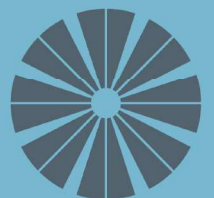


Meopham Monthly



Artwork by Poppy Palmer

**MEOPHAM SCHOOL STUDENT MAGAZINE
ISSUE 24: SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER**



Welcome

Hello! Welcome to the September-October issue of Meopham Monthly and a special welcome to our new Year 7 readers. This issue features updates and pictures from the latest events around school, stories, articles and our popular pets page. 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 or come along on a Thursday lunchtime in to EN4 any time from 12.25-1.20pm.

ISSUE 24 EDITORS: POPPY P + KIRA L

NEWS

Our **Year 9 girls**, **Year 10 boys** and **Year 8 boys** teams have all progressed to the second round of the Kent Cup for football. Special shout out to **Talia Evans** who scored four goals in the first game and to **Mia Colledge** who scored a hat trick. **Congratulations** all!!



Congratulations too to our **Year 7 girls** who won their first match against Tonbridge Girls Grammar. **Thank you to the PE department** for all their hard work supporting the teams.

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WITH THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED THIS MONTH:

Kaya Akyuz (Yr9)
Mia Colledge (Yr9)
Dilpreet Dhesi (Yr9)
Will English (Yr8)
Mrs Garnett
Charlotte Gorton (Yr9)
Mason Hancox (Yr7)
Theo Haydon (Yr10)
Miss Hodd
James Holden (Yr7)
Jack Hollis (Yr9)
Will Hopper (Yr7)
Elspeth Janes (Yr8)
Shanice Jarvis (Yr9)
Ms Kesby
Bethany Lawson (Yr8)
Lacey Lawson (Yr7)
Kira Loveday (Yr13)
Freya Martineau (Yr7)
Mrs Morgan

Isabella Newman (Yr7)
Phoebe Newsome (Yr7)
Poppy Palmer (Yr13)
Sia Palmer (Yr8)
Lucien Peterson (Yr7)
Jessie Rickner (Yr7)
Mr Roberts
Amelia Rogers (Yr9)
Mr Savory
Archie Scanlan (Yr9)
Sienna Simmonds (Yr7)
Henry Smith (Yr7)
Kyrán Standen (Yr9)
Ms Tiller
Helaina Tomlin (Yr11)
Isabelle Williams (Yr8)
Mrs Williamson
Fraser Wilson (Yr8)
Jessica Withall (Yr7)
Kaitlyn Young (Yr7)

Interview with Mr Roberts

BY: JACK HOLLIS, DILPREET DHESI & MIA COLLEDGE (YEAR 9)

What made you want to become the headteacher at Meopham?

As soon as I saw the school, I knew it had amazing potential, with friendly students and staff that are ready to help. This area has fantastic scenery as well as a new building. I wanted to be somewhere I could make improvements.

What experiences do you have that you think will help you in the role?

I have previous teaching experience in a variety of different subjects and enjoy working with children. I have taught many students all the way up to 6th form and watched them mature into young adults.



Do you like any sports?

I am a big football fan. My local team growing up was Southend United but I have always been a Manchester United fan. The most memorable game was a match between Southend United and Manchester United where Southend took the victory. The reason why this match was so memorable was due to my excitement: I ran onto the pitch and accidentally ran into WAYNE ROONEY! He started to swear at me, while I was shouting 'I love you Rooney!'

Do you have any pets?

I have one house rabbit called 'Nessa' who at one point had a partner called 'Bryn' who passed away.

Are you excited for the future of Meopham School?

Yes, I am very excited for Meopham's future. I believe that this school has fantastic potential and I have a lot of ideas for our future. I have spoken to several members of staff and students and have sent out a survey to parents and carers. At Meopham we have a good student body as well as fantastic staff members.

continued...

How have you found Meopham so far?

I have seen positivity from the students and passion from the staff. I am very keen to improve the standard of uniform, believing that the better dressed you are the better you behave and feel. I also want to introduce a mobile phone ban, cut down on truancy and exiting, and introduce a range of subjects at 6th form.

What do you remember about your school days?

