MH NEWS

№3 MAPLE HOUSE SCHOOL 19TH NOVEMBER 2026

BREAK THE SILENCE ON BULLYING

This Anti-Bullying Week, Maple House pupils are encouraged to speak up, look out for each other and ask for help.



Imagine opening your phone after school and seeing that someone has shared an embarrassing photo of you in a group chat. By the time you get to school the next morning, people are still joking about it. You might worry that telling someone will make things worse. A friend who notices and asks, "Do you want me to come with you to tell someone?" can make that first step easier.

Anti-Bullying Week runs from Monday 16 to Friday 20 November 2026. This year's theme, Break the Silence, encourages us to talk about bullying and get help when it happens. That could mean speaking up about something you've experienced or telling a trusted adult what you've seen.

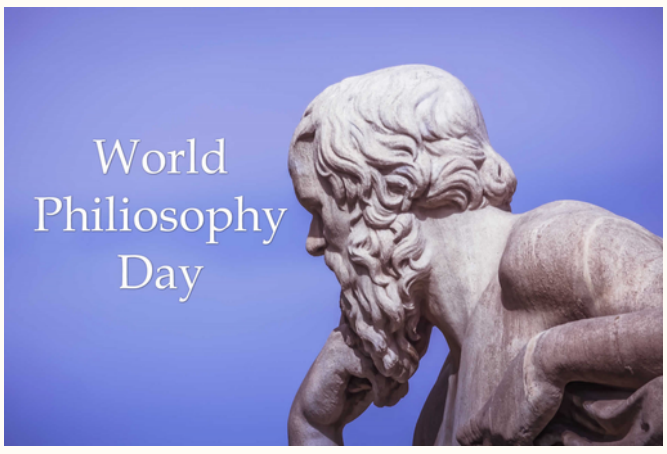
What can bullying look like?
Bullying can happen in the classroom, at lunch or online. It can include repeatedly calling someone names, leaving them out on purpose or sending hurtful messages. Someone might say, "It was only a joke," but if they keep targeting the same person, it can leave that person feeling worried about coming to school or joining in.

What can you do if you see it?
If someone is being picked on, you could check in with them when you're away from the group. A simple "I saw what happened. Are you OK?" can help them feel less alone. You could offer to walk with them to speak to a member of staff or tell an adult what you saw yourself. If it happens in a group chat, you can help by keeping the post from spreading and telling a trusted adult.

What if it's happening to you?
You could start with "Can I talk to you somewhere quiet? Something keeps happening and I need help." If saying it out loud feels difficult, you can write a note or show a trusted adult the messages. You can ask for help even if you're unsure whether to call it bullying.

If you or someone else is being picked on at Maple House, speak to a trusted member of staff. You can take a friend with you

NATIONAL DAY OF...



19th November - World Philosophy Day

World Philosophy Day celebrates curiosity and encourages us to ask big questions, share ideas and respect different opinions. What makes a good friend? Is being fair always about treating everyone the same? There isn't always one simple answer—what do you think?

20th November - World Children's Day

World Children's Day celebrates children's rights and marks the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. Every child deserves to feel safe, learn, play and have their voice heard. What could we do to help every pupil feel included at Maple House?





21st November - World Television Day

Established by the United Nations in 1996, World Television Day celebrates how television informs, educates and connects us. From wildlife documentaries to news and drama, programmes help us explore the world and discover different perspectives. Which programme has taught you something new?

POSITIVE NEWS from Around the World

CHILDREN IN NEED RAISES MORE THAN £38 MILLION

BY THE END OF FRIDAY NIGHT'S LIVE SHOW, BBC CHILDREN IN NEED HAD RAISED £38,720,170 TO SUPPORT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS THE UK. ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS WAS A STRICTLY COME DANCING CHALLENGE, WHERE A PANEL OF YOUNG JUDGES AND PUDSEY BEAR GAVE EVERY DANCING PAIR A 10!

PUPILS TURN PLAYGROUND LAPS INTO £1,500 FOR CHARITY

PUPILS AT GODSTONE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL IN SURREY RAISED MORE THAN £1,500 FOR CHILDREN IN NEED THROUGH FITNESS CHALLENGES. THEY RAN LAPS OF THEIR PLAYGROUND AND JOINED A BBC RADIO PRESENTER FOR THE FINAL TWO MILES OF HIS RUNNING CHALLENGE. PUDSEY BEAR EVEN PAID THEM A VISIT!



