

Edition:27

# Looking back and looking forward...



As you can see from the graphic, April - The Month of the Military Child was busy, busy for us at Little Troopers. The essence of our activity was to celebrate our military children and bring some of them together through our online activities and rugby day. We were thrilled that so many families and schools got involved by downloading our special resources too.

I really enjoyed kicking off the month with an Instagram live with Thom Smith, our Little Troopers Ambassador. Rugby player Thom shared with us his experience of growing up as part of a military As the second half of the year is on the horizon we are focusing on some new projects. We are excited to announce that ABF The Soldiers Charity & RNRMC have given us some funding towards our work with schools in 2022. We will be hosting a second workshop following the success of the first one last year.

We are also working on a brand new project, **All Together**. A launch grant from the Veteran's Foundation means that we can start work on the new activities deployment club which will help us bring together military children from across the country.



### Harry is our Little Trooper of the Month

Harry Green, who is currently living overseas in Cyprus, has been awarded 'Little Trooper of the Month'

Harry's mum told us: "Harry's Dad was deployed on operational duty in Afghanistan for seven months in 2020. Due to the pandemic he stayed slightly longer than anticipated. A few months after he returned, Harry had to say goodbye to close friends, family and dog Luna, when we moved overseas to Cyprus in November 2020."

"Following the move Harry spent some months struggling to settle into School and make new friendships especially as the Covid lockdown prevented him from meeting new friends or exploring his new home. He then had some worrying medical issues but thankfully his brain scans were clear even though he was suffering with abdominal migraines. Harry's always showed us what a trooper he is. He always finds a way to lift everyone's spirits by doing silly dances, telling jokes, or just giving everyone a big hug."

As <u>'Little Trooper of the Month'</u>, Harry will receive a

family. Thom was one of the hosts for our SQUAD podcast series, if you haven't had a chance to listen yet, you can find every episode here.

Finally we were thrilled to be asked by The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum to be part of their Children and Military Lives Exhibition which opens next month, read on to find out more. Little Troopers medal, certificate and a £50 voucher. This months Little Trooper of the Month has been kindly supported by Anderson Education.

#### Louise x





### **Children and Military Lives exhibition**

We are so excited to announce that <u>Little Troopers</u> has worked with the <u>Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum</u> on a new *Children and Military Lives Exhibition – Stories of Adventure, Family, and Exile*. The exhibition, which explores the experience of children of serving military personnel and also children who have been affected by conflict, historically and contemporarily, opens on 2nd June and will run until 24th November.

The exhibit will give visitors the opportunity to discover the stories and experiences of military children who have grown-up in the Armed Forces community. It explores how they cope with having their parents deployed overseas to different parts of the world. Look at how they move house and school regularly and have to build friendships for what can be short periods of time. The exhibition will also give visitors the chance to read and listen to children's own reflections on what it's like to have military parents as these young people start to consider their own adult lives.

Louise comments: "There are more than 100,000 children today who have parents serving in the British Armed Forces. It's really important that they are represented and given the opportunity to tell their story and share their unique experiences. Military life is full of challenge, change and adventure and this exhibit offers visitors a special insight into our Armed Forces community as seen through the eyes of military children."

Little Troopers can get free admission to the exhibition with a parent showing a valid MOD90

To find out more click here



#### Join our Little Troopers runners and sign up for a physical challenge

What do Emma, Lucy,
Joanne, Hannah and
Michaela have in common?
They are all doing
sponsored walks and runs to
raise money for our charity.
Emma (10) and Lucy
(7) have taken on a May
Marathon challenge, while
Joanne, Hannah and
Michaela have signed up
for Half Marathon events.

Emma and Lucy's Dad,
John, said: "We're so proud
of how the girls have taken
on the challenge with such
enthusiasm and energy.
They have loved having a
service club for military
children at school and have
really enjoyed the Little
Troopers workshop and
activities, so they wanted to
give something back"

Everything you need to get started with fundraising can be found right here



### **New Project - All Together!**

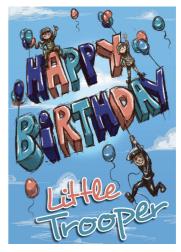
We're so excited to announce our new project to support military children while their parent is deployed. Little Troopers "All Together" is a deployment club open to children of all ages, providing free residential breaks, adventure days and online sessions, all made possible by a generous grant from the Veterans' Foundation.

Louise founder of the charity, said: "Each year, thousands of military children have a parent, or in some cases both parents, deployed for months at a time. Many families from the military community were telling us their children and young people were finding deployments hard. That they were struggling with feeling isolated and they felt being with others in a similar situation would be beneficial."

The first "All Together" event will be an adventure day for 80 children in July this year. This will be followed by the first of two residential weekends for military teens and a series of online events in Autumn 2022. Further events are planned for Spring 2023.

Thanks to the grant awarded by the Veterans' Foundation, Little Troopers will be able to provide support for hundreds of military children experiencing deployment. David Shaw, CEO and Founder of the Veterans' Foundation, said, "We are delighted to award this grant to Little Troopers. Their work providing breaks, events and support for children whose parents are away on deployment is so important"

You can read more about All Together here.



## New Little Trooper Birthday card!

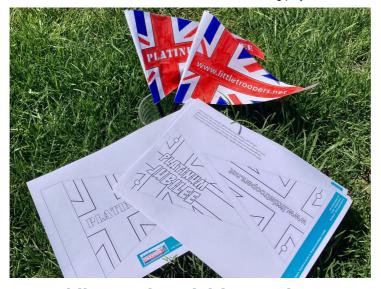
We are excited to launch our new birthday card design. The new design will be sent to your child, along with a banner, badge and balloons. Our birthday card scheme is a perfect way to make your little trooper feel great when they have a parent serving away from home on their special day. Don't forget you send us a personal message to include in the card.

Click here to request a birthday card for your little trooper.



## Are you ready for Father's Day?

Father's Day is on the 19th June 2022 and we have the perfect card. You can order one of our colour in Father's day cards from our online shop for just 50p (plus P&P). It is perfect for any Dad serving in the Army, Royal Navy or RAF. Why not order yours now so the children have plenty of time to colour it in before the big day.



#### Jubilee Craft activities are here!

At Little Troopers, we wanted to join in the celebrations for Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. So in our <u>Crafty Little Troopers website section</u> you will find some new colouring in activities to help you make some flags and Jubilee bunting!

For later on in June, we have a Father's day gift activity and an Armed Forces Day word search challenge.

To find all of our Crafty Little Troopers activity sheets, click here.

Little Troopers
Treasures FREE
story recording
app - find out
more

Louise's Blog Posts

Little Troopers at Home

Little Troopers at School











If you are a teacher or education setting and missed our recent September school specific newsletter you can catch up HERE

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