I remember wanting everything to be fair as well as wanting to be challenged. I believe that performances, school plays and sports trips create a better school environment, so I'll be working with your teachers to do more of this.



Describe yourself in three words:

Friendly, polite and annoying! I believe this because I have been told I am friendly and polite but I have also been told that I am annoying because I do not give up.

Do you have any messages for students?

Thank you all for being so welcoming. I will work relentlessly to improve our school and I am excited for what the next few years will bring.

What is your favourite biscuit?

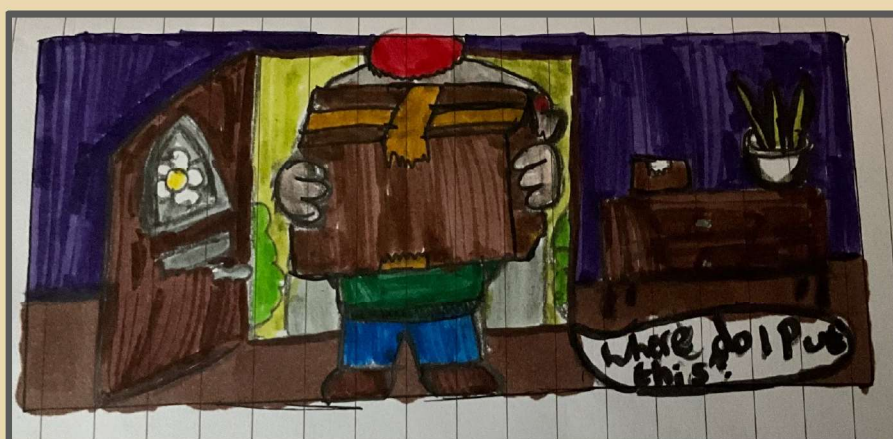
Personally I would have to go for: A CUSTARD CREAM!

Jack's analysis: "A custard cream is a strong choice, quite popular, with a hard outer shell and a soft, likeable centre -very symbolic".



BILLINGSDALE

A NEW COMIC BY SIA PALMER (YEAR 8)



A newcomer has just entered the town, but the town people are weird... Will he deal with them or will he leave?

Read and find out!

ATTENTION

This term
GET READY!

For the return...
Of **Youth Theatre**

**EVERY TUESDAY 3:10
- 4PM**

**IN THE NEW DRAMA STUDIO WITH
MS NORTH**

ARABIC CULTURE & LANGUAGE CLUB

Join the Arabic Club ★

مرحبا

Why Join?

- Make new friends
- Explore fascinating traditions
- Enhance your language skills
- Have fun, celebrate diversity, and win prizes.
- Discover the Rich Culture & Language of the Arab World!

What We Offer:

- Language Lessons.
- Cultural Events: Food festivals, movies, and music.
- Guest Speakers: Learn from native speakers.
- Community Service: Engage in local cultural events.

With: Mrs. Lajnef
When: Every Thursday
Time: 12:50 to 13:30
Where: L2

Showing how all languages are ultimately derived from Arabic

العربية

MEOPHAM SCHOOL MAGAZINE

WE NEED YOU!

Writers
Artists/Designers
Book Reviewers
Film/TV Reviewers
Cartoonists
Photographers

**All welcome
Thursday
lunchtimes
in English 4**

Meopham Monthly





Singing Club!

WITH MR KNIGHT

**EVERY
TUESDAY
3.20 UNTIL 4**

MUSIC 2

Corner of Wonder

BY: JACK HOLLIS (YEAR 9)

Quote of the Month:

"All I know is that I know nothing." - Socrates

Who do we choose to respect?

How do we know what we think is true, is really true?

***Do we all read the words on a page the same?
How can we be sure?***

Can we believe without seeing?

How could you prove $1+1=2$?

The Great Debate

BY JACK HOLLIS (YEAR 9)

Should students be paid to go to school?

Should students be paid to go to school ? This is an unusual thought but certainly an interesting one. In this article I will argue both sides and at the end you can decide what your own opinion on the question is...

