



DCBEAGLE Challenges

BEYOND THE TEXTBOOK

December 2017

Being the festive month I thought any controversial thoughts about mathematics teaching would not fit easily into the frame. Instead I have given you some links to Christmassy activities, news about my hectic term of challenges in the Spring and the monthly puzzle. There is also a link to a website guiding you towards good educational apps.

Do have an enjoyable break and happy puzzling!

Maths Jam Gathering 2017

The “father” of recreational maths, Martin Gardiner, held annual gatherings with people interested in maths concentrating on recreational puzzling, problem solving, games and mathemagic. At the beginning of November I attended such an event in Warwickshire over a weekend with 167 others. There were over 40 speakers but they only had 5 minutes to put their point, their theory or outcome forward.

Topics included the stopping distances in the Highway Code, survey on the use of toilet paper, mathematical poetry, using wrong vocabulary in game shows, “Press on the square” when it is actually a rectangle, modular origami, knots, Saturday evening saw a dozen tables where enthusiasts were puzzling, learning new card tricks, playing games. Follow this link <https://mathsjam.com/gathering/archive/2017/> for the programme and the speakers slides if they were used.

Much was gained that weekend.

Puzzle for the month

The New Year’s Eve Suppers

This is an interesting puzzle because it is in “old money”!

4 farthings = 1 penny; 2 halfpennies = 1 penny; 12 pennies = 1 shilling; 240 pennies = 1 pound;
20 shillings = 1 pound; 21 shillings = 1 guinea; 2 shillings = 1 florin; half a crown = 2 shillings and 6 pence

The café owner says that the ladies who come along to his place for refreshment spend each on an average eighteen pence, that the unaccompanied men spend half a crown each, and that when a gentleman brings in a lady he spends half a guinea. On New Year’s Eve he supplied suppers to 25 people and took £5 in all.

How was his company made up on that occasion? Only single gentleman, single ladies, and pairs can be supposed to have been present.

Christmas Activities

Colleen Young is an active blogger and she found some very interesting maths activities for the classroom as well as “holiday homework” for the pupils and families. Click [here](#).

End of term video

I know I have mentioned this in earlier newsletters, but you cannot beat *Donald Duck Donald In Mathmagic Land*. The quality of the film has improved. Click [here](#) to access it.

Yohaku

An interesting puzzle similar to number squares but there may be a pattern to follow. Click [here](#) to find out more.

Spring Term- DCBEAGLE Challenges

This next term is very busy with up to four events each week. Bookings are going very well and some of the venues have already raised their “House Full” signs.

Tuesday	16 January	Year 4 Maths	Red Maids' High, Bristol	Oversubscribed
Thursday	18 January	Year 4 Maths	Bryanston School, Dorset	
Friday	19 January	Year 6 Maths	Bryanston School, Dorset	
Monday	22 January	Year 5 Maths	Portsmouth Grammar Junior	
Tuesday	23 January	Year 6 Maths	Eagle House, Berkshire	
Thursday	25 January	Year 5 Maths	Bristol Grammar School	
Monday	29 January	Year 4 Maths	St Gabriel's Newbury	Private
Tuesday	30 January	Year 4 Maths	St Faith's Cambridge	
Thursday	01 February	Year 4 Maths	Ryde School, IOW	
Thursday	01 February	Year 5 Maths	Ryde School, IOW	
Friday	02 February	Year 5 Maths	St Gabriel's Newbury	Private
Monday	05 February	Year 6 Maths	St John's Beaumont	
Tuesday	06 February	Year 4 Spell It!	Eagle House, Berkshire	
Tuesday	20 February	Year 5 Maths	Belmont (Mill Hill)	
Thursday	22 February	Year 5 Maths	Langley Preparatory Norwich	
Friday	23 February	Year 6 Maths	Langley Preparatory Norwich	
Thursday	01 March	Year 4 Maths	Christ's Hospital, Horsham	Oversubscribed
Friday	02 March	Year 5 Maths	Wrekin College Shropshire	
Monday	05 March	Year 4 Maths	Gayhurst, Bucks	
Tuesday	06 March	Year 4 Maths	West Hill Park, Fareham	
Thursday	08 March	Year 5 Maths	Elmhurst School, Croydon	
Friday	09 March	Year 6 Maths	St Gregory's, Harrow	
Wednesday	14 March	Year 5 Maths	Newcastle High for Girls	
Monday	19 March	Year 5 Maths	Abbot's Hill Hemel Hempstead	Oversubscribed
Tuesday	20 March	Year 5 Maths	Wolverhampton Girls' High	
Thursday	22 March	Year 5 Maths	Christ's Hospital at The Guildhall in London	

Apps of the month

This website has sourced 25 apps for pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6. Some interesting activities which can be used for “hoiday” homework. Click [here](#) to access the website.

Supper solution

Seven pairs, ten single men and one single lady. 25 people in all

Mathematical Advent calendars

Do not forget NRICH have once again produced two excellent Advent Calendars – one for primary schools and one for the secondary schools. [Primary](#) [Secondary](#)

See you in 2018!!