

# HMS HEROES



"TOGETHER AS ONE"

## HMS Heroes AGM

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016

The Evergreen Room, AWS, Smuts Lane, Catterick Garrison

**Present:** Annabel Hall & Nickie Young, Service Pupils' Champions

**Representatives From:**

Alanbrooke Primary School  
Bedale High School  
Bedale Primary School  
Brompton-on-Swale Primary School  
Carnagill Primary School  
Hackforth & Hornby Primary School  
Hipswell Primary School  
Holy Trinity Infant School  
Holy Trinity Juniors  
Le Cateau Primary School  
Michael Syddall Primary School  
Saltergate Juniors Primary School  
Wavell Juniors Primary School

1. Annabel and Nickie welcomed everyone to the inaugural HMS Heroes AGM and started proceedings with some warm up, 'getting to know you' games.
2. We then watched a slide show of HMS Hero events and activities which had taken place over the past year after which Annabel invited the schools to talk about their own HMS Hero groups.

**Holy Trinity Juniors** meet every two weeks and re lucky to have Annabel available for their HMS Hero group. Jake explained that he likes going to HMS Heroes because it gives him a chance to talk to other people who may be experiencing the same things as he is. HMS Heroes at Holy Trinity Juniors have a bear called Mike, Mike goes home with Heroes whose serving parent is away, at the moment Holy Trinity Juniors have a lot of parents in the Falkland Islands so Mike has been visiting those families.

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**Brompton-on-Swale Primary School** HMS Heroes sent some boxes of gifts to soldiers who were away over the Christmas period, the boxes contained a gift and a Christmas card which the Heroes had made. HMS Heroes at Brompton-on-Swale also has a teddy who is called Paddington. Each week Paddington goes home with a different Hero.

**Carnagill Primary School** HMS Heroes meet every Thursday in Poppies. The HMS Heroes group at Carnagill is new but is proving popular, the Heroes play games and do crafts and have started an HMS Hero memory book so they can show people what they have been doing.

**Bedale Primary School** HMS Heroes enjoyed a social evening with pizza & wraps, they also toasted marshmallows and drank hot chocolate. HMS Heroes at Bedale have lots of plans for the future, they are planning a movie & popcorn evening, a craft evening, a picnic evening and a baking evening.

**Hipswell Primary School** Hipswell Heroes has recently relaunched and is very popular. Hipswell Heroes meet every day, each day is dedicated to a different class in the school. Hipswell Heroes have enjoyed seasonal crafts and games, had a talent show and made Christmas cards to sell at the School Fair. Hipswell Heroes also held the first ever HMS Heroes Day where everyone in the school, including teachers, dressed as Heroes, took part in an army assault course and played HMS Hero games in their classes.

**Alanbrooke Primary School** have enjoyed a Fiji Day where they ate Fijian food prepared by some of their Fijian families, enjoyed some Fijian dancing and played games. HMS Heroes at Alanbrooke also enjoyed a visit from the Archbishop.

**Hackforth & Hornby** are planning to restart their HMS Heroes and would like to have a Heroes picnic, join in with the gardening club and host a quiz.

**Le Cateau Primary School** have HMS Hero clubs twice a week, they have recently appointed a Year 6 council who help at the clubs and plan games and activities for the Heroes at monthly meetings. HMS Heroes at Le Cateau

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Primary School hosted the VE Day celebrations for schools on the Garrison, they are currently making HMS Hero tiles which will be displayed in their playground and the Year 2's are drawing their Heroes to decorate the HMS Hero board.

**Saltergate Primary School** have a Red, White and Blue Club. They celebrate arrivals and departures, include their ex-service pupils in their club and meet for circle time every Friday afternoon. The Red, White and Blue club also take part in termly assemblies.

**Wavell Juniors** are just setting up their HMS Heroes.

**Bedale High School** have a vibrant HMS Heroes club which meets weekly for fun activities. They also enjoy weekend activities and have recently been to the cinema together and in February will be going to LazerQuest. HMS Heroes at Bedale High School is popular because it is fun, there are different activities to take part in and it is a good chance to get together with other service pupils.

**Michael Syddall Primary School** Syddall's Soldiers runs three days a week with a planning meeting on a Friday. The club is run by a team of Year 5 & 6's and they prepared a film about Syddall's Soldiers which was presented at the North Yorkshire SCISS conference. Syddall's Soldiers have been writing stories about themselves, explaining what it is like to be part of a Forces Family. At Christmas Time Syddall's Soldiers sold loom band decorations and reindeer food at the Christmas Fair and made £50 which they split between Syddall's Soldiers and a children's cancer charity.

**Holy Trinity Infants** don't run a regular club but do have small groups for children who need extra support.

It was lovely to hear how well the clubs are running in the schools and a great opportunity for us to discuss what works well and swap ideas.

