

Meopham Monthly



Cover art by Lilah B

Meopham School Student Magazine
October–November 2025



Welcome

Welcome to the October-November issue of 2025. We have a variety of content to share with you in this issue, which you can enjoy over the two week half term! We hope you have a brilliant break and come back to school refreshed and ready for Term 2.

If you would like to submit a short story, article, poem, photos or anything else for next year's issues, please speak to Mrs Williamson, contact the team at MSS-magazine@swale.at 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

Contents

Welcome and TRUE	2
Contents and Contributors	3
Lest We Forget	4
Amazing Animals	5
Mr McQuillan's Musings	6-7
Historical Events that Happened in October	8
Birthstones	9
Game Reviews	10-11
Hostile Holiday	12-13
Halloween Bonanza	14-15
Halloween Recipes	16-17
Teacher Interview	18
Book Recommendations	19
Fun Activities...and dogs	20
Daniel Dubois	21
Film Review	22
All About Roblox Memes	23
Footballer Profiles	24
Bus Update	25
Poetry Corner	26
Meopham Pet Family	27
Pat's Poems	28

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	Sia P (Yr 9)	

Lest We Forget



By Charlie D (Year 8)

Honouring Remembrance Day on Sunday 9th November 2025

What is Remembrance Day?

Remembrance day - also known as Poppy Day owing to the tradition of wearing a remembrance poppy - is a memorial day observed in Commonwealth member states since the end of the World War 1, to honour armed forces members who have died in the line of duty. The day is also marked by war remembrances in several other non-Commonwealth countries. In most countries, Remembrance Day is observed on 11 November to recall the end of First World War hostilities. This year Sunday 9th November is Remembrance Sunday, when services will happen in churches and at memorial sites around the country.

The Royal British Legion plays an essential role in keeping alive the memory of those who lost lives in World War one and subsequent conflicts. This day serves as a reminder of their sacrifices and the ultimate price as they paid for our freedoms.

We deliberately **remember** all those who have served and continue to serve their country **lest** (in case / so that we don't) we forget.



Amazing Animals



By: Lilah B (Year 7)



If you like these animals definitely check them out! You can find info anywhere about these guys!

Decorator crabs

A decorator crab is a marine crustacean from the Majidae family of spider crabs, known for its unique ability to camouflage itself by attaching pieces of coral, algae, sponges, and shells to its body using the fine, hook-like bristles on its exoskeleton. This natural disguise helps it blend into its environment to hide from predators and can also incorporate toxic organisms, such as sea sponges and anemones, as a defensive measure. Each decorator crab is unique, as the materials it uses for camouflage change to match its surroundings and evolve with each molt.

The main characteristics of a decorator crab are:

Exoskeleton: Their backs and legs are covered in setae, tiny hook-like bristles that serve as anchors for their decorative materials.

Nocturnal & scavenging: Decorator crabs are often nocturnal hunters and opportunistic scavengers, feeding on algae, detritus, and invertebrates found in their environment.

As well as their ability to camouflage themselves, but that has been explained in the first paragraph.



Fun fact

Some people think Mr Krabs from Spongebob is based off of a decorator crab as he likes to collect things. But it hasn't been proven and is a fan theory.



Marine environment: Decorator crabs are marine crustaceans found in various locations, including the Indo-Pacific region and kelp forests along the coast of California.

Diet: Their diet consists of algae, soft corals, and small invertebrates, but they also benefit from meaty foods like chopped fish or mussels in an aquarium setting.

Mr McQuillan's Musings

R.E.S.P.E.C.T. - find out what it means to me

The late-great Aretha Franklin sang the above (now famous) lines in her 1967 song about respect. Respect is now one of our school values; “At Meopham school, respect comes first” - but what does respect actually mean, and how do we show it?



For generations of students **the concept of respect was very different to what it means today** - my experience of ‘respect’ when I went to school looks nothing like the respect we talk about in schools nowadays.

