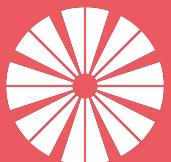


Meopham Monthly



Meopham School Student Magazine
January 2026



Welcome

Happy New Year from everyone on the Meopham Monthly team!

The photo on this month's front cover is of the school at sunset, taken by Mrs Williamson. She is a 'Stranger Things' fan and thought this looked a bit like our school was about to be taken over by the Mind Flayer? What do you think?



If you would like to submit a short story, article, poem, photos or anything else for our future issues, please speak to Mrs Williamson, contact the team at MSS-magazine@swale.ac.uk or come along on a Thursday lunchtime to EN4.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

Meopham School Values

TENACITY RESPECT UNITY EXCELLENCE

T **Tenacity** - Try your hardest

R **Respect** - Respect comes first

U **Unity** - Always be ready to listen and help

E **Excellence** - Make the right choices

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With thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue:

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Siara B (Yr 7)	Millie H (Yr 7)	Kyle O (Yr 7)
Lilah B (Yr 7)	James H (Yr 8)	Sia P (Yr 9)
Archie B (Yr 10)	Jack H (Yr 10)	Ms Rajkumar
Reggie C (Yr 7)	Nate J (Yr 7)	Pat Roberts
Jenson C (Yr 7)	Mrs Kerr	Archie S (Yr 10)
Charlie D (Yr 8)	Ms Kesby	Luke S (Yr 7)
Dilpreet D (Yr 10)	Vesta K (Yr 7)	Mollie T (Yr 8)
Japjeet D (Yr 7)	DG K (Yr 8)	Bobby W (Yr 7)
Katie F (Yr 7)	Albi L (Yr 7)	Mrs Williamson
	Ethan L (Yr 8)	

News Breakdown

By: Jack H (Year 10)

PUTIN FOUND RESPONSIBLE FOR SALISBURY POISONING DEATH!

Who is Putin?

Vladimir Putin is the Russian President and has been since 1999. Across his uninterrupted 27 years as leader he has ruled Russia with tyrannical brutality veiled by the facade of democracy and the ever complimentary reports of state owned media. Amongst his most influential acts for both Russia, its people and the rest of the world are: overseeing the elimination of his largest political opponent Alexei Navalny in 2024, launching Russia's invasion of sovereign Crimea in 2014 and ordering the start of Russia's 'Special military operation' in Ukraine which continues to claim lives even as you are reading. Before politics Putin was as an officer of the brutal, brazen Russian state security service, the KGB which oversees the elimination of anyone who opposes the Russian Federation.



Putin and the Perfume

What was the Salisbury Poisonings?

In the March of 2018 agents of the GRU (reorganised and expanded version of the KGB) attempted to kill retired British double agent Sergei Skripal. The GRU assassins smuggled into the country a 'Novichok' poison disguised in a perfume bottle. Novichok poisons are artificial nerve agents specifically designed to inflict pain and in this case death. Sergei had previously worked as a British spy handing Russian secrets to MI6 between the 1990's and early 2000's. This was the cause of the GRU attempted revenge assassination.

The agents sprayed the poison over the Skripal's door handle and then discarded the bottle. Sergei and his daughter were found unconscious and were rushed to hospital, where they were placed in intensive care and put into medical comas. Whilst the intended target survived and recovered the torturous tendrils of Novichok fulfilled their bloodthirst a few days later when unknowing Salisbury mother Dawn Sturgess was killed by what she believed to be perfume.

It is unknown how exactly Dawn Sturgess came into possession of the disguised Novichok, some believe it was given to her by a partner who found it in the street but it matters not how it got to her. Just 15 minutes after it touched her skin she began to feel its effects and 8 days later she was dead. The Inquiry into the events of that March was named in her honour 'The Dawn Sturgess Inquiry' and finished last December. They found Ms Sturgess' Death to be the result of actions undertaken by the GRU operatives and even went as far as placing responsibility on Vladimir Putin himself for ordering Russian agents to commit a breach of international law and disposing of the poison so carelessly. The inquiry also criticised MI5 (the organisation responsible for protecting Britain from external threats) for failing to stop and prevent the attack.



What is Beauty?