FOR: Schools and students would benefit from being paid to go to school. In the UK, children over 13 can work for pay, so if students are working for six hours a day, don't they deserve to be paid? For the week commencing 9/9/24 attendance was 95%; imagine how high attendance rates would be if we were paid to come in! After leaving school students would be able to do what they like and experience the world if they had a salary saved up.

AGAINST: Schools and students would not benefit from being paid to go to school. Schools already run on tight budgets so if schools paid children to come in, they wouldn't be able to afford all the necessary learning resources. If students were paid, they would not concentrate as hard in lessons, as they would know they already had money for later life. This would not be enough for adulthood and would leave them with a false sense of security.

What do you think? Let us know at mss-magazine@swale.at

Mural Update

BY: POPPY PALMER & KIRA LOVEDAY (YEAR 13)

As most of you are aware, more and more murals have been appearing in our school hallways and in this copy of the magazine we are here to give some more insight on what some of our sixth formers and Miss Metters are working on.



The vision for our timeline is to showcase the evolution of different art movements and styles throughout history. Starting with the classical arts like the renaissance, to impressionism and abstract impressionism. The mural aims to highlight how art has changed and influenced the world over time.

Many have asked why we have chosen the seemingly minimalist design of just numbers and no pictures. This has allowed us to be creative in a different way: using fonts. Each movement is special because, like its work, they are all unique and match perfectly. It has been a great pleasure for us to think outside the box and turn black lettering into something engaging and we are sure the others working alongside will agree.

It is a way to bring the rich history of art to life, right here in our school.



Some so far ...

1200: Gothic

First appearing in northern France, its origins are in architecture, sculpture, paintings and stained glass. It illuminated artists across the globe. Its qualities include a realistic rendering of the human form, a complex sense of perspective and gorgeous uses of shape and darkness.

1879: POINTILLISM

A painting form that largely involves the dotting of primary & secondary colours forms gentle and bright pieces. The reason for the dots is to allow the viewer to experience one piece in two ways: one with the tedious small details of colour and another from further away where they visually blend together.

1960s: GRAFFITI

The 60s and 70s marked the birth of graffiti. Its origins were to publicly display the artistic expression in response to lack of access to art museums and institutions. Artists wanted to rebel against discrimination and the struggle of living in the city. This is still the case now but focused more towards artistic aesthetic and gang territory markings.

Houses of Parliament Trip

BY: POPPY PALMER & KIRA LOVEDAY (YEAR 13)

Earlier this term, Year 13 had the privilege of attending a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament. On this trip, we met two local Labour members of parliament: Gravesham MP Dr. Lauren Sullivan (a scientist who was previously working on tropical diseases for the Francis Crick institute), and Chatham/Aylesford MP Tristan Osborne (a local school teacher).

Students took part in a mock election to decide who our honorary MP will be. After being split into groups, each designed a political party and manifesto, putting forward a candidate to present their ideas to the rest of the “constituency”.

After the candidate was elected as MP, there was then a celebratory boat tour of the Thames, with many interesting facts from the guide, such as:

- The London eye has been the location of over 6,000 marriage proposals;
- The first version of the English dictionary was written in the Anchor Tavern;
- The River Thames is home to two types of sharks!

Gallery



Gallery



MONTHLY MASTERPIECE

Jennis Li Cheng Tien

BY POPPY P



Jennis Li Cheng Tien is an artist whose work explores ethereal and abstract qualities of the human figure through the use of vibrant, yet soft and dreamlike, colour palettes. Her compositions often blur the line between the figurative and the abstract, resulting in this atmospheric effect that challenges the boundaries of portraiture.

The first piece captures a ghostly, disembodied face that dissolves into its surrounding space. The choice of colours evoke a sense of disorientation much like her display.