If we go back a few decades, the atmosphere in schools was often one of strict hierarchy. Respect wasn't something earned; it was **demanded** - up until 1986, Headteachers in state schools in England were allowed to use physical punishment in response to disobedience or lack of deference. Using corporal punishments - like giving students the cane, the slipper or paddle - was commonplace in most schools until this time. (Interestingly, private schools did not ban physical punishments until 1999).

Thinking back to my time in school, (I started secondary school in 1987) I can remember my primary school teachers asking students to hold out their hands to get a whack with a ruler for **speaking when the teacher was talking**. The Headteacher in my secondary school used to do an annual assembly, where he would bring out his cane (that he was no longer permitted to use) and swish it around to show what would have happened to us if we had been cheeky to him just a few years before - apparently he used to call boys up to be **caned in front of the entire assembly** - it was three whacks for **rudeness to teachers, or damage to school property**.

The ‘respect’ of the past in schools was often about **fear and compliance**. I obeyed many of my teachers because they would still yank our ears to remove us from a lesson - and many people of my age will remember having the wooden board-rubber thrown at our heads for not paying attention in class. (one bounced off of my forehead once - and I can confirm that it really hurt!)

continued...

A lot is said of student's behaviour in schools these days, and young people often get bad press from newspapers - who try to outline how **young people now have no respect**. This kind of grumbling about young people has been around for centuries - in 1695 Robert Russel wrote a book about the children of his day and his conclusions wouldn't be out of place when people talk about youngsters today:

*"I find by sad Experience how the Towns and Streets are filled with **lewd wicked Children**, and many Children as they have played about the Streets have been heard to **curse and swear and call one another Nick-names**, and it would grieve ones Heart to hear what **bawdy and filthy Communications** proceeds from the Mouths of such ..."*

I think respect in schools has now become more of a **two-way street**. It's about students respecting staff, but also about staff respecting students. It's about **valuing each other as individuals**, regardless of age or position. On the whole, **schools are much more positive places**, where students feel safe to ask questions, challenge ideas (respectfully, of course!), and contribute meaningfully.

It's easy to say, "I respect you," but true respect is something you *do*. It's a behaviour, a choice, and a constant practice. As the saying goes, '**respect is an action, not a word**'.

We can all show more respect by **actually listening** when others are speaking, by **showing empathy and kindness** by considering the impact of our words and actions on others. **Punctuality and preparation** are also important - being late and unprepared shows a lack of respect.

Finally, and the thing I think is one of the most important - **accepting responsibility for our actions** and having the **courage** to apologise to others when we don't show proper respect.

As Aretha sang in 1967, but it still holds true today - *"All I'm asking for is a little respect..."*

Historical Events that Happened in October

By: Archie B (Year 10)

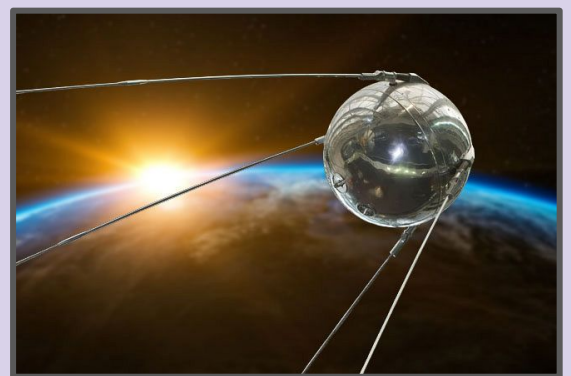
On October 12th 1492, Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas, kickstarting an age of exploration. What a shame he died before people found out it was a new continent!



On 14th October 1066, William the Conqueror and his Norman army invaded England. After a battle in Hastings, Harold was killed and by Christmas, the throne was William's.



On the 4th of October 1957, the USSR launched Sputnik, the world's first space craft. It revolutionised our knowledge of our atmosphere and kickstarted the space race.