A SCOTTISH CARE HOME SHARES A CUPPA FOR WORLD KINDNESS DAY

LUNCARTY HOUSE CARE HOME WELCOMED NEIGHBOURS AND FAMILIES FOR AFTERNOON TEA ON WORLD KINDNESS DAY. RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ENJOYED SANDWICHES, CAKES AND SCONES, WHILE LOCAL BUSINESSES SET UP STALLS. IT WAS A CHANCE FOR PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT AGES TO MEET AND SPEND TIME TOGETHER.

FARMERS HELP LOOK AFTER WILDLIFE IN MADAGASCAR

THE DUKE LEMUR CENTER SHARED AN UPDATE ON CONSERVATION WORK IN MADAGASCAR. HUNDREDS OF FARMERS HAVE BEEN GROWING TREES ALONGSIDE CROPS AND HELPING RESTORE DAMAGED LAND. THE WORK HELPS LOCAL PEOPLE GROW FOOD WHILE CARING FOR THE LAND THAT WILDLIFE DEPENDS ON.



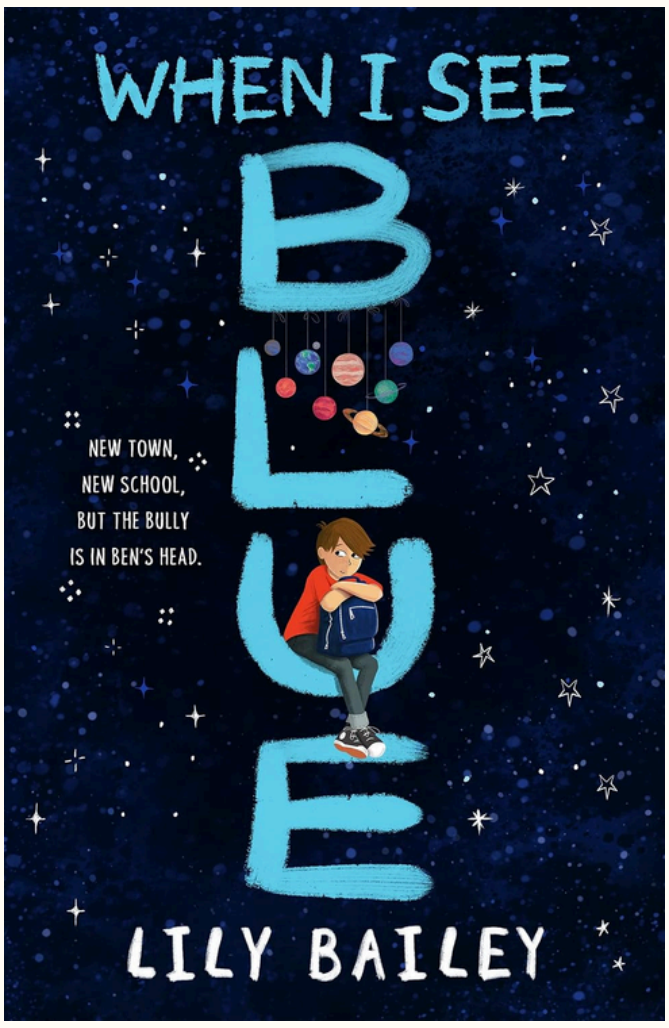


NASA SHARES A CLOSE-UP OF OUR GALACTIC NEIGHBOUR

NASA'S ASTRONOMY PICTURE OF THE DAY TOOK READERS TO ANDROMEDA, A GALAXY NEAR OUR OWN MILKY WAY. THE IMAGE SHOWS BRIGHT CLOUDS OF STARS, INCLUDING A GROUP CALLED NGC 206. IT'S A GLIMPSE OF WHAT LIES BEYOND THE STARS WE USUALLY SEE IN THE NIGHT SKY.

BOOK NOOK

Book in the Spotlight!