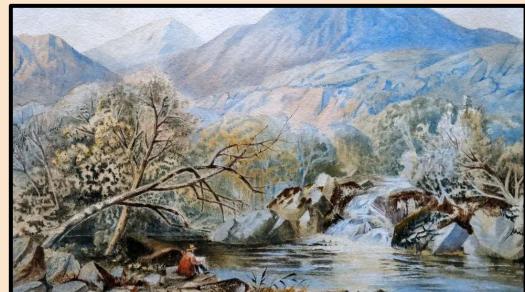
By: Jack H (Year 10)

Annually the global beauty industry generates £506 billion worth of revenue and we often hear about the pressure and attainability of beauty standards. However, a question that we, as a species, have struggled to definitively answer is this:

What is beauty?

Some people believe beauty to be tangible concept, that lines, edges and colours can make a sculpture beautiful. While others put beauty down to the thoughts and emotions that something can evoke: a particular person might evoke thoughts of love and prosperity leading to us brand that person as 'beautiful'. This would of course create a far more fluid and individual interpretation of beauty, as even a single person can have different reactions to an object or person depending on their emotions or recent experiences. If an artwork was beautiful, but the paint that was used in its creation smelt atrocious, does the painting still class as beautiful? It is a well known fact that, before becoming a politician, Adolf Hitler was an artist, can his work be beautiful in spite of the immeasurable horrors he inflicted?

Another fascinating point of investigation is landscapes. I am sure many people will agree with me that the mountainside pictured on the below right is 'beautiful'. But what makes it beautiful? For me it would be the glorious strobes of the sunlight and the tranquil mystery of the shadows, however other people might see beauty in the rugged mountains and the survival of flowers in such a desolate land.



Can the orchestrator of genocide create beauty?



The images to the right are foods made by Michelin starred chefs, so it's safe to assume that would be pretty flavoursome, but are the images of foods beautiful? If so, what is it that grants the image beauty? The contrast of colours? The textures of the subjects? Or perhaps it's your mind imagining just how glorious those dishes must be? But what if those meals were in fact clay, as is often used in food commercials - would the images lose their beauty?



The Travelling Teacher

By: Ms Rajkumar

“Parang, parang oh! Parang, Parang oh!” I’m sorry, but what language are you speaking? Well, the word ‘parang’ (pah-rang) describes the Venezuelan influenced music brought to Trinidad and Tobago. Cuatro strings strumming, maracas shaking and voices harmonising in Spanish verses that celebrate the season, parang can be heard anywhere you go. The December air in Trinidad and Tobago hums with anticipation. Families change their curtains and put on a new coat of paint on houses to welcome in a new season... a bright and prosperous one. Neighbours gather at doorsteps, welcoming the parang bands with laughter, their melodies carrying joy from house to house.

In every kitchen, the scent of Christmas is unmistakable. Pots bubble with sorrel drink, its ruby-red petals steeped with cloves and ginger, poured over ice to cool the tropical heat. On the counter, banana leaves are unwrapped to reveal steaming pastelles, filled with seasoned meat and olives, each one a labor of love passed down through generations.



Christmas morning is a time to recognize the Christ in Christmas and families pile into cars to start their morning with church. Little ones, excited to open their gifts, urge parents to drive home faster to unwrap their presents. By midday, families sit together around tables laden with traditional meals. A platter of ham and hops - the soft rolls cradling slices of smoky ham - disappears quickly, while the rich, savoury delight of crab back makes its way to the centre of the feast, shells stuffed with spiced crab meat baked to perfection. Another choice is to spend the day on the beach to soak in the sun, sea and surf.



As night falls, the rhythm of parang rises again, mingling with the laughter of children chasing fireflies and the clinking of glasses filled with sorrel. Christmas in Trinidad and Tobago is more than a holiday: it's a symphony of music, food, and community, where every note and every flavour tells the story of a people who celebrate with heart and soul.

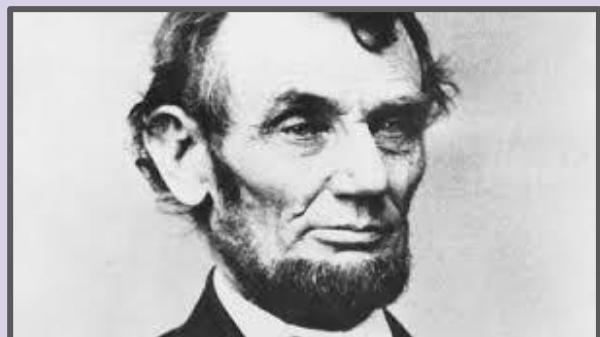
Historical Events that Happened in January

By: Archie B (Year 10)

On 26th January 1926, the first public television demonstration happened by John Logie Baird - it had a scan rate of 5 FPS, revolutionary for 1926!



