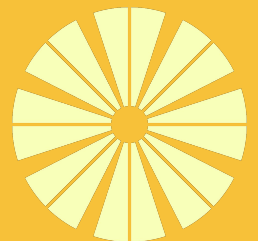


# ***Meopham Monthly***



***Artwork by Poppy Palmer***

**Meopham School  
Student Magazine  
Issue 25: NOVEMBER**



# Welcome

Hello! Welcome to the November issue of The Meopham Monthly. This issue features updates and pictures from the latest events around school, news, reviews, our popular Wellbeing Corner and a bumper pets feature including Teachers' Pets!

If you would like to submit a short story, article, poem, photos or anything else for our future issues, please contact the team at [MSS-magazine@swale.at](mailto:MSS-magazine@swale.at) or come along on a Thursday lunchtime in to EN4 any time from 12.25-1.20pm.

**We hope you enjoy this issue!**

**Issue 25 Editors: Poppy Palmer & Kira Loveday**



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**With thanks to everyone who contributed this month:**

Mrs Adams  
Deji Ariyibi (Yr7)  
Mr Bahrawy  
Ms Bishop  
Mia Colledge (Yr9)  
Charlie Cooper (Yr9)  
Mrs Cooper  
Mrs Davies-Lane  
Dilpreet Dhesi (Yr9)  
Mr Eede  
Sophia Francis (Yr7)  
Miss Garnett  
Charlotte Gorton (Yr9)

Theo Haydon (Yr10)  
Miss Hodd  
Jack Hollis (Yr9)  
Shanice Jarvis (Yr9)  
Jagsirat Kaur (Yr7)  
Mrs Kaur  
Hally Laideh (Yr7)  
Kira Loveday (Yr 13)  
Mr McQuillan  
Phoebe Newsome (Yr7)  
Jessica North (Yr8)  
Poppy Palmer (Yr13)  
Mrs Parrott

Mr Pearson  
Miss Pritchard  
Mr Rigglesworth  
Amelia Rogers (Yr9)  
Mr Roberts  
Mrs Romney  
Archie Scanlan (Yr9)  
Henry Smith (Yr7)  
Helaina Tomlin (Yr11)  
Ms West  
Mrs Williamson  
Fraser Wilson (Yr8)  
Mrs Wrighton

# ***NEWS BREAKDOWN***

## ***Trump Wins US Election***

BY JACK HOLLIS (YEAR 9)

### **Who is Donald Trump?**

Donald Trump was US President from 2016 - 2020. He has now been re-elected and will serve as President until 2028. He started as a businessman, having inherited the Trump Empire from his father, Fred Trump. Trump only started getting into politics in the 2000s, joining the American Republican Party (which he has been with ever since). In 2016 he became the 45th US President after beating Hilary Clinton. He has recently caused controversy after being accused of several crimes including fraud and causing the January 6th riots where his supporters broke into the Government building.

### **What was the US Election?**

Similarly to the UK, every few years the United States holds elections to decide who will become their leader. In the US there are two main political parties: the Democrats (represented by a donkey) and the Republicans (represented by an elephant). Both parties have different views on how to run the country and the US citizens get to decide who would do the best job as government.

### **Who was Donald Trump going against?**

Donald Trump was the Republican nomination for President and faced the Democratic nominee Kamala Harris. Like Trump, Harris wasn't always a politician; she originally worked as the Chief Attorney (top lawyer) in California. Harris has worked as Joe Biden's Vice President for the last four years and hoped to win at the election. Now that Trump has won, Harris and the Democrat party will work as opposition to Trump's government.

### **What happens now?**

Joe Biden (the current President) will remain as acting President until January when Donald Trump will be officially 'sworn in'. After being sworn in Trump will be able to start running the country how he likes and can bring in the laws he wants to impose. This is why Trump is being referred to as 'President Elect' because although he has won the election, he is not the acting President.

### **How Does This Impact the UK?**

The UK and US work closely together in trade, science, defence and several other sectors. This means that lots of things like the price of petrol, what medicines are being developed and elements of our day to day lives are affected by decisions made across the Atlantic. It is hard to be sure what will happen that might change things for us, but this will become clearer after Trump becomes acting President in January.



# OPEN EVENING

BY AMELIA ROGERS & DILPREET DHESI (YR9)

On Thursday 10th of October, we held an Open Evening for year 5 & 6 students to spend an evening at our amazing school. Each subject provided fun and entertaining activities for the students to enjoy. Here is a brief overview of what they did:

In the **Music** department they laid out many instruments for the students to try, including ukuleles, keyboards, guitars and even let the students have a go on the chromebooks to have a first look at bandlab.

For **Science** they set out many practicals for everyone to enjoy, involving crushing cans, methane bubbles and even had real organs out on the desk.

In **English**, Mrs Williamson transformed her classroom into Wonderland, with a beautiful Wonderland display and some amazing shape poems. In the adjacent room, they left out some quotes and the visitors had to decide whether they were said by Shakespeare or Yoda!