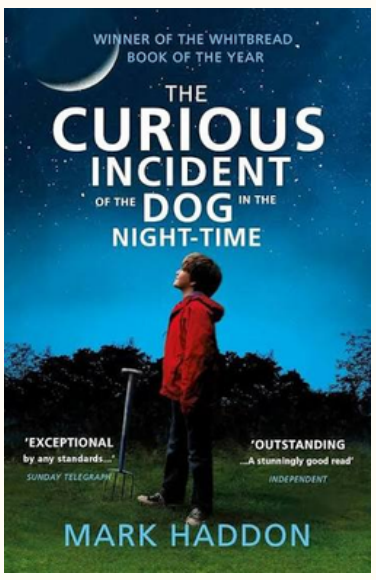


New town, new school, but the bully is in Ben's head ...
There are 4 things you should know about Ben:
1. He's 12 years old
2. He's the new kid at school
3. His special number is 4
4. He has a bully in his brain

Sometimes Ben's brain makes him count to 4 to prevent bad things happening. Sometimes it makes him tap or blink in 4s. Mostly it makes the smallest things feel impossible. And with a new school, a moody big brother, an absent dad and a mum battling her own demons, Ben feels more out of control than ever. But then he meets April, and with his new friend, Ben might finally figure out how to stand up to the bully in his brain, once and for all.

An authentic and affecting #ownvoices story about living life with OCD, from the inspiring author and mental health activist, Lily Bailey. Perfect for readers of A Kind of Spark and Wonder.

Book Reviews:



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time.
When fifteen-year-old Christopher discovers his neighbour's dog has been killed, he sets out to solve the mystery. His investigation uncovers family secrets and takes him on an unexpected journey that challenges everything he knows.



Brilliant, thought-provoking book with a gripping mystery. The book is a memorable read, and the story has also been brought to life on stage!

★★★★★

READING CORNER



- Look at the drawing of the library door. What do you notice before either pupil speaks?
- The boy asks, “Since when does a brick have a folded corner?” What has he worked out?
- Pip thinks someone hid the page on purpose. Why might they want it hidden? Could they have been trying to protect someone?
- What does comparing Pip’s paw with the print tell us for certain? What is still a mystery?
- Look behind the characters in the final panel. What can you see that they haven’t noticed yet? How does that change the way you read the ending?

The Missing Minute - episode 3:

All thirty Davids turned to look at her. One was still chewing.
Amira knew that chewing gum. David had spent the whole of science trying to blow a bubble without Miss noticing.
“Finish what you were saying,” she called. “Don’t what?”
Twenty-nine voices answered, “Don’t put it down.”
The boy with the gum pointed behind her. “Don’t let him see where it goes.”
Too late. The boy beside her was looking at the newspaper. In the photograph, the scratched words had vanished.
Now it showed Amira standing on a chair, reaching for the corridor clock.
She folded the paper before he could see the rest.
“Come on, then,” she said, dragging a chair beneath the clock.
He caught her sleeve. Exactly as he had in the photograph.
Which meant the photograph had been taken from—
Amira looked across the corridor. The noticeboard. Behind its glass, almost hidden by a curling lunch menu, was a clock face with one hand missing.
She flung the brass hand to the boy with the gum.
“David! Catch!”
He pressed it into place.
12:19.
Chairs scraped. Someone laughed. The boy holding her sleeve was gone.
David grinned. “Did we do it?”
Then the newspaper slipped from her fingers. On the back page, beneath LOST PROPERTY, someone had written:
Found at 12:18. One spare minute. Enough time for one person to get out.
From inside the noticeboard came a knock.
Amira’s own voice whispered, “David, you let the wrong one out.”

To be continued...

SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT



MATHS



Maths is Everywhere!

Have you ever asked, "When am I ever going to use this maths?" The answer is... every day!

In Year 7, pupils have been learning about area and perimeter. These skills are used more often than you might think. If you want to buy enough carpet for a bedroom, work out how much grass seed is needed for a garden, or even design the layout of a room, you need to calculate area. If you're putting up a fence, making a picture frame, or hanging festive lights, you'll need to know the perimeter. It's maths that helps us solve real-life problems!