On 24th October 1945, the UN charter went into force, officially establishing the world's only alliance to have 193 countries! Russia alongside US and Ukraine: it's the only alliance to do that!



Birthstones



By: Sia P (Year 9)

Hello! Welcome to the birthstones page! This is where I write about the history and facts about birthstones. This month's page is about October birthstones!

Opal

Its name is believed to be translated from the Latin Opalus, but some believe it translates from Sanskrit, 'Opula' which means "Precious stone". They come in many colours such as red, yellow, orange, green, but most commonly they are iridescent. Another fact: did you know in the Middle Ages they were considered to contain good luck?



Tourmaline

This birthstone is an amazing gift as it basically comes in every colour of the rainbow! Its name comes from the Sinhalese word 'turamali' meaning "mixed colours". Did you know that when they were first shipped, people thought they were all different gemstones because of the variation of colour?



Game Review

By: Archie S (Yr 10)



Portal 2

Portal 2 is a game about a character called Chell. When she is awoken out of stasis, she needs to explore the ruins of Aperture Science and complete puzzles with Portals.

This game has a great story and amazing characters, and even though the game was made in 2011, it holds up so well

The game is available for Nintendo Switch and Switch 2, along with PC.

Game Review

By: Callen L (Yr 8)

Lego Marvel Superheroes

What is this game about?

In this old Marvel game, you play as superheroes and fight bad guys.

What can unlock?

You can unlock playable characters and play as the villains!

What can I do when I'm bored?

When you are bored you can fly around the city in free roam mode as all the characters

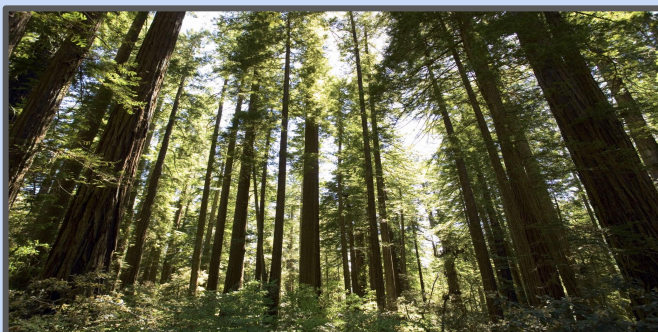


Game Review

By: Siara B (Yr 7)

99 Nights in the Forest

The game 99 Nights in the Forest is an amazing game for children to interact with. It tests survival skills whilst fighting a feisty beast. You also battle cultists and survive. This game is all about working together to collect helpful survival essentials and build a safe base in the wild. This helps children have clear communication. The game requires players to gather and manage resources like wood, food and crafting materials to keep the campfire lit and to survive. Rescuing missing children and surviving against enemies requires players to strategise, build defences, and upgrade their base. This could help develop problem-solving abilities and planning skills. The game can be difficult and players will likely fail many times. This can be used to discuss the value of perseverance as well as learning from mistakes to improve **Tenacity!!!**



Hostile Holiday

Part 2

The scream still echoed in the courtyard as the others rushed outside, their footsteps pounding against the floor. Torches flickered in the warm Hawaiian night, casting jittering shadows across the stone path. Stephanie stood frozen, her body rigid, hands clamped over her mouth.

Diane reached her first, brushing past her trembling slightly shadowed figure. Bailey followed close behind, her breath sharp and uneven.

And then the torchlight fully illuminated the body.

Weasel Lion-Heart.

He lay sprawled against the grass, his coat rumpled, his collar stained a dark unnatural colour. His lips were pale, tinged with an unnatural blue, and his eyes were glassy as though he were in a daydream, but one he would never wake from.

Bailey gasped, stumbling a step back. "It's—Weasel—"

Stephanie's hands trembled as she lowered them from her mouth. Her voice came in stammers. "I—I saw him walk out here—I thought he just needed air—and then I found him like this!"