The **Maths** department gave our visitors a challenge to find the questions hidden around the first floor corridor to then uncover the code word. Don't tell anyone, but the code word was... **Decimal!**

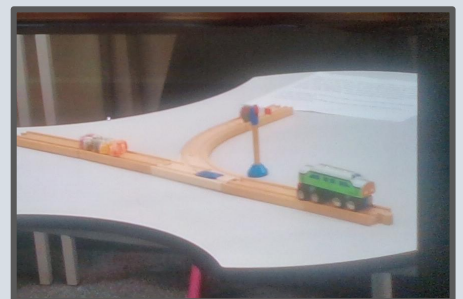
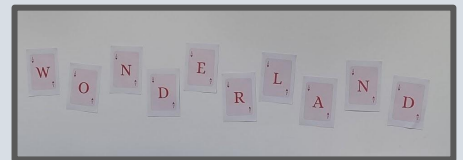
The **Drama** department put on some amazing improv acts. The visitors could shout the magic word "change" and the performer who just spoke must change what they said.

In **Languages** they had several matchup games including colours, animals and pets as well as organising numbers. They also had a guessing game where you had to guess the mascot. Do you know what the mascot represents? Speak to the languages teachers if you wish to know.

After walking down a long corridor you would arrive at **History**, which was so proudly promoted by Miss Noakes, where you would have to try solve the murder of the Tollund man using the clues laid out on the desks!

**PE** showed a variety of sports including badminton, table tennis and rowing where the visitors could compete against other students or visitors to be victorious.

Well done to everyone involved! It was a great evening.



# ***Mr McQuillan's Musings***

Having very much enjoyed reading Mr Vilday's thoughts in these pages over the past few years, I am honoured to have been asked to continue his monthly blog-piece in the school magazine.

As my very first blog will be in this November issue, I thought I would start by sharing some thoughts on this month:

Firstly, I like November! Many people don't, because it is getting darker and colder - but I like the fact we can visibly see the changing of the seasons all around us at this time of year. I also really like that warm, cozy feeling you get when you get home on a dark and foggy evening and put on the fire and make a hot drink. The Danish have a word for this - 'Hygge' - and it has no direct English translation, other than this feeling.

Of course, November also has Bonfire night, fireworks, gunpowder, and plot. Although our pets probably don't thank us - who doesn't love seeing showers of multi-coloured sparkles illuminating the dark Autumn skies?

Finally, November is also a time for remembrance. Remembrance day and Remembrance Sunday are important points in the year where we stop, reflect and remember those brave souls that gave their lives so we can continue to live ours. A period of two minutes silence has been observed since 1919 in the UK and much of the Commonwealth, at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month - marking the time and date that the First World War officially ended.

We also wear poppies at this time to show that we remember the sacrifices made, and of course to donate money to charities that support ex-armed forces personnel and their families. It was said of the First World War that so many young men had died at the front, that every family in England had lost a father, a son or a brother.

It is also worth remembering that the First and Second World Wars were just that. An estimated thirty two thousand West Indian, half a million African and almost three and-a-half million British-Indian troops volunteered to fight for the UK in both World Wars - almost all of these volunteering to fight, and often die for a country they had never visited.



# *continued...*

Consequently, whatever our heritage, most families will have a wartime story.



When I was a child my nan told me that the back of her house had been blown away in World War 2 by a V-1 'Doodlebug' rocket. These were flying bombs that had no pilot, and were sent over in their thousands to bomb Southern England. She told me that the blast had blown up the local Co-op shop and the butcher's boy had lost his toes when the butcher's block in the shop had been lifted up by the blast and landed on his feet.

Many years later, I decided to research this story to see what had actually happened. I found that her house in the road next to Charlton Station in southeast London had indeed been bombed. The bomb had killed four people at the station. I also found a picture showing the bomb damage. My nan's house is the first one on the right hand side, with the back missing. Remarkably, it still stands today!



Whilst researching, I also found out that I had a great-great uncle who was killed after being eaten by an animal, whilst serving in Uttar-Pradesh in India. Apparently, he took a bet to cross a lake that had crocodiles in it. It seems he lost the bet!

Why don't you speak to your grandparents and research any family stories you find out? You might find some interesting tales too!

# Corner of Wonder

BY JACK HOLLIS (YEAR 9)

## Quote of the Month:

*Great people have great values and  
great morals -  
Jeffrey Gitomer*

*What makes a  
good person?*

**Can we be evil  
and virtuous  
simultaneously?**

**Should we  
judge each  
other's  
actions?**

*Can you be  
purely evil?*

**Can you be  
purely good?**





# *The Great Debate*

BY JACK HOLLIS AND DILPREET DHESI (YEAR 9)

Should people use banks to store money?

Should people use banks to store money? In this article we will argue both sides and at the end you can decide who you agree with...