Some of our Year 8 pupils have been developing their understanding of place value and recognising numbers written in both numerals and words. This might sound simple, but it's an important life skill. Understanding place value helps us compare numbers, use money confidently, and understand value. For example, knowing the difference between £5.00 and £50.00 or recognising that a £10 note has the same value as ten £1 coins can make a big difference in everyday situations.

Other Year 8 pupils have been exploring coordinates and graphs. Coordinates help us understand where things are and are used in maps, navigation systems and even video games. Graphs turn numbers into pictures, making it easier to spot patterns, compare results and see trends. Whether you're tracking sports results, recording weather changes or finding out who won a competition, graphs help make information clear and easy to understand.

So next time you wonder why you're learning maths, remember: maths isn't just about numbers on a page. It's about understanding the world around us and developing skills that we use every single day!

PUPIL VOICE

The Pupil Voice team needs your help for Christmas.
You can help them by;

- Creating your own Christmas Card Design.
- Creating a piece of Art work to go into the Maple House Calendar
- Collect donations for local charities for the Shoe Box Appeal.







MAPLE HOUSE PETS!

Meet the animals behind our staff and students!

Ever wondered who has a playful puppy, a cuddly cat or a cheeky hamster waiting for them at home? Our pet page introduces the much-loved animals in our staff or students' lives.

Find out their names, what they are like and the funny things they do. From favourite treats to mischievous habits, every pet has a story to share!

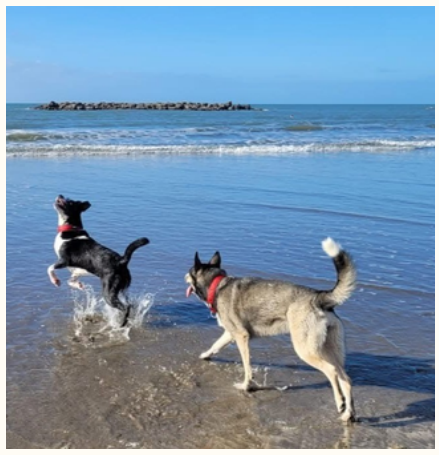
Staff and students: want to introduce your pet? Send the newspaper team a photo, your pet's name, what animal they are and a little about their personality. Don't forget a fun fact!



Meet Bailey (left) and Bonnie (right) who are both husky crosses. Bailey is a husky Dalmatian (Dalusky) who is now 4 and Bonnie is a husky Labrador (Huskador) who is 5 years old. They are both very energetic and require long walks to tire themselves out. They love chewing up toys, playing in the snow and on the beach as well as sleeping afterwards. Although they might look tough, they are the most loving dogs who enjoy cuddling up on the sofa and giving affection.





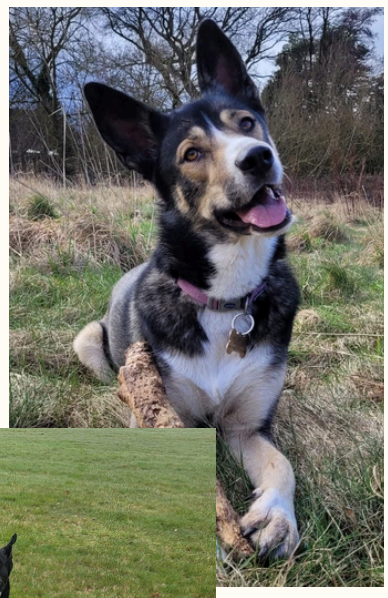


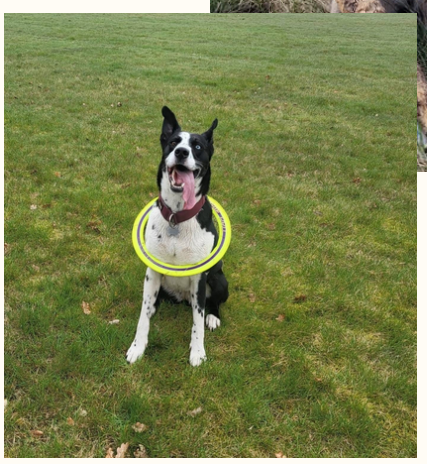
Fun facts:
Bailey has two different coloured eyes. One is brown and one is blue. This is called heterochromia which happens when there is a lack of pigment in the iris. This trait occurs in 10%-15% of huskies but is very rare in Dalmatians.