On 1st January 1863, Abraham Lincoln declared the Emancipation Proclamation, thus ending slavery in some areas of the United States. Slavery was finally fully abolished in 1865.



On 1st January 1999, the Euro was introduced as an accounting currency and, in 2002 that same day, it began circulation as a physical currency.



On 15th January 1559, Elizabeth I was coronated (crowned). Her reign had begun in November, but this coronation showed formally that she was now the Queen.



Scratch: Beginning to Code

By: Nate J & Albi L
(Year 7)

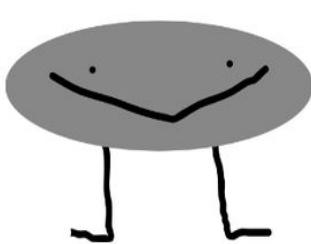
Scratch is a simple coding engine for beginners and rookies. There are many different blocks to choose from. If you just want to play the games made by other people, then we recommend griftpatch, who is known for his recreation of GEOMETRY DASH on SCRATCH! If you're new, we recommend following simple tuts for platformer games/chase games.

The most simple of simple games are clickers, but if you want to add upgrades, they become significantly more difficult. Probably the most IMPORTANT inputs are the operators or sensing.

There are an infinite number of games to play and an endless number of ideas that you could use to make a game. On Scratch, there are inputs you can use to make your sprite do something.



get him popular
and i wil make a game
about him
This is gooble



The Evil Cat

A Strange Tale by:
Albi L (Year 7)

In 1967, an evil cat was born. This evil cat had a very evil name called Larry (the country eater) and he had a very evil plan to summon 67 lemons to eat all of Ohio. But these weren't your ordinary lemons, because these ones were cursed to destroy everything for all of eternity.



Somewhere in Larry's secret lair, a dog named Jimbo was gaining information about Larry's plan and realised how dangerous he and his evil magic could be. Jimbo wasn't powerless himself though, because he could charge energy from himself and created deathly punches with sonic waves accompanying the punch.

As Larry set off to start his evil plan, Jimbo had a punch charged specifically for him and then he started flying. But Larry wouldn't take this and summoned a lemon to attack Jimbo, but he came prepared. He first got out a blender and put the lemon inside and then put the lemonade into a water gun and aimed for Larry's eyes and hit him in the eye, first attempt, and blinded him for at least a minute. When Larry was blinded, Jimbo charged up 100% percent of his power and sent Larry to an alternate reality where Larry would end up forever.

Steal a Gouble!

By: Nate J (Year 7)



Steal a Gouble is a game where you have to try and collect the best goubles possible. To start off well, you should get the normal goubles frequently so you make a good number at the start! You can also (if you're lucky) get mutations on your goubles, which severely increases how much your goubles get you per second!



When you get far into the game and reach 25 million points, you can upgrade to World 2, which increases your luck and if you wait 10 minutes, you can enter the winter hour event. If you wait another 10 minutes, the Santa visit event starts where Santa drops presents every 30 seconds and you can get a variety of goubles. The ones you want are: Blizzard Gouble: 1B, La Ginger Gouble Sekolah: 75B and Lil Jolly Gouble Combination 250B.



In the Winter World you can get the Soon To Be added Winter trait and TWO tracks which increase your odds of getting The Honoured Gouble and the other newly added Jolly Gouble Combination.



This game was created by njbotany studios (me) and found on the game playing and creating engine called Scratch. To access it, search into the type bar njbotany and press the profile icon.