## **For -**

Keeping money in a bank offers significant safety advantages over storing it at home or elsewhere. Banks provide security through federal insurance, like FDIC coverage, which guarantees deposits up to \$250,000 per person per bank. This protects against bank failures or theft. Additionally, banks employ advanced cybersecurity measures to safeguard your account, offering better protection than most individuals can manage on their own. By using a bank, your money is not only safe from physical threats but also from financial losses, giving you peace of mind and easy access to your funds-

**Dilpreet's opinion**

## **Against -**

People should not use banks to store money. Banks have had several large scale incidents in recent history most notably the Financial Crisis, where **£2 TRILLION** worth of people's money was lost by irresponsible bankers. Only this month it was revealed that bank *Revolt* failed to stop scam artists from taking £100,000s from people accounts. In conclusion, people are better off keeping their money at home where they can make sure it is safe -

**Jack's opinion**

# Squash Noodle Soup

BY: POPPY PALMER  
(YEAR 13)

## Ingredients:

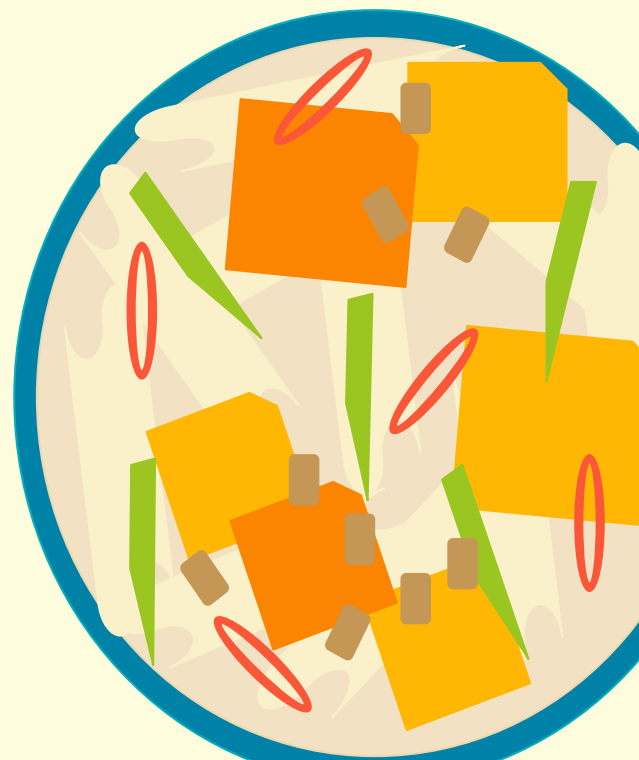
- ❑ 2tbsp vegetable oil
- ❑ ½ butternut squash (500g)-peeled and cut into 2cm cubes
- ❑ 2 shallots-finely sliced
- ❑ 3 thai red chillies-finely sliced
- ❑ 90g galangal paste
- ❑ 2 stalks lemongrass-halved widthways
- ❑ 500ml chicken or vegetable stock
- ❑ 180g pack rice noodles
- ❑ 160ml can coconut cream
- ❑ 4 makrut lime leaves
- ❑ 50ml fish sauce (or soy sauce)
- ❑ 2 limes-zest and juice
- ❑ ⅓ x 20g pack thai basil
- ❑ Crispy fried onions-optional



## Instructions:

1. Heat oil in a large, heavy based pan, medium-high heat and add the squash.
2. Season and fry (stirring regularly), for 8-10 minutes until just tender and starting to char.
3. Add shallots & chillies, fry for 5 minutes until softened.
4. Stir in galangal paste and lemongrass, then add stock with 100ml water and bring to simmer for 2-3 minutes.
5. Meanwhile soak the noodles according to package instructions; drain, rinse in cold water and set aside.
6. Add coconut cream to broth with lime leaves, fish (or soy) sauce and lime zest. Bring to simmer, then take off heat and use tongs to remove lemongrass stalks. Add lime juice.
7. Divide noodles across 4 warm bowls, then ladle the broth. To serve scatter over the thai basil and some crispy fried onions.

Serves 4  
Prep-15 mins  
Cook-25 mins



# November Astronomy Calendar

BY KIRA LOVEDAY  
(YEAR 13)

## 1st - New Moon

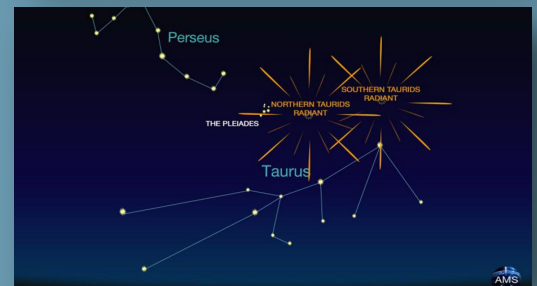
First lunar phase, only dark side of the moon visible



## 4th - 5th - Taurids

Meteor Shower, 5-10  
meteors per hour

Debris left behind by Encke's  
comet visible across the sky.