Bonnie enjoys howling when she hears the scrap metal man driving past which is something she has inherited from the husky side. Huskies have a habit of howling, crying or dramatic vocalizing instead of barking when hearing high pitched noises or wanting attention.

Labradors also carry a genetic mutation that means they always feel hungry no matter how much they eat. Bonnie loves to eat and will sometime steal food from our plates if we are not looking!

Huskies are pack dogs meaning they needed a lot of training as puppies so neither of them became the "Alpha" of the pack and could follow our instructions.





MH RECIPES

Try this recipe at home!



CINNAMON SWIRLS

Makes 20	Easy
Prep: **20 mins**	Cook: **12 mins**

Ingredients:

- 175g softened butter
- 50g golden caster sugar
- 50g icing sugar
- 2 egg yolks
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 300g plain flour
- 2 tbsp demerara sugar
- plus a few extra pinches
- 2 tsp cinnamon



Jordan Recommends this!

SEND IN PHOTOS OF YOUR CINNAMON SWIRLS

Method

Step 1

Mix the butter, caster and icing sugar, egg yolks and vanilla with a wooden spoon until creamy, then mix in the flour in 2 batches. Roll out to a 20 x 30cm rectangle on a sheet of baking parchment. Mix the demerara sugar with the cinnamon, sprinkle all over the dough, then gently roll over a rolling pin again to press the sugar in a little. Roll up from one of the 20cm sides using the parchment to help, wrap in the parchment and chill for 30 mins, or up to a day.

Step 2

Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Thinly slice into about 20 biscuits, scatter with a pinch more sugar, then bake on baking sheets for 10-12 mins until golden.

MH PUZZLE PATCH

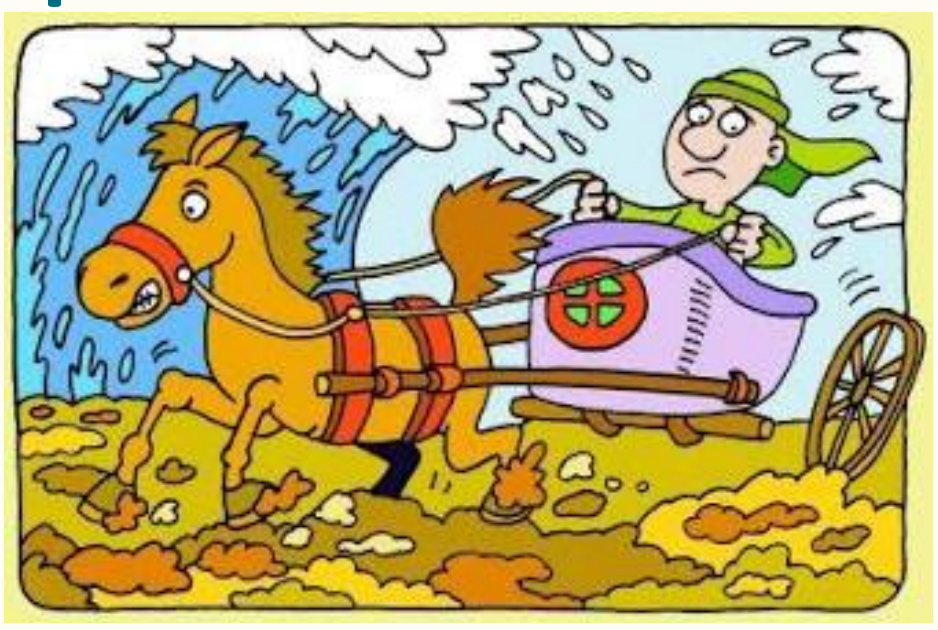
Wordsearch Challenge

Gases

K	E	E	E	B	O	N	F	E	O	M	N	E	A
R	D	D	C	M	O	G	A	G	O	U	N	N	R
Y	I	I	A	U	P	M	X	P	Y	I	X	F	G
P	X	X	R	O	O	N	M	X	E	L	K	R	O
T	O	O	B	X	M	R	N	I	N	E	X	E	N
O	S	N	O	O	E	N	N	B	O	H	E	O	I
N	U	O	N	E	T	N	Y	R	D	E	N	N	O
D	O	M	D	N	H	E	O	E	A	S	X	R	I
Y	R	N	I	A	A	O	D	N	R	R	H	X	I
N	T	O	O	P	N	O	Y	H	A	N	E	O	N
G	I	B	X	O	O	O	X	Y	G	E	N	R	E
U	N	R	I	R	L	N	E	G	O	R	T	I	N
E	P	A	D	P	I	N	E	G	O	R	D	Y	H
O	I	C	E	N	A	H	T	E	M	E	A	K	E