Diane knelt beside the body, scanning for any obvious signs. Bailey whispered to her, "We need to know more before we can act... Who do you call in America to analyse a crime scene?"

Before Diane could answer, a tall, pale man in a dark suit stepped forward, his eyes sharp and unnervingly still. His movements were slow, deliberate, almost mechanical. "No need, madam," he said in a monotone voice. "We received an anonymous tip about an hour ago. I am Clark, a crime scene investigator. My assistant will arrive shortly with my equipment."

Charlotte's eyes narrowed. Diane studied Clark carefully — his presence was discomforting, but professional. His piercing gaze and monotone delivery made the air around him heavy, and every word sounded like a verdict rather than a suggestion.

Moments later, a cheerful, energetic young man arrived, moving quickly past Diane and Bailey. Brady. He crouched beside the body, examining the evidence with swift precision, his movements were confident and carried purpose.

continued...

A Mystery Story by: Amelia R & Dilpreet D (Year 10)

Leaning toward Clark, Brady whispered, pointing to the faint residue on Weasel's collar. "The lack of colour in his face and the faint residue on the collar suggest poisoning. He drank something at the buffet—someone probably put it in his drink while he was not looking."

Clark's expression remained unreadable, but he immediately straightened and lifted his hand to address the group. "Yes. I have deduced through swift analysis that the cause of death is deliberate poisoning. The victim was clearly targeted. Someone among the guests is responsible."

Bailey's voice trembled. "Poison? But... Why? Who would...?"

Ron's voice became ragged. "It was one of us who did this. One of us murdered him." His gaze darted frantically between faces as if hoping for a crack that would give away the murderer.

Stephanie broke into sobs, her tears catching in the torchlight. Charlotte moved to offer support to her sister, but her eyes never left Diane.

Diane rose slowly, her voice steady, colder than the ocean breeze. "This was not random. Someone wanted him gone. And whoever it was..." Her gaze swept the courtyard, lingering on each face, some for longer than others. "...they are still here. Among us."

The torches hissed as the wind shifted, casting restless shadows across the stone. The paradise of Hawaii had become a crime scene.

Something that haunted the thoughts in the back of their minds.

- **Does this have anything to do with the murder of his brother, Beetle?**
- **What will happen next?**
- **Who has committed this crime?**

This will all be revealed soon.

Halloween

⇒ Paint-a-pumpkin events for 2025 are being organized across the UK, with options ranging from "Paint & Sip" sessions for adults to children's workshops, and even ceramic pumpkin painting. Examples include "Halloween Pumpkin Painting" in Tonbridge on October 9th and a children's event in London on October 29th, with more events listed on sites like [Eventbrite](#). (DG)

⇒ Apple bobbing, or bobbing for apples, is a traditional Halloween and Bonfire Night game where players use only their mouths to bite an apple from a tub of water. To play, fill a large tub with



(Kyle)

water and apples, and players take turns, with hands behind their backs, to grab an apple. The first person to successfully catch an apple is the winner. and plus you can make sweet and sticky toffee apples if you have the ingredients. (DG)

⇒ Did you know that you can plant your own pumpkins in April or May- But you need to make sure that no snails or slugs eat them! (Owen)

⇒ Get in the festive mood with pumpkin picking, festive lattes and more
Lots of activities like pumpkin carving are very relaxing and fun
What's your favourite activity?

⇒ Pumpkins are associated with Halloween as are ghosts and monsters and more mysterious ghouls . Fun Fact Halloween was invented over 2,000 years ago and is celebrated all around the world. (James)

⇒ Did you know that this page is now the schoooooool record holder for the most amount of people on a page by 2. The old record was 4 but this page is the new record with 6 people and schoooooool magazine is growing everyday and more people are coming everyday. (Kyle)



(Kyle)

⇒ Halloween facts:
The reason Halloween is called that is because of the term 'ALL Hallows eve which is the day before ALL hallows day AKA the first of November. and do you know the Jack o Lantern exists because of a man called stingy jack and he had a pumpkin lantern to light his way through the night.