This game took many months for me to create it so I hope you appreciate it :D

REMINDER: this game is still in the beta stages so there will probably be a couple of bugs and glitches. #stealagouble

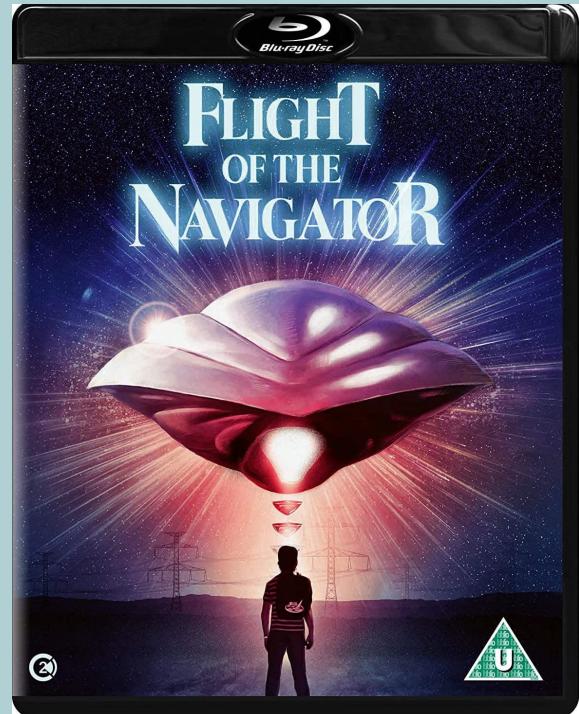
Film Reviews

By: Molly T Year 8

Hi! A couple of years ago, I watched a great film called **Flight of the Navigator**. It's a really good film that was made in 1986 and is a perfect film to watch with friends and family.

The film is about David Freeman, a 12 year old boy who disappears. He reappears 8 years later, but he hasn't aged. NASA then discover an alien spaceship and David realises that he was the ship's navigator. He and the ship, Max, bond while on a thrilling adventure to try and return David back to his original time.

At first, I wasn't too keen on this, but as soon as I watched it, it was incredible. If you're unsure about it, like I was, try the trailer. You can watch it on Disney plus and Apple TV.



Another great film is the **Night at the Museum**, made in 2006. It's a PG and is so good.

It's about a man who keeps getting fired from his job and gets employed as a night watch at a museum, but at night, all of the exhibits come alive.



Stray Kids

By: Vesta K (Yr 7)

You might have heard of them or perhaps you would recognise their music? Stray Kids are big K-Pop stars! Here are some facts about them!



This first member is Han Ji - Sung. His birth date is September 14 2000. His role as a rapper, vocalist and producer.

This is Felix Youngbook Lee. He was born in Sydney, Australia. He's known for his freckles and deep voice.



Next up is my personal favourite, Kim Seung - Min. He joined Skz (Stray Kids) in 2017 and his age is 25. He is known for his beautiful smile and humour.

Lastly on this page is Seo Chang - Bin. He may seem a bit serious but he is the most strong member in the group.



Their most popular song is “Chk chk boom”. Check it out !

AI (Artificial Intelligence)

By: Siara B (Year 7)

It feels like AI is slowly taking over our world. Whilst it can be used as a great information source, it is not always right. AI is a very controversial topic as some think it's amazing for things however others say it is completely useless. What do you think?

My classmate, **Hadiyah A** stated:

"I think AI could be helpful in some cases such as homework or finding answers to something. But sometimes AI can be too realistic and scary, making people ask what is real."

I think Hadiyah is correct. AI can lead to people debating what is real. However she also replied that AI is great for homework or answering questions.

Another classmate, **Lilah B** continued to say:

"AI can be useful for many reasons for example, helping people with homework or just small questions. But AI is bad for the planet and a bad source and people should use reports and information from human beings."

Victoria N also had something to say:

"AI can definitely be helpful, but I think people are starting to rely on it too much. Experiments have been done with AI that show it can be hostile. I don't trust it."

Millie H exclaimed:

"I think AI can ruin peoples lives! It is getting too real and may affect people mentally and physically, so we should try to reduce the amount of AI in the world."

Christmas Cracker &



Thank you to Mr Knight, Mrs Greenwood, Mr Roberts, Mr McQuillan and students who took part

Year 7 Christmas Quiz



all the staff who helped organise these events. Well done to all of the - you were brilliant!