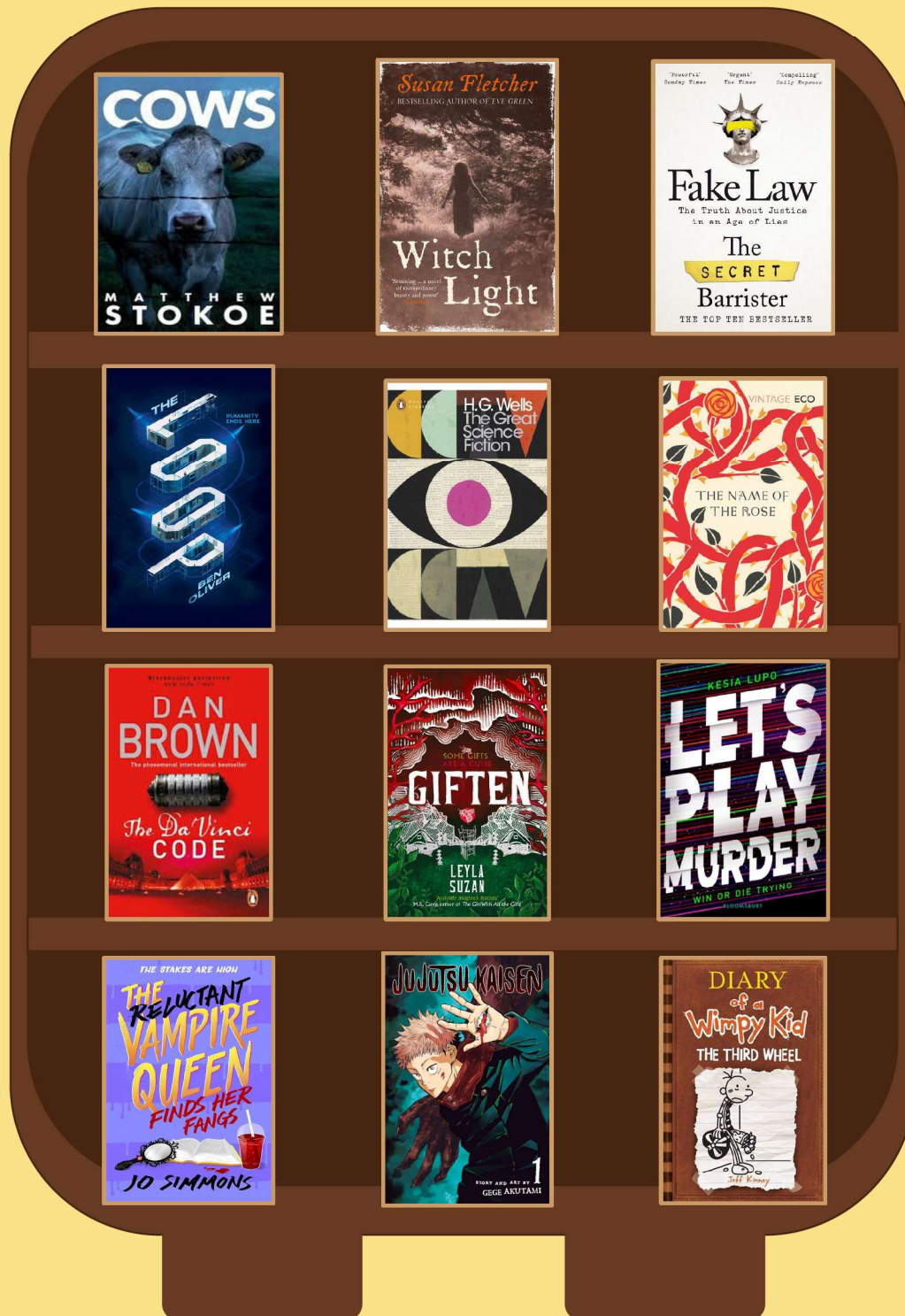


The second subject's form is diffused by bright neon shades and overexposed lighting, emphasising a sense of internal reflection or perhaps even emotional distance.

This third piece is the most abstract in its representation, with a suggestion of facial features and a form barely emerging from a wash of fiery orange and delicate pinks. The melding of these colours with the human shape creates an impression of fading, suggesting a transient, fleeting moment.