⇒ The mummy wrap game is a fun and silly party activity where players divide into teams and use toilet paper to wrap one person on their team to look like a mummy, with the first team to completely finish their mummy, or the team with the best-wrapped declared mummy, being the winner.



(Kyle)

Essential materials include toilet paper rolls, and

participants must ensure the mummy's mouth, nose, and eyes are clear while wrapping from the feet up. (DG)

continued...

**James, Kyle, DG, Ethan, Owen
and Denver (Yr 8)**

⇒ Halloween Costumes:

Most people favorite part off Halloween is the dressing up it can be Fun, embarrassing and a way for people to express their creativity .It also help children meet and have fun experiences with people they normally don't get to hang out with.

⇒ Trick or Treat:

The iconic section of halloween and the highlight of the night. Sweets -candy- and ding dong ditches keep you up until sunrise but be



Did you know?

⇒ Halloween is originated from the ancient celtic festival of samhain meaning the first day of November.



⇒ Halloween is celebrated by dressing up in spooky costumes or by simply handing out sweets, but that's not the reason why we celebrate it.

We celebrate halloween to honour its roots in the celtics festival of samhain and to mark the end of summer/begin the harvest.

⇒ Fun Halloween Pranks:

1: Ding-Dong-Ditch, this is where you knock on someone's door and and run before they open it on halloween this is especially good because of people need to knock on your door to do trick-or-treating

⇒ 2: The fake trick,when people say trick or treat say trick and smile because you can make people fear you then pull sweets out from behind you.



Spooky Recipes

By: Shelby T (Year 7)

Scary Spider Cupcakes

Ingredients

- 400 grams Unsalted Butter (softened)
- 200 grams Caster Sugar
- 3 Free Range Medium Eggs
- 150 grams Self-Raising White Flour
- 50 grams Cocoa Powder
- 400 grams Icing Sugar
- 96 Liquorice Sweets (strands)
- 12 Oreo Cookies
- 12 Mini Marshmallows

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C (Gas mark 4) and line a cupcake tin with 12 cupcake cases. We used black for the spiders body!
2. Cream together the butter and sugar until pale and fluffy, then add the eggs one by one beating well between each one.
3. Next carefully fold in the flour and sieved cocoa powder, then spoon into the cupcake cases until they are about 2/3 full. Place in the oven for about 20 minutes or until a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean. Remove from the oven and leave to cool.



Scary Cake Pops

Ingredients

- 175g unsalted butter, softened
- 25g yellow fondant
- Green colouring paste
- 175g caster sugar
- 3 eggs
- 225g self-raising flour
- Grated zest of lemon

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180 degrees celsius (350 degrees fahrenheit/ gas mark 4). Whisk the butter and sugar until fluffy. Mix in the eggs. Sift in the flour, add the zest, and fold in until smooth. Spoon into the cake pop tin and bake for 15-18 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Insert the sticks.
2. Colour a little yellow fondant with green paste, strengthen and mould into 8 stalks. Roll out the black fondant, use the cutter to cut 8 circles. Poke a central hole through each and place on crumpled foil. Dry overnight.
3. Dip the hat and cat cake pops in melted black candy melts and set aside, upright, to harden. Dip the pumpkins in melted orange melts and top with the stalks.
4. Roll out the remaining black fondant. Cut out the pumpkin features, triangles for the cats ears and strips to wrap around the hats. Allow to dry. Use the yellow and pink fondant to create features for the cats. Add details with edible pen. Fix all of the features onto the pops with water.
5. Moisten the black circles, and slide them onto the hat cake-pop sticks. Moisten the black strips and fix to each hat.



Trick or treat?

By: Leticia S (year 8)

Hello there here are some spooktacular fun recipes!

Caramelised apples and candy apples - they are fun and easy to make.