XENON
CARBON MONOXIDE
FREON
KRYPTON
RADON
NITROGEN
HYDROGEN
METHANE
HELIUM
NITROUS OXIDE
PROPANE
ARGON
OXYGEN
CARBON DIOXIDE
METHANOL
NEON

Spot The Difference





Joke of the week

Why did the mushroom go to the party?
Because he was a fungi!



Riddle Me This!

I dig out tiny caves and store gold and silver in them. I also build bridges of silver and make crowns of gold. They are the smallest you could imagine. Sooner or later everybody needs my help, yet many people are afraid to let me help them. Who am I?

MH BIG QUESTIONS

For World Philosophy Day, we're asking Maple House pupils some big questions about friendship, fairness, kindness and courage. Pick a question below, share your answer and explain why you think that. Did hearing someone else's answer change your mind?

Friendship — Can you be a good friend to someone and still disagree with them?

Fairness — If one pupil gets extra time to finish a task, can that be fair to everyone? Why?

Kindness — Does a kind action still count if you only do it because someone asked you to?

Honesty — Is it ever kinder to keep your opinion to yourself?

Courage — Can you be brave and scared at the same time?

Rules — Is it ever right to break a rule? What might make it okay?

Belonging — What makes you feel like you belong somewhere?

Changing your mind — What could someone say or show you that would make you change your answer?

Get the discussion started: "I think… because…" · "Can you give an example?" · "Would your answer change if…?"

The Great Christmas Debate 🎄

- **Do Brussels sprouts belong on a Christmas dinner plate?**
- **If you eat it at lunchtime, is it Christmas lunch or Christmas dinner?**
- **Should Yorkshire puddings be part of Christmas dinner?**
- **Which is the best roast potato: the crispiest one or the one that soaks up the most gravy?**
- **If you pull a Christmas cracker, who should get the prize: the winner or the person who asked you to pull it?**
- **Is it fair to take the last pig in a blanket without asking?**
- **If you eat chocolate before breakfast on Christmas Day, does it count as breakfast?**
- **Should everyone have to wear their paper crown until pudding?**

MH SPORTS

England hold on to win in Spain



Spain 2–3 England
England finished top of their UEFA Nations League group after a dramatic win in Madrid. Harry Kane opened the scoring from the penalty spot just before half-time. Goals from Aston Villa defender Ezri Konsa and Arsenal defender Ben White put England 3–0 up early in the second half. Spain pulled two goals back, but England held on for the win.



Scotland strike in stoppage time

Scotland beat North Macedonia 2–1 at Hampden Park. The teams went in level at half-time, and Scotland had to wait until the 94th minute to find the winner. Elsewhere in the Nations League, the Netherlands beat Greece 7–0 after scoring five goals before half-time.

Five tries for Will Joseph

England beat Japan 78–15 in rugby union's Nations Championship at Twickenham. England scored 13 tries, and winger Will Joseph scored five of them. That matched the record for the most tries by an England player in a single international match.





London derby ends level

In the Women's Super League, Arsenal drew 1–1 with London City Lionesses. The two London clubs shared the points, taking one each from the match.

Villa edge Blues in the Second City derby

Aston Villa Women 1–0 Birmingham City Women
More than 5,600 fans watched the two local rivals meet at Villa Park in the Women's Super League. The match was goalless at half-time, but Villa defender Mathilde Harviken headed in the winner with 14 minutes left to play.

Birmingham had chances of their own, but Villa goalkeeper Akane Okuma made saves to deny Wilma Leidhammar and Suzu Amano. Villa went down to ten players in stoppage time when Océane Deslandes was sent off, but they held on to take all three points.