## 15th - Full SuperMoon

Moon at closest point to Earth



## 16th - Mercury At Highest Point, Best Visibility

Furthest from sunset



## 17th - 18th - Leonids

Meteor shower, 15 meteors  
per hour

Debris from TempelTuttle comet





# Monthly Masterpiece

## Laura Makabresku

Poppy  
Palmer



Laura Makabresku is a contemporary artist whose work resonates with themes of spirituality and redemption. In this collection titled 'Tales of Gods mercy', Makabresku employs a vivid palette and intricate texture to explore the complex relationship between humanity and divinity. Each piece serves a narrative, drawing viewers into stories of grace, suffering and resilience.

One of her standout features is the use of symbolism. For instance, her recurring motifs of light and shadow reflect the dualities of hope and despair. Illustrating the struggle for forgiveness and understanding in a tumultuous world. This juxtaposition invites the audience to engage on a personal level, prompting reflections of their own experiences of mercy.

Her technique also warrants attention. By integrating mixed media, such as fabric, paint and found objects—she creates layers that enhance the emotional depth of her pieces. This tactile approach not only captivates the viewer's eye but also embodies the multifaceted nature of her themes. Visually, her work is characterized by a striking use of color, often blending rich, warm tones with cooler shades to create emotional contrast. The interplay of golds and deep blues evokes a sense of the divine, while softer pastels suggest vulnerability and healing. Textures play a crucial role, as she layers materials to produce a sense of depth and movement, reflecting the dynamic nature of mercy. This combination of colors and textures not only captivates the viewer's eye but also enhances the thematic richness of her pieces, inviting deeper engagement with the narratives they present.

In "Tales of Gods mercy" Makabresku challenges conventional narratives about spirituality. She emphasises that mercy is not merely a divine gift but also a human responsibility, encouraging us to expand compassion and understanding to one another. Through her thought-provoking work, she entices us to consider how we might embody mercy into our own lives, making her art both a personal and universal exploration of faith.

Ultimately, Laura Makabresku's contributions to contemporary art invite deeper reflection of the intersection of the sacred and everyday, affirming the transformative power of clemency in a complex world.

I highly recommend checking out her website where you can explore more of her artwork.

# Art Corner

Poppy Palmer

## Behind the magazine:



In collaboration with the other members of the magazine, Kira and I have a large role in the overall design of our school's magazine. Being the editor, a lot of my work is figuring out the main colour scheme of our contents but also seeing how can I personalise a creator's page to truly communicate and express their work in an engaging and innovative way. That and how can we be unique, how can we be unconventional and untraditional to the typical magazine?

## The Cover

### The Scorpion

The central focus of this drawing is the scorpion based off November's primary zodiac sign, Scorpio. This scorpions form is central to symbolise the strong, passionate and transformative nature associated with Scorpio.

### The Gemstone

At the heart of the scorpion is a gemstone, reflecting the citrine/topaz birthstones of November. These stones are often linked to prosperity, positivity and energy, adding deeper meaning to the overall image.

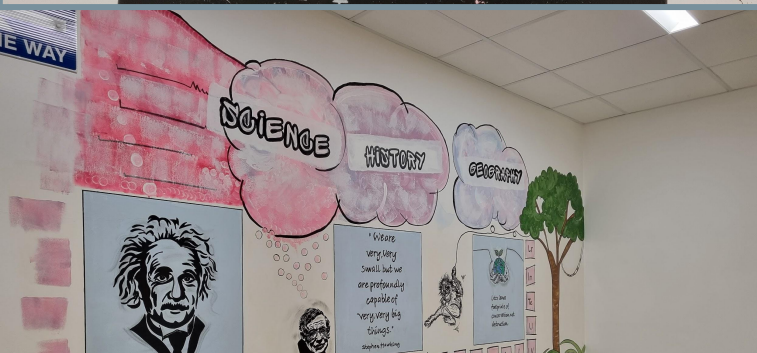
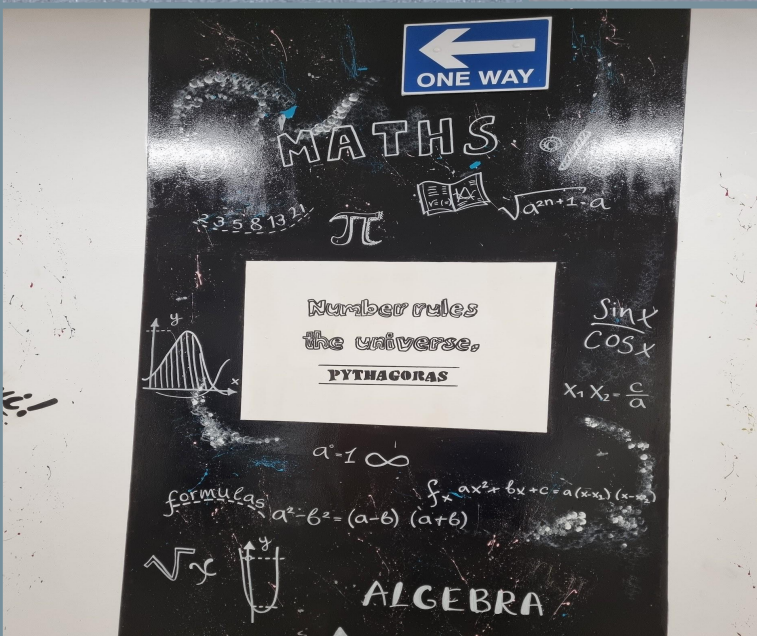