CATERING: A YEAR IN REVIEW

By: Mrs Kerr





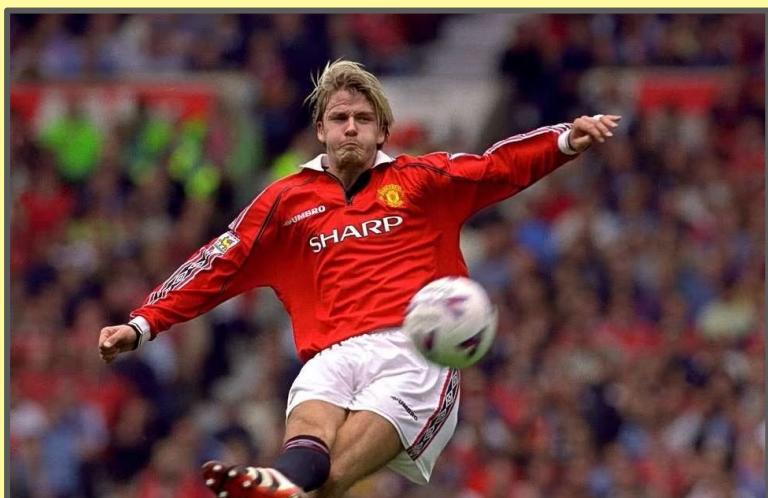
From first attempts to confident creations, the past year in Hospitality and Catering has been filled with growth and discovery. These photos celebrate students' hard work, creativity, and the practical skills they've gained - skills that will support healthy choices and independence for years to come. Well done!!!!



Sir David Beckham

By:James H (Year 8)

Sir David Beckham was born on the 2nd May 1975, making him 50 years old. He's not only a Premier League football legend but has helped out in loads of charity events. One of the reasons I like him is his past as a football legend, playing for Manchester United to Real Madrid to PSG, wearing number 7 for 'The Devils', number 23 for Real Madrid and his retirement number 32 for PSG. He is famous for his curling free kicks and passing ability. He has supported several charities, for instance 'The King's Foundation of Youth' and he has done 20 years with a charity called UNICEF. He was recently re-knighted by King Charles III. David and Victoria Beckham have four children and live in a townhouse in London.



People from Football Born in January

By: Nicole G (Year 7)

Many famous footballers were born in January, including Xavi, Toni Kroos, Gianluigi Buffon and Luis Suárez. Coaches born in January are Pep Guardiola, Colin Calderwood, Paul Clement, Michael O'Neill, Brendan Rodgers and Pascal Jansen.

Now their birthdays and about some of them:

3rd January: *Colin Calderwood*: Born in 1965. He is a former Scottish defender and manager who has managed Nottingham Forest, Northampton Town, and Cambridge United.



7th January: *Eden Hazard*: Belgian winger known for his dribbling skills.

8th January: *David Silva*: Spanish midfielder famous for his success with Manchester City.

11th January: *Jamie Vardy*: English forward, known for his time at Leicester City.

14th January: *Declan Rice*: English midfielder.

23rd January: *Arjen Robben*: Dutch winger.

24th January: *Luis Suárez*: Uruguayan striker who has played for clubs like Liverpool and Barcelona.

28th January: *Gianluigi Buffon*: Italian legendary goalkeeper.

30th January: *Peter Crouch*: English striker.



Clash Royale

By: Bobby W (Year 7)



The reason I like Clash Royale a lot is because of the animations they make to show off their game and because it's pretty hard to actually progress through the arenas. I sort off like a challenge when it comes to games and, as I said earlier, the animations are pretty good as you can see below:

Clash Royale is currently the MOST played mobile phone game! The reason why it's currently the most popular mobile game right now is because of the really frequent updates. Even though it was made over TEN YEARS AGO, it still has a definite update every month! Occasionally, it even has an update before that monthly one, such as bug fixes, new updates to cards and the monthly is one is normally new cards and a brand new season, giving people stuff to work towards every month! Most cards have a special noise when placed down: a really famous one you can hear people saying is HOGGGGG RIDERRRRR!! And occasionally GOBLIN MACHINE!



I would like to say that I'm actually pretty good at Clash Royale! I am currently Arena 15 which is around 5000 trophies, and since you start at 0 trophies that is pretty good! Some people say certain arenas are harder than others, such as arena 9, arena 19, arena 20 and the one I'm in, miners mine arena 15. There are a lot of people say that these are harder but no one knows why they are harder.



Overall, I really recommend Clash Royale to everyone! It is a fun, easy access and GREAT combat game and the best part about it, you can play it on your phone anywhere (with internet) and IT'S FREE!

Meme of the Month!!

By: Millie H , Lilah B & Siara B (Year 7)



People have stopped using 67, the famous number meme that dominated the internet, which people spammed with hand motions going up and down. Millie had something to say about this:

"I believe that 67 is banned for the better, although I will miss it! So I have made a promise that I will never say it again because it annoys my class! For example, Lilah has constantly begged me to stop!"