Caramel apples

They are super simple to make!

- 1 Get an apple
- 2 Melt caramel
- 3 Spread the caramel on the outer shell of the apple and let it cool down.



Candy apples

Super easy to make!

- 1 Get an apple
- 2 Melt sugar and and food colouring
- 3 Spread on apple shell
- 4 Let it cool down

There you have it: delicious halloween treats!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN !

Ten Random Questions with One Random Teacher

By: Japjeet D (Year 7)

This issue's random teacher is: Mr Soskind.

What is your favourite festive celebration and why?

"My favourite festive celebration is Passover because it is a time to get together with family and have good food."

For those of you who may not be familiar with Passover it is a Jewish festival also known as Pesach and considered to be one of the Three Pilgrimage Festivals. It celebrates the mass departure of Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

What is your favourite food?

My favourite food is good pizza. (what Mr Soskind means by good pizza is not English pizza but Brooklyn pizza.)

What is your favourite sport and who is your favourite team?

My favourite sport is basketball and my favourite team is Duke Blue Devils.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

I would go to Israel and Hawaii.

Have you got any pets?

I have a Cavapoo called August.

If you could write a book what would it be about?

My book would be about the secret of living together.

What is your favourite film?

My favourite film is Good Will Hunting.

If you could have a superpower what would it be and why?

I would have the super power which would enable me to go back in time so I could make up for all our mistakes.

If you could change careers, what would you choose to do?

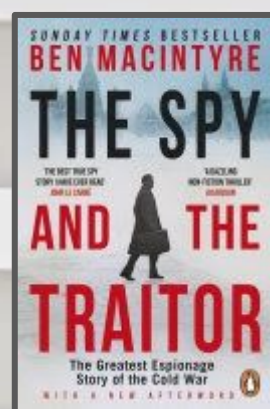
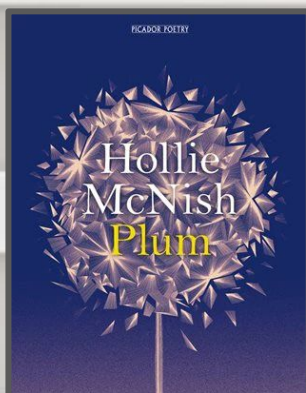
I would be an architect. I would also want to be a cantor (leads the congregation in song and prayer and teaches music to adults and children.)

What is your favourite biscuit?

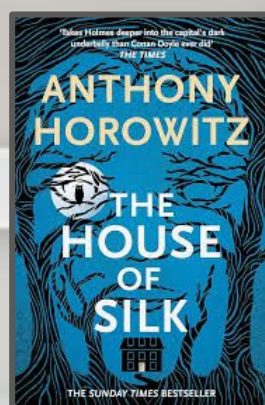
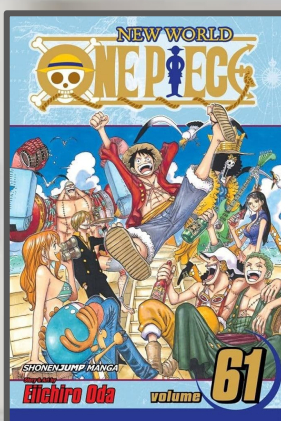
I don't really eat many biscuits, but if I had to choose I would pick a plain digestive.

Jack's Analysis: I'm taken aback by the prospect of not really eating biscuits but I suppose each to our own. Mr Soskind's choice of a digestive makes sense on the whole considering Sir is a health and exercise nut and digestives were originally marketed as a health food (hence the name 'digestive'). Much like the man himself, Digestives are timeless icons with a plethora of anecdotes, they symbolise strength, dependability and integrity amongst a world or biscuit tin of uncertainty.