### The Design

The artwork is inspired by stained glass, with sharp angular patterns and vibrant tones that bring the design a sense of light. Creating a modern yet timeless feel for the cover. The background although quite simple adds depth and a sense of reverence, almost as if the scorpion is a sacred symbol.



# Gallery



Artwork by Miss Hodd's Year 10 students  
and our new wall murals by Ms Bishop

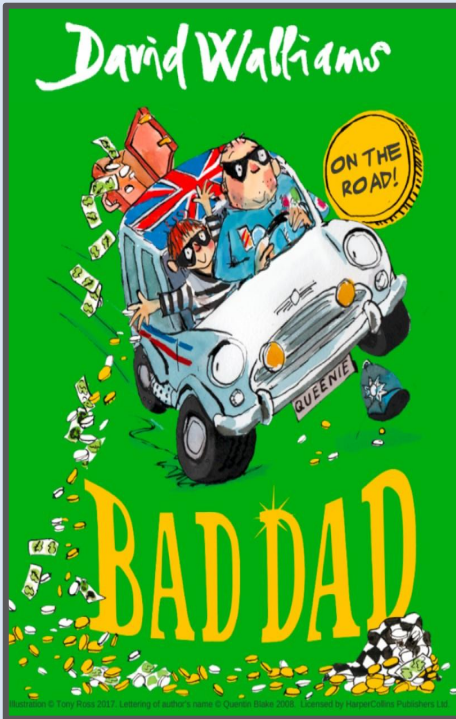


# Book Reviews

## Bad Dad by David Walliams

☆☆☆☆☆

BY: DEJI ARIYIBI (YR7)



‘Bad Dad’ is a book about a race car driver who got into a terrible car crash which led to his leg being amputated. After leaving the hospital he was left with a ridiculous bill, but when he came back to his house he saw his son crying. Turns out his wife had left him and had taken all the money...

I would recommend this book to year 7 and year 8s who like mysteries.

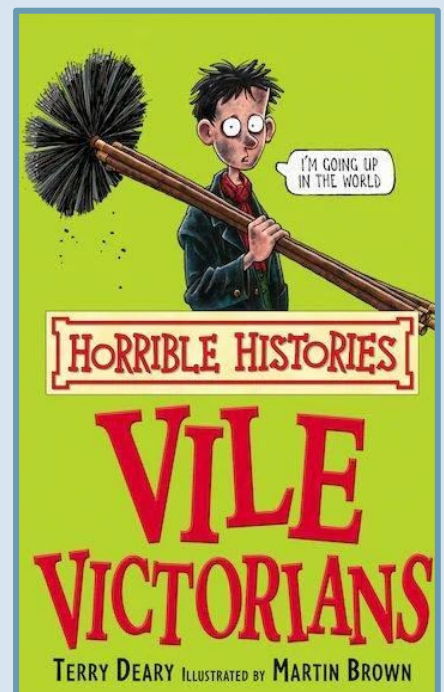
## Vile Victorians

By: Terry Deary & Martin Brown

☆☆☆☆☆

BY: SIRAT KAUR (YR7)

Discover all the foul facts about the vile victorians with history’s most horrible headlines, including: the murderers who wouldn’t hang, when the first public loo was flushed, and how stag hunting took place in Paddington Station.



# Game Recommendations

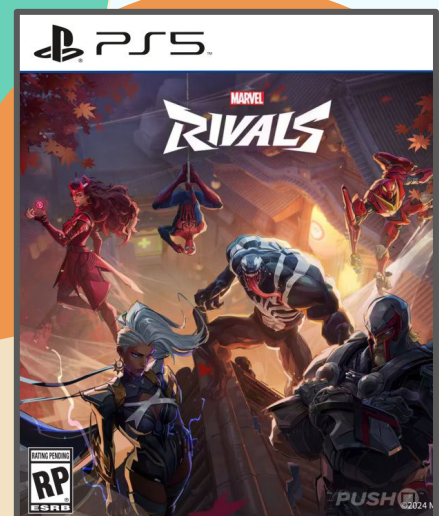
BY: ARCHIE SCANLAN (YEAR 9)

Here are some games we think you might like that are either currently released or coming soon, we hope you enjoy!