The **Great Meme Reset** first began in 2025 when people were sick of new memes such as, "67" "chicken stars" and so on. Everybody wanted change however, newgens thought this idea was bad and tried to revive old memes, like "69", "chicken jockey" and more. Although hopefully the Great Meme Reset will proceed to happen.



No new memes have really gone viral yet but people are trying to invent new and better ones for 2026 to make it feel like 2016 vibes again, because in 2016 there was no brainrot, which made people happier!

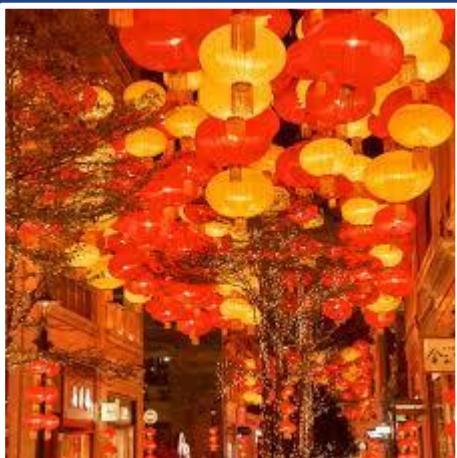
New Year Traditions

By: Kyle O, Owen L &
Ethan L (Year 8)

New Year's Day is celebrated on the 1st of January every year in the UK. It is normally celebrated with lots of fireworks, parties, gatherings and loads of fun! Usually the night before New Year's Day on the 31st of December people will gather around with their families and friends to celebrate, eat and stay up to wait for the clocks to hit 12:00, to watch the fireworks on the TV or outside and to celebrate that the New Year is here.



Chinese New Year is another popular tradition, with red decorations like lanterns and dragons. Chinese New Year in 2026 falls on Tuesday 17th February, marking the beginning of the Year of the Horse.



The tradition is to use animals like the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse and goat, depending on when you were born.



Do you know your Chinese Zodiac animal? Check out our list below:

2009 - Ox

2011 - Rabbit

2013 - Snake

2010 - Tiger

2012 - Dragon

2014 - Horse

January Celebrations

By: Jenson C (Year 7)

New Year's Day is day all about spending time to celebrate the arrival of the new year and the end off the old year. This New Year's Day was the biggest and greatest day ever! There were fireworks lighting the night sky up and, when it hit midnight in big cities like London and New York, everybody did a countdown to the next year. Singing "Auld Lang Syne" is traditional.

January is also a time to celebrate for Australians, as it is Australian day on the 26th of January, which is cool for them. It marks the 1788 landing of the First Fleet and raising of the Union Flag of Great Britain at Sydney Cove, a small bay on the southern shore of Sydney Harbour.



Game Review

By: Archie S (Yr 10)



Metroid Prime 4 Beyond

Metroid Prime 4 is about when Samus Aran is teleported to a undiscovered planet called Viewros by a ancient artifact after a battle. Stranded and with her suit damaged, Samus needs to explore this uncharted world, uncover the secrets of the ancient history of the planet, and master new psychic abilities granted by the planet's ruins to find her way home, all while being hunted by her rival, Sylux.

This game is available now and i think that this game is a great, it has new features and beautiful landscapes.

Game Review

By: Luke S (Yr 7)



Trade a Brainrot

Roblox Trade a Brainrot is an awesome game. It is like Steal a Brainrot, but you have to trade the brainrots for better brainrots, or sometimes they give you bad brainrots. If you want to steal any brainrots, you will have to pay with robux for it. You can play this game for ages when you are bored or just want to play it. If you would like new and better brainrots, don't forget to play the admin abuse on Saturday at 7pm.



This is one of Trade a Brainrots best brainrot in the game. This brainrot is called Anpali Bapet. Sometimes the admin spawns this brainrot in admin abuse.

Marvellous Movies in 2026

By: Reggie C (Yr 7)



It's a brand new year with a brand new set of film yet to come out. Here are some movies you might want to watch throughout the year:

- For all Star Wars fans, you might like the **Mandalorian and Grogu**, coming out on the 22nd of May.
- Or if you like Marvel movies, you have a long wait for **Avengers: Doomsday** in cinemas from 18th December.
- Or maybe on the 31st of July you'll be watching **Spider Man: Brand New Day**.
- Finally, if you are a Nintendo fan then you will love the **Super Mario Galaxy Movie** yet to come on the 3rd of April.