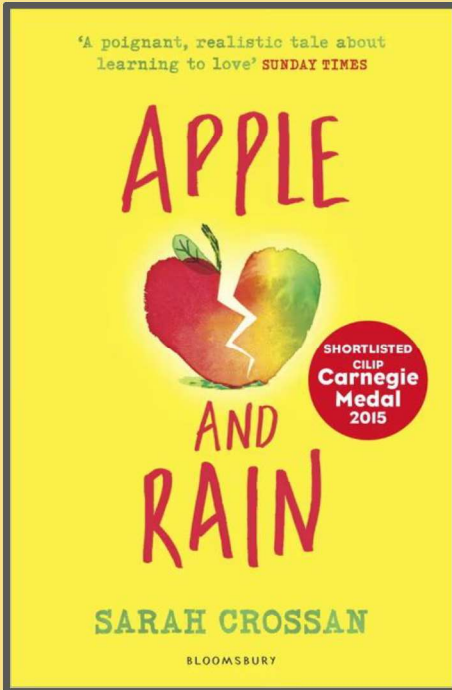
Overall her work delves into themes of emotion, identity and impermanence, using bold and soft forms to create a beautiful visual language.

Book Recommendations



if you have a recommendation, or would like to write a review
for a future issue, email us at MSS-magazine@swale.at

Book Reviews



Apple and Rain by Sarah Crossan

☆☆☆☆☆

REVIEW BY: SHANICE JARVIS (YR9)

'Apple and Rain' is a very engaging book about a 13 year old girl whose mum left her, so she was made to live with her strict Nan. Her Nan never let her have fun. All she wanted was to see her mum, who left for 11 years ago.

One day someone calls her school and tells her an Uber is picking her up to take her to the hospital, but who is actually picking her up?

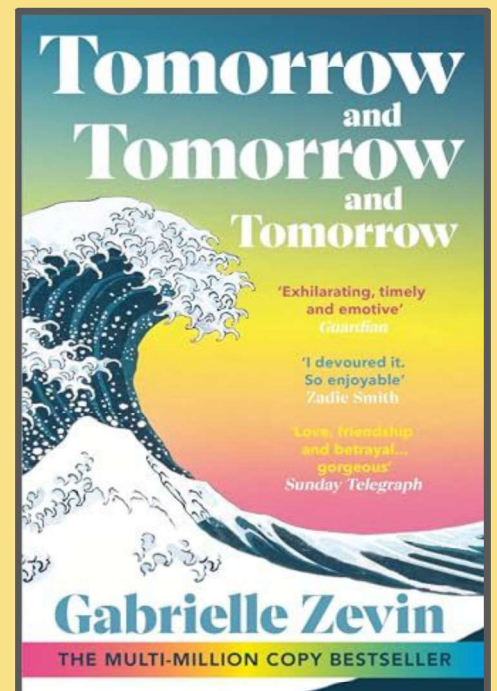
Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow

By Gabrielle Zevin

☆☆☆☆☆

REVIEW BY: KAYA AKYUZ (YR9)

'Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow' is a story about an ill boy called Sam and a girl called Sadie. They meet at a hospital when they are young but go their own ways. Fast forward to the early 2000s and they are reunited. Their love of games comes back immediately, so with a new team they decide to make a game. But will their friendship survive working together so closely?



Film Recommendations

BY: ARCHIE SCANLAN (YEAR 9)

Transformers One is a action adventure film set 3 billion years before the live action movies. The brothers in arms Orion Pax and D-16 become sworn enemies after being given the ability to transform. The movie releases on 11th October 2024.

Sonic The Hedgehog 3 is a story about the classic blue hedgehog and his friends when they battle there biggest villain yet: Shadow The Hedgehog. This movie releases on 20th December 2024.

Paddington In Peru is a new adventure for our favourite bear going to Peru to meet his Aunt Lucy, but when she is found missing, Paddington goes on an adventure to look for her. This movie releases on 8th November 2024.

Ghostbusters Frozen Empire is set three years after the events of Ghostbusters Afterlife. The veteran Ghostbusters must join forces with their successors to save the world from a death-chilling god in New York City who seeks to build a spectral army. Out now on digital.

Wicked is a movie set before the events of The Wizard Of Oz, where the Wicked Witch of the West meets Glinda The Good Witch. Part 1 releases on 22nd November 2024 and part 2 releases on 28th November 2025.



Goodbye to our lovely teacher: Miss Bada

Dear Miss Bada

We are feeling sad without you in the Meopham School family, because you made everyone happy with your big smile and bright hair.