**Astro Bot** is a game about the robot called Astro when he has to go on an adventure to save his crew, fix the PS5 mothership and defeat bosses along the way. This game is full of fun, danger and surprises. Out now on **PS5**.

**Epic Mickey Rebrushed** is a game about the famous Mickey Mouse and a long forgotten character called Oswald The Lucky Rabbit. After Mickey Mouse gets transported to a new world called Wasteland. Will he paint the world a new, or thin it out and destroy it. Out now on **PS4 and 5, xbox one and series x and s and windows**.

**Marvel Rivals** is a pvp shooter that has all of your favorite marvel characters from Spider-Man to The Winter Soldier all with destroyable environment and a feature called a team up move, where if you and a friend are using compatible character you will get a strong attack. Don't miss out on this game releasing on **December 16th for FREE**.



# Game Recommendations

BY: HALLY LAIDEH (YR7)

## Dress To Impress

*Dress to impress is a fashion game found on Roblox where players enjoy dressing up to the style of your choice or the theme in competition.*

*Dress To Impress has now become very popular over the last few months and has just now had a very cool update! Part of this update included new items and codes for more dresses, suits and accessories even themes. There is also going to be a even better update for CHRISTMAS, so you should start getting ready for it.*

### The Body

This is the body shape in Dress To Impress where here you can change the ethnicity and are also inclusive with those who have vitiligo. If you get custom makeup you can also design the type of makeup, eyes and mouth you have. As well as this there are toggles to choose differing Versions of accessories, hair, clothes and materials.



### Summer update



### Halloween update





# Scout Sleep-Out

INTERVIEW WITH FRASER WILSON (YR 8)

BY JACK HOLLIS (YR 9)

On Saturday 12th of October Hartley and Longfield Scout group teamed up with homeless charity Porchlight to raise funds and awareness for people sleeping rough in Kent. We spoke Fraser Wilson who told us about his experience battling the cold...

## What did you actually do?

We spent a full night sleeping outside in cold with cardboard shelters that we had constructed. This was to try and understand what people who don't have a home have to experience every night.

## Why did you decide to do this?

I feel sorry for those who are less fortunate than us and don't have the privilege of being able to sleep in a home every night. I would much rather do something and make a difference than just sit around and complain about the problem of homelessness.

## How did find the night?

It was really cold and uncomfortable sleeping on the hard ,uneven concrete floor. It was really so cold and felt a bit ill afterward. I wouldn't really ever want to do it again.

## How much did you raise?

We managed to raise over £900 pounds for Porchlight which is a lot of money and will really benefit Porchlight's work.

## Can you imagine having to do this every night?

I would never be able to do this every night, it was so uncomfortable and I got barely any sleep. It must be so horrible to have to sleep like that every evening so I encourage you to support homeless charities like Porchlight.



The shelters constructed and slept in by Fraser's scout group.

**Porchlight**

Changing attitudes • Changing lives

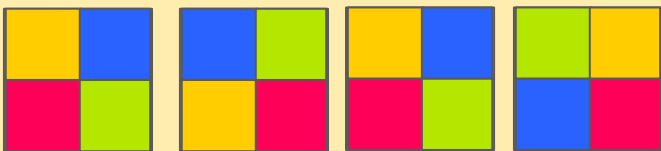
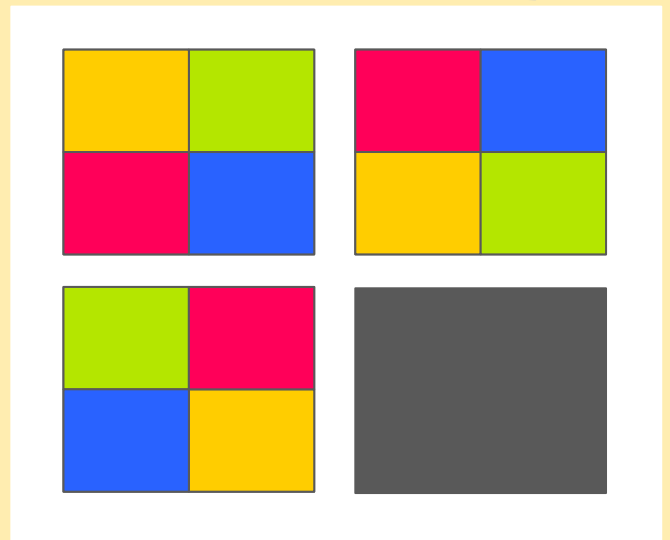
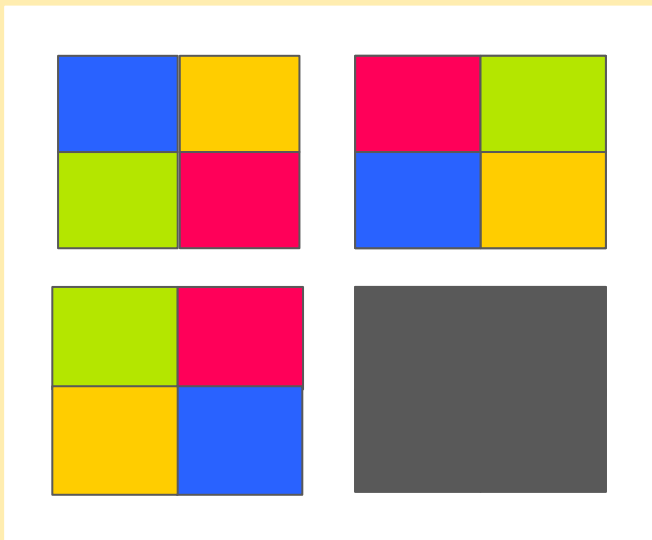
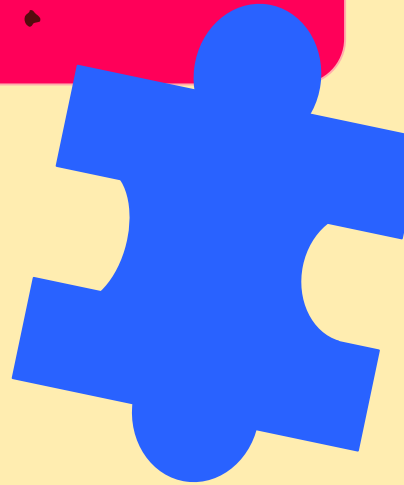