Minecraft Mod Favourites

By: DG (Year 8)
& Katie F (Year 7)

Nintendo Mash-Up

Minecraft Nintendo Mash-up was released on the WII U edition on the 17th of May 2016 and was later released on other Nintendo platforms on the 5th June 2018. This creation made for a collab with Nintendo, Mojang and Microsoft, on Minecraft's 9th birthday, transforms Minecraft on Nintendo consoles (Wii U, Switch, 3DS) with Mario-themed skins (Mario, Peach, Bowser), redone textures for blocks and items including Warp Pipes and Blocks. There are 15 classic Super Mario 64 music tracks, and a massive pre-built Mario-themed world featuring castles, pipes, and familiar landscapes, letting players explore and build in a fully integrated Super Mario universe.



Immersive Portals Mod x Create Mod

The create mod is a mod which allows you to create trains, windmills, planes and much more. It also has lots of redstone components as well, so already this sounds cool, but it is compatible with the

immersive portals mod! If you don't know what this is, it is a mod which allows you to create portals from 1000+ blocks away. It can create endless pathways, and it makes you have the ability to see through the already created portals, The Nether and the End portal, which creates strange illusions.

Ten Random Questions with One Random Teacher

By: Japjeet D &
Reggie C (Year 7)

This issue's random teacher is: Mr Kasumu.

1. What is your favourite joke?

“I don't have one!”

2. If you could code a game what would it be about

“A fighting game with two armies!”

3. If only one food was left on earth what would you want it to be?

“Chicken tikka masala.”

4. What is your favourite film?

“It's an old one called I spit on your grave.”

5. If you got the opportunity to go anywhere in the world where would you go?

“Qatar.”

6. What is your favourite animal why?

“Parrots because they are friendly and if you understand them they tell you answers.”

7. What inspired you to do this job?

“I like to impart my knowledge to students so they learn and flourish.”

8. If you were to take another job what would it be ?

“I would like to be in the military.”

9. What is the most important thing for children to learn?

“Personal development and how to cope with life experiences.”

10. What is your favourite biscuit?

“Oatmeal biscuit.”

Jack's Analysis:

Oatmeal keeps a sharp mind in an evolving world. Its combination of complementary oats and seeds symbolise solidarity and unity amongst the division of the biscuit tin.

Hostile Holiday

Part 4

The hotel was quieter now; not peaceful, just holding its breath.

Diane walked alone, her footsteps soft against the patterned carpet as she moved down the hallway. The air felt heavy, like the moment before a storm breaks. Her thoughts replayed Clark's death again and again, the note, Stephanie's face.

She didn't hear the footsteps behind her.

Something slammed into her back, knocking the breath from her lungs. She stumbled forward, barely catching herself against the wall before a hand seized her arm and pulled her back.

Stephanie.

She felt the cold press of something hard against her ribs — not a blade, but close enough to freeze her blood.

“You know too much,” Stephanie whispered, her voice shaking. “If you say anything, she’ll—she’ll destroy everything.”

Diane twisted sharply, slamming her elbow back. Stephanie gasped, stumbling away just long enough for Diane to wrench free. They stood facing each other now, both breathing hard, the hallway stretching empty around them.

“This is about Charlotte,” Diane said, steady despite the adrenaline flooding her veins.

Stephanie's composure shattered.

“No,” she choked, then pressed her hands to her face. “Yes. God—yes. She’s gone too far. But she thinks she’s finishing what she started.”

Stephanie slid down the wall, sinking to the carpet, her shoulders shaking. “We didn’t mean for it to be like this,” she sobbed. “The Lionhearts took everything from us. Our father died with his name ruined, called a monster, and no one cared. No one listened. She couldn’t let it go.”

“And you helped her,” Diane said quietly.

Stephanie nodded, tears streaking her face.

“I didn’t poison Weasel. That was her. But I helped cover it. I lied. I watched her plan and told myself it would stop with him.” Her voice broke. “It didn’t.”

continued...

**A Mystery Story
By: Dilpreet D (Year 10)**

Diane crouched in front of her.

“Why attack me?”

Stephanie looked up, eyes raw and desperate.