You taught us new things to do, like roller skating, playing games together and making new friends forever. You always said never give up in our lessons.

We are very excited for your new job and we will never forget the amazing times when you were with us.

Good luck in the future!

From Theo Haydon and Kyran Standen



Stuffed Bell Peppers

BY: KIRA LOVEDAY (YEAR 13)

INGREDIENTS:

1 medium onion
1 garlic clove
250g beef mince
400g tinned tomato
1tbsp dried oregano
1tbsp paprika
1 beef stock cube
3 tbsp barbecue sauce
2 bell peppers
50g grated cheese



METHOD:

1. Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6 and heat some oil in a large pan. Add the onion and cook for a few minutes to soften. Add the garlic and beef and cook until the meat is browned - break it up with a spoon as it cooks.
2. Add the tomatoes, oregano, paprika, stock cube and barbecue sauce. Season well with salt and pepper, stir everything and cover with a lid. Simmer for 30 minutes.
3. While that's simmering, chop the lids off of the peppers and scoop out the middle. For a fun halloween touch, carve a face or design into the front of the pepper like you would with a pumpkin to create the look of a jack o'lantern.
4. Place the peppers in a roasting tin, season, and bake for 20 minutes.
5. When the mince is cooked, divide it between the softened peppers, return to the oven for 10 minutes and sprinkle with cheese.

Trick or Treat?

A SHORT STORY BY: HELAINA TOMLIN (YEAR 11)

There I was, standing silently by the edge of my bed, waiting patiently for my roommate to come back from the kitchen. I had a bucket of water placed on top of the door frame, wobbling so harshly it nearly fell off before the prank was even done. Finally, Lucy returned, holding a plate full of chips and baked beans, salted ever so slightly with the last bit of table salt we had left in the cupboard. She continued to walk into my bedroom and as soon as she opened the door...

BOOM! CRASH! BANG!

The water came pouring down her hair and face as she screamed so loudly the whole neighbourhood could hear her. The beans and chips came crashing down her form, making a huge mess as she shouted at me. I just started laughing until she started laughing with me, as she ate the chips off the floor because she didn't want to see them go to waste.

We sat there and laughed about the whole situation as we ate ice cream and watched Beetlejuice, then the doorbell suddenly rang. I got up to open the door, as I tripped over the spilt beans on the floor and came tumbling down taking the painting off the wall with me. I finally managed to get to the door and when I opened it, there was no one there. I looked around the side of the door and still saw nothing; it must have been a ding dong ditch.

I finally got into bed again to finish the film when the doorbell rang again. Lucy said not to bother, but I got up for a second time and walked to the door. Again I opened it but there was no-one there. I walked back to the bed quite frustrated as I stomped my feet angrily.

I had an idea, what if I were to stand by the door waiting for them to do it again? I grabbed another bucket of water, and Lucy and I stood by the door anticipating when they will next return. We heard the doorbell ring again and quick as a flash Lucy opened the door and I threw the water from the bucket all over them! They stood up slowly dripping wet with what looked like an ocean pouring down from them. The boys stood open mouthed, their bags of sweets now soaked.

Maybe they'd think again before trick or treating us!

CRACK THE CODE

BY: AMELIA ROGERS & CHARLOTTE GORTON (YR9)



Can you crack the code to find the 4 digit answer?
Each row will give you hints to unlock the code lock.

9	2	8	5
---	---	---	---

Row 1: One number is correct, but placed wrong.

1	9	3	7
---	---	---	---

Row 2: Two numbers are correct, but placed wrong.

5	2	0	1
---	---	---	---

Row 3: One number is right and placed correct

6	5	0	7
---	---	---	---

Row 4: Nothing is correct

8	5	2	4
---	---	---	---

Row 5: Two numbers are correct but placed wrong

--	--	--	--

What is the 4 digit code?

Tackling Depression

Depression is a serious mental health problem that causes a persistent feeling of sadness and loss of interest in activities. It affects how you think, feel and behave, and it can cause emotional, functional and physical problems. Although depression can occur at any time in life, symptoms may be different between teens and adults.