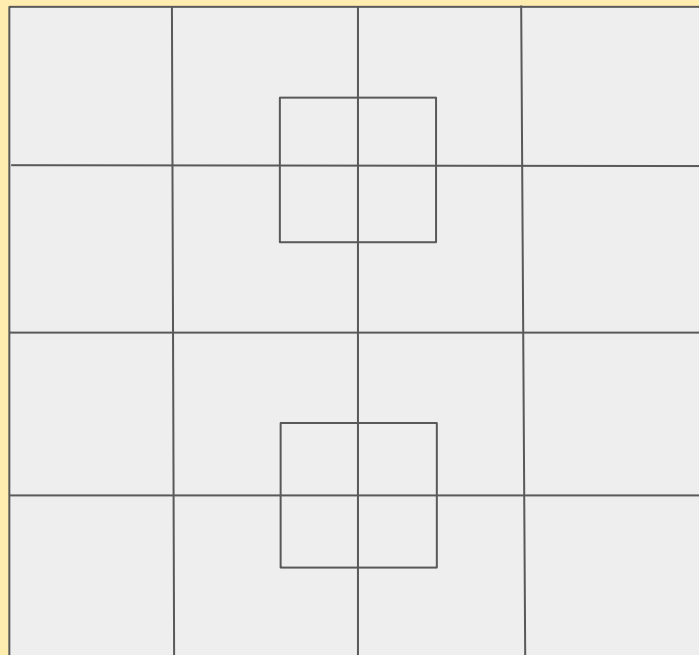
# Puzzle Time!

BY: MIA COLLEDGE (YR9)  
& CHARLOTTE GORTON (YR9)

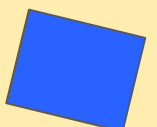
Got a minute? See if you can solve our tricky puzzles! Which square fits in the box?



How many squares are there?



Last Issue's  
code:  
4891



# Wellbeing Corner

BY: MISS GARNETT

I promise you,  
better days are coming.

Remember that this  
is temporary.  
Your life is just beginning.  
You will get to experience  
so many things and you'll  
be glad that you kept going,  
even when things were hard.

The most important  
relationship you will ever  
have is with yourself.  
Treat yourself with  
kindness and compassion.

## World Kindness Day: 13th November

BY: HELAINA TOMLIN (YEAR 11)

World Kindness Day on 13th November is a day to remember the positive impacts of how others actions can have a positive impact on your lives. This was first introduced in 1998 by the World Kindness Movement. This day is celebrated to highlight the importance of kindness and highlight good deeds.

It is observed in many Countries such as Canada, Nigeria, Australia, India, United Arab Emirates and France. It was first known as a day in Singapore in 2009.

To celebrate world kindness day you can:

- Make kindness bracelets;
- Make kindness watch;
- Learn about empathy;
- Make kindness jars.



World Kindness Day

# ***Meopham Pet Family***



**Alfie - Jess N**



**Nell - Charlie C**



**Eliza (Lizzy) - Henry S**



**Mango - Sophia F**



**Abra - Phoebe N**

If you would like to share a pet photo for a future issue, email it to  
**[MSS-magazine@swale.at](mailto:MSS-magazine@swale.at)**, along with a note of your pet's name.