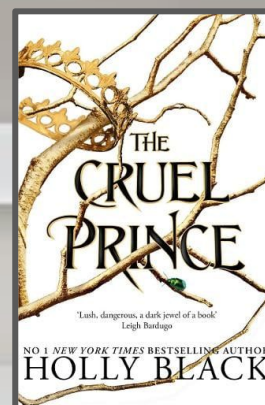
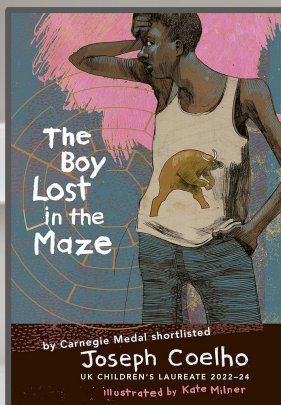
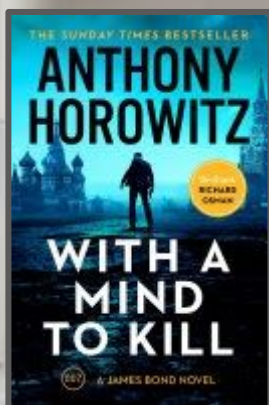
BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



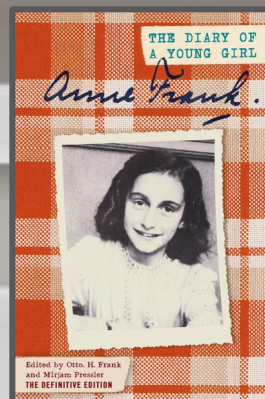
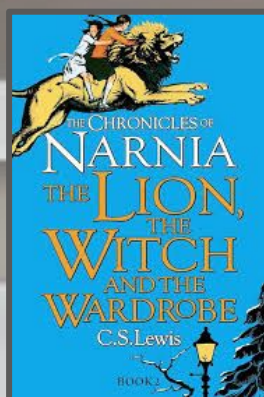
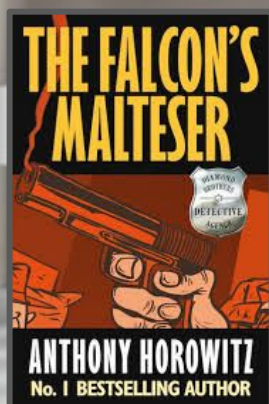
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11



9/10



7/8

Recommendations by the editorial team. If you have a recommendation, or would like to write a review for a future issue, email us at MSS-magazine@swale.at

Fun Activities to Do in the Holidays... and dogs!

By: Archie M (Year 7)

Halloween holidays are coming up are you on the scary side or do you like to play it safe?

Well for those who are safe, you can do stuff including: colouring competitions, fun clubs and movie nights. For those who like it scary, try trick or treating and scary movies. Some other activities to do is carve pumpkin competition...



So have fun and good luck with halloween!



This is a Belgian Malinois. Even though these dogs look scary, like Halloween, these dogs are lovely and kind.

Daniel Dubois - Profile

By: Charlie C (Year 10)

Daniel Dubois is a professional British boxer. He previously held the World Boxing Association championship from 2022 to 2023 and the International Boxing Federation title from 2024 to 2025.

Daniel Dubois' fight record is:

- ★ Total fights: 25
- ★ Wins: 22
- ★ Wins by K.O.: 21
- ★ Losses: 3



Dubois boxes in the heavyweight division in the World Boxing Association. The most recent fight he lost to was Ukrainian boxer Oleksandr Usyk.



Superman

By Katie F (Year 7)



Superman is a film about the famous hero, after a few years of being Superman, he faces the rich and powerful Lex Luthor. With his life and the whole of Gotham city in his hands, can he save not only himself, but his sworn enemy, Lex, too?

Being raised on a different planet can be hard, especially with someone who hates supernatural humans, but as Superman thinks he can fight on his own, he soon discovers that sometimes, everyone needs help.

If you are a superhero fan, then this story is for you. Its action, adventure and extraordinary scenes will make you feel like you're actually there. As well as this, there are also some heart touching scenes that will make you adore the hero.