Issues such as peer pressure, academic expectations and changing bodies can bring a lot of ups and downs for teens. But for some, the lows are more than just temporary feelings — they're a symptom of depression.

Teen depression isn't a weakness or something that can be overcome with willpower — it can have serious consequences and requires long-term treatment. For most teens, depression symptoms ease with treatment such as medication and psychological counseling.

Symptoms

Teen depression signs and symptoms include a change from the teenager's previous attitude and behavior that can cause significant distress and problems at school or home, in social activities, or in other areas of life. Depression symptoms can vary in severity, but changes in your emotions and behaviour may include:

- Tiredness and loss of energy
- Insomnia or sleeping too much
- Changes in appetite
- Agitation or restlessness
- Frequent unexplained headaches
- Social isolation
- Poor school performance
- Frequent absences from school
- Angry outbursts, disruptive or risky behavior
- Self-harm

- Feelings of sadness, which can include crying spells for no apparent reason
- Frustration or feelings of anger, even over small matters
- Feeling hopeless or empty
- Irritable or annoyed mood
- Loss of interest or pleasure in usual activities
- Low self-esteem
- Feelings of worthlessness or guilt
- Trouble thinking and concentrating

If you think you may be depressed — or you have a friend who may be depressed — don't wait to get help. Talk to a health care provider such as your doctor. Share your concerns with a parent, a close friend, a teacher or someone else you trust.

If you're feeling overwhelmed and like you can't cope, you can:

- Speak to a member of the safeguarding team in school (green lanyards);
- Call HOPELINEUK on 0800 068 4141 or the Samaritans on 116 123;
- Text SHOUT to Shout's textline on 85258;
- Call the NHS on 111 and select option 2.

Meopham



Woody - Lucien P



Livvy - Freya M



Bella - Jessica W



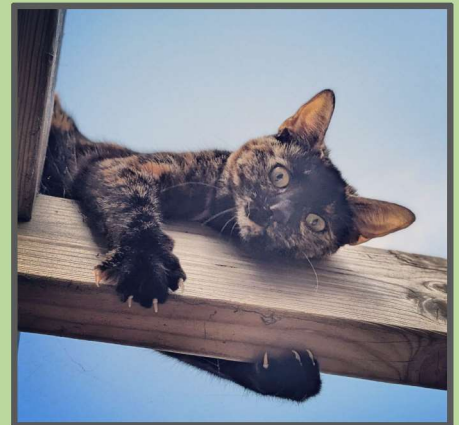
**Remy & Rouge -
Elspeth J**



**Buddy - Bethany &
Lacey L**



Bomber - Will H



Peaches - Henry S

If you would like to share a pet photo for a future issue, email it to

Pet Family



George - Fraser W



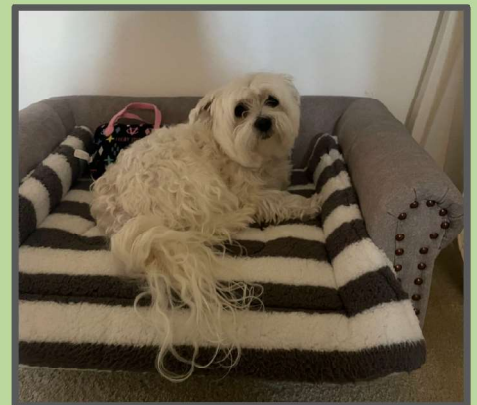
Roxi - Kaitlyn Y



Nelly - Sienna S



Argento - Isabelle W



Daisy - Sienna L



**Cookie & Chloe -
James H**



Milo - Will E

MSS-magazine@swale.at , along with a note of your pet's name.

Welcome Back!

BY: AMELIA ROGERS (YR9)

WELCOME back to school,
EQUIPMENT at the ready,
LOVELY sun is gone,
COLD weather incoming,
ONE lesson at a time,
MATHS, ENGLISH, FRENCH AND SCIENCE,
EVERYONE IS EXCITED!!!

BACK to school,
AMAZING work is rewarded,
CARING friends,
KIND teachers.

WELCOME back to Meopham!

If you would like to write a poem or contribute to future issues,
email us at mss-magazine@swale.at or see Mrs Williamson in EN4.