# *Teachers'*



**Nessa - Mr Roberts**



**Leia - Mrs Cooper**



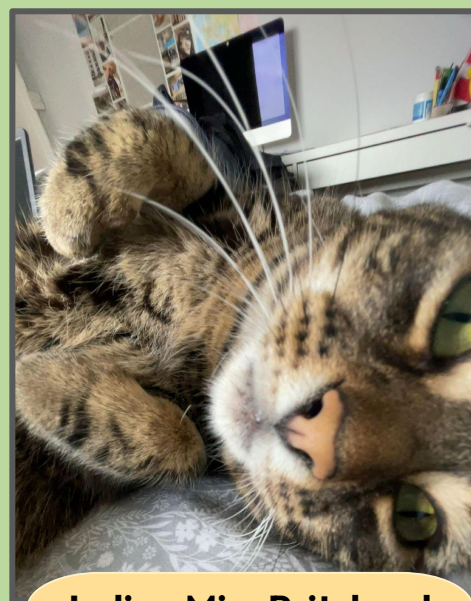
**Cooper - Mrs Parrott**



**Rocky - Mrs Kaur**



**Luna & Lily -  
Mrs Romney**



**Indie - Miss Pritchard**

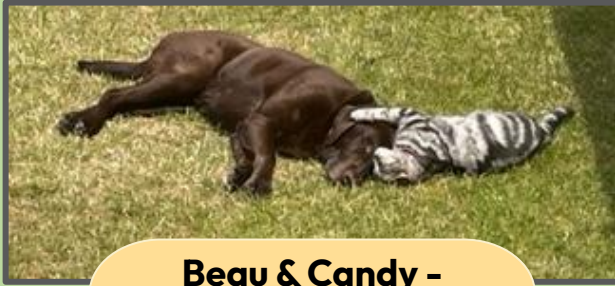


**Jack - Mr Bahrawy**

**Thank you to all of our teachers who sent**



# ***Pets***



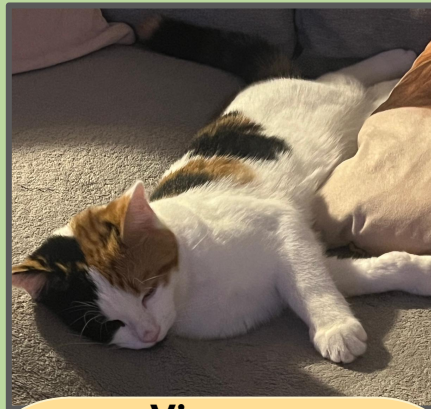
**Beau & Candy -  
Ms Bishop**



**Bagel & Muffin -  
Mr Rigglesworth**



**Ted & Nessa -  
Mrs Davies-Lane**



**Vienna -  
Mrs Wrighton**



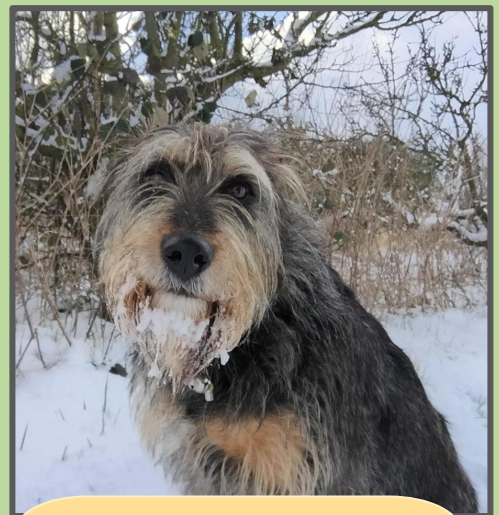
**Coco - Mr Pearson**



**Matilda - Mr Eede**



**Chester - Ms West**



**Bruno - Mrs Adams**

**photos of their pets this month!**

# ***Fake Friends***

BY: SHANICE JARVIS (YEAR 9)

They hurt you and they break you,  
Thinking it's so fun.  
They're meant to be your friend,  
But they just turn and run,  
They always come back and ask you to forgive,  
Tell them to go pray in them old churches.

They're just your friend for a second,  
Talk bad about you it's so fun they reckon,  
Laughing, making you feel so small,  
Throwing you around just like a ball.

They hurt you a bit more  
Till you can't take it, they swore  
At you making you feel afraid,  
They don't stop, making sure you paid  
Staring in the mirror repeating why, why, why?  
Turning around going to your bed and cry, cry, cry

You think you look nice and pretty,  
Until they make you feel unloved and petty,  
At this point it's gone too far,  
Your heart's been left with a nasty scar,  
You just want to disappear,  
Get rid of all this fear,

Your head's haunted with thoughts of mortality,  
you come back and start to face the reality,  
Wake up, your alarms ringing,  
The birds are singing,  
You realise it's worth living,  
You've got it in you,  
You can play their game too.  
Stay strong, they're the ones who are wrong.

If you would like to write a poem or contribute to the next issue,  
email us at [mss-magazine@swale.at](mailto:mss-magazine@swale.at) or see Mrs Williamson in EN4.