3. Annabel then spoke to the AGM about the name 'HMS Heroes'. It has caused some confusion in the past, especially as it sounds Naval and North Yorkshire

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does not have a large Navy presence. Many of the HMS Hero groups in the schools have adopted their own names - Hipswell Heroes, Syddall's Soldier, Le Cateau Heroes, Red White & Blue Club - and Annabel and Nickie proposed that as a larger group we choose a name which identifies HMS Heroes in North Yorkshire. At this point the group had a chance to discuss if this was a good idea and, after a few minutes discussion, we voted on the proposal to change the name of HMS Heroes in North Yorkshire. The HMS Heroes present voted overwhelmingly for a new name for HMS Heroes in North Yorkshire.

The next point for discussion was what should that name be? Again we broke for a few minutes discussion and Annabel & Nickie asked each representative for suggestions. The suggestions received were:

- Yorkshire Schools
- North Navy
- Yorkshire Heroes / North Yorkshire Heroes
- The White Rose Force
- North Yorkshire Troopers
- Heroes Together
- Heroes for Kids
- White Rose Soldiers
- The ANA Heroes (Army Navy Air Force!)
- Flowing Dandelions
- North Yorkshire Children
- SKINNY (Service Kids In North Yorkshire)
- North Yorkshire Tribute
- North Yorkshire HMS Heroes

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The Yorkshire Terriers

North Yorkshire Military Kids

The Everlasting Heroes

Northern Yorkshire Poppies

HMS Child Force

North Yorkshire Military Children

White Rose Heroes

We then voted on our favourite suggestions and whittled the list down to three possible names for HMS Heroes North Yorkshire:

White Rose Heroes

Yorkshire Terriers

White Rose Force

After another opportunity for discussion everyone present, adult representatives included, were allowed one vote to choose which of the final three should be the new name for HMS Heroes in North Yorkshire. The results of the vote were:

White Rose Heroes - 21 votes

Yorkshire Terriers - 2 votes

White Rose Force - 17 votes

So, after a pretty close vote, the new name for HMS Heroes in North Yorkshire will be White Rose Heroes. It was agreed that a competition to design the logo for White Rose Heroes which could then be made into a badge would be organised. Nickie & Annabel will distribute templates similar to those used for the Armed Forces Day Badges, Annabel will find the cost of ordering pin badges and report it back to the Hero clubs.

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4. Nickie then spoke about Armed Forces Day 2016. Nickie and Annabel are working closely with 4 Brigade on Catterick Garrison to organise an Armed Forces Day event which will be specifically for schools who have service pupils. Nickie explained that planning is in the early stages but 4 Brigade have been very supportive so far and have agreed to the ideas that Nickie and Annabel have presented to them. Nickie and Annabel will be meeting with Colonel Butterwick of 4 Brigade to discuss the event and wanted suggestions from the Heroes as to what would make the day amazing. The Heroes suggested:

A submarine

A Chinook Display

A Parachute Display

Jets

Tanks

The Red Arrows

A Sniper Rifle, a Desert Eagle

A Helicopter

A Plane & Helicopter airshow

Vehicles which had been used in Afghanistan

Uniform display - uniforms through the years

A Dog display

Nickie agreed to present these ideas to Col. Butterwick at the meeting.

5. Annabel then spoke about the Service Pupils' Service at Ripon Cathedral. The event in November 2015 was wonderful and we hoped that it was enjoyed by all those who attended. Annabel asked the Heroes at the AGM what they had thought of the service:



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Spencer enjoyed hearing the children speaking about themselves and their schools;

Courtney enjoyed meeting new people and was pleased to see some of them at the AGM;

Some people thought the Service was quite long;

The Nepalese Dancers were beautiful but quite difficult to see in some parts of the Cathedral;

It was difficult to get seated;

Annabel then asked for suggestions to make the Service in November 2016 even better:

More friendly hymns;

More taking place in the aisles so everyone can see;

Dignitaries to be sat in the back or at the sides of the Cathedral so the children can sit closer to the front / in the main body of the Cathedral;

Write a North Yorkshire Song which all the schools could learn before the service and have it led at the Service by a White Rose Heroes Choir;

This year's artwork to include a picture (painting or photo) of your serving parent and your family's story;

Fijian dancing and singing;

Invite the Prince of Wales.

Annabel and Nickie were excited by these suggestions and agreed to take as many as possible on board.

At the start of the AGM Annabel distributed a list of questions about being a service pupil to each person, these were collected in and Annabel will collate the answers which will then be used to represent service pupils in North Yorkshire.

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Annabel and Nickie thanked everyone for attending the AGM and making it so successful.