“Because you’re smart. You were seeing it. And I panicked. If Charlotte thought you were onto her, she’d kill you next. I thought... if I scared you—”

“You would protect her,” Diane finished.

Stephanie nodded again, ashamed.

The silence stretched. Then Stephanie whispered, barely audible, “I don’t want this anymore. I don’t want more blood. I can help you. I know her routines. Where she hides things. Please.”

Diane studied her, really studied her. The fear wasn’t a performance. The regret was real. But so was the danger.

“If you help me,” Diane said carefully, “you help bring her down. No turning back.”

Stephanie swallowed hard. “I know.”

“And no one can know or else-,” Diane added.

“She’ll kill me,” Stephanie said softly. “I know.”

Diane stood and extended a hand. After a moment, Stephanie took it.

From that night on, they met in quiet corners: empty stairwells, service corridors, darkened balconies overlooking the ocean. Stephanie fed Diane pieces of the truth: Charlotte’s obsession with the Lionhearts, how she believed vengeance was justice, how Weasel’s death was meant to be revenge, not the beginning of a string of murders.

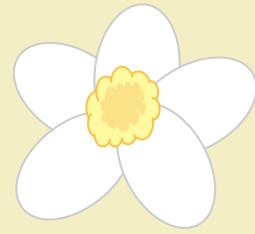
Diane listened, memorised, waited.

The group still believed they were united.

But beneath the surface, lines had been drawn.

And the hunt had changed.

Birth Flowers



By: Sia P (Year 9)

Hello and welcome to the Birth Flower page. Now that I have covered all the birthstones from January to December, I will now be focusing on Birth Flowers. They are just like birthstones but plants!

Carnations have been around for 2000 years. Over that period of time, they have symbolised many things, such as: fascination, love and remembrance. Carnations don't just come in pink, they come in red and white which resemble things too: red = love, pink = Mothers' Day, white = good luck.



Snowdrops are flowers that bloom in the winter. They survive the harsh conditions because of a chemical in their petals that can repel ice so it doesn't get frozen. An interesting fact about them is that, because of their antifreeze, in WW1 snowdrop bulbs were used to keep the tanks from freezing!



New Buses and Trains in 2026

By: Charlie D (Year 8)

Happy New Year 2026! Here are brand new bus and railway updates in 2026.

Class 455 trains came to an end on 21st December 2025 from Waterloo station, after serving 42 years of service as they did a class 455 farewell tour.



The new BYD BD11s from daf DB300 Ganimi 2 is a new electric double-decker bus on route 466 from Addington Interchange to Caterham on Hill, which continues at Arriva London.

More updates next month!

Pat's Poems

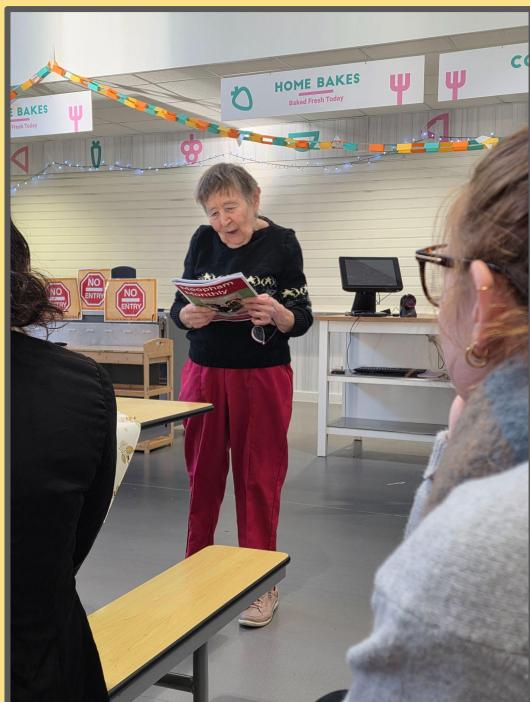
A Poem by Pat Roberts

The difference between your world and mine.

At an appointment I sit pondering
Waiting for the appointed time.

Peace is fine. If no internet connection...

That's divine.



After 21 years of excellent service at Meopham School, Pat retired in October. Here is a picture of her reading one of her poems at the staff Christmas lunch.

If you have a poem or any other contribution for the magazine, hand it in to your English teacher or Mrs Williamson, or come along on a Thursday lunchtime to EN4.