens in the local area and we look forward to spending time with our families on this social occasion.

We are proud of the provision we offer and thankful for the support that we receive from our forces families. We look forward to this going from strength to strength.