All About Roblox Memes

By: Enya W (Year 7)

Here is an article about the game Roblox and the weird, unhinged memes. You can find these memes by searching on Google or Youtube under the name “Roblox memes”.

Here is an example:

Many of them are just random nonsense or recreations of popular memes:

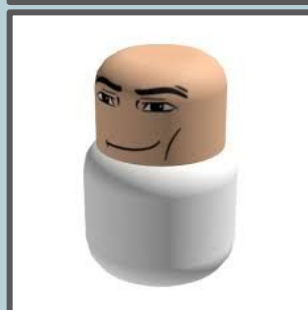
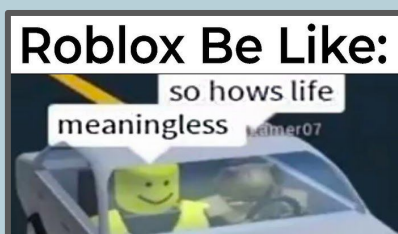


Here is a recreation of the Duolingo bird



There is a famous type of Roblox meme following a blonde “noodle hair” avatar.

Some more meme examples:



Where did they come from?
One of the first roblox memes was: noob. It became a meme because its simple, blocky, colourful avatar made it very recognisable for anyone. Later leading to the oof sound and many other memes you see across Roblox.



Steven Gerrard & Wayne Rooney

**By: James H and
Kyle O (Yr8)**



Wayne Rooney is an outstanding player, with sensational pace and wonderful shot power. He not only played with Manchester United but for England International team. He has scored a massive 336 goals in his career, 883 appearances and 103 assists. He has won loads of trophies including the Champions League. He also scored great goals including his bicycle kick against Manchester City in 2011.

Steven Gerrard is an incredible player who played some wonderful passes in his approximately 18 year career. Steven Gerrard played for many different clubs such as Liverpool from 1998-2015 and LA Galaxy from 2015-2016. He has 710 appearances for Liverpool, scoring 186 goals and getting 145 assists. Steven Gerrard also had 34 appearances for LA Galaxy scoring 5 goals there and getting 14 assists. Stunning stats and a very quality player, Steven Gerrard has icon cards in Fifa and Fc 26. An amazing achievement.



New Bakerloop Bus Service in London

By: Charlie D (Year 8)

Bakerloop has released the BL1 in September 2025 part of a Superloop network. It released the Alexander Dennis BYD enviro 400 ev city. The BL1 goes from Waterloo to Lewisham, terminating at Lewisham centre. It stops at the SL6 bus stops in Waterloo (But the SL6 from West Croydon to Russell Square is for weekdays only and peak services). It is operated by Go Ahead London and I have ridden on of these buses before 😊



Poetry Corner

Together Again

When I am laid down in the ground,
Will you come searching all around?
Where my displaced spirit does reside,
For our souls to be forever side by side.
Beyond the mortal soils of Earth,
The lands of heavens will you search?
All I need is your blissful company,
For an afterlife of harmony.
Bring my troubled heart to lasting peace,
Let me cherish eternal sleep.
Departing from the warmth of kin,
Ascending to the highest king.
Voyaging from your human sight,
In heart carry my memories' light.

Meopham Pet Family



Jock - Duncan D



Pixie - Ben F



Summer - Mollie Q



Banksy - Lucas T



Pepsi - Lilah B



Harry & Henry - Freya M

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

Pat's Poems

Maths are Needed

~ By Pat Roberts ~

Maths are needed.
Home or away, wherever you stray,
from maths one can never get away.
It's in this, it's in that, it's never old hat.
The pound - is it mathematically sound?
Calculations, multiplications, add it on,
take it off.
You may scoff.
Pertainable, obtainable.
Stocks and shares - who cares?
You'll find out, and what maths is all
about.

Pat Roberts has been working for Meopham School as a cleaner for 21 years.

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.