



## BEYOND THE TEXTBOOK

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The Festive season has already crept into our lives. In the hotel where I am writing the newsletter on the Isle of Wight the first set of decorations appeared. Bah humbug! The issuing of holiday work, especially to younger children, always made me uneasy for a few reasons:

- The setting of the work was at the busiest time of the year so was the programme effective enough to encourage confidence and progress?
- Was the quantity of work about right?
- There is the burden to mark the material even if you issued solutions to the parents.
- The fear that some of your colleagues accepted the work, put it at the bottom of the drawer and did not even look at it.

There is a more constructive way for pupils to enjoy the holidays and learn at the same time. A full commentary of the suggestions and opinions below can be found by clicking [here](#). The paper has come from the website “informED” based in Australia.

### **The Tyranny of Homework: Reasons to Stop Assigning Homework Over the Holidays** by Miriam Clifford

Students are learning all the time in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. According to a recent article in MindShift (click [here](#)) traditional homework will become obsolete in the next decade. Thanks to computers, learning is occurring 24/7. With access to software programs, worldwide connections, and learning websites such as the Khan Academy, learning occurs all the time. According to Mindshift, “the next decade is going to see the traditional temporal boundaries between home and school disappear.” Try to see if you can bridge the gap between school and home by getting students interested in doing their own research over holiday break. Rather than assigning homework, create a true interest in learning. They will often pursue learning about topics they like on their own. After all, this is the way of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and information is everywhere.

- More homework doesn't necessarily equate to higher achievement.
- Countries that assign more homework don't outperform those with less homework.
- Instead of assigning homework, suggest they read for fun.
- Family time is more important during the holidays.
- For students who travel during the holidays, assigning homework may impede learning on their trip.
- Kids need time to be kids.
- Send a letter to parents explaining why you are not assigning work.
- You can make the holidays a time for an “open project” for extra credit.
- Suggest they visit a museum instead.
- Develop a class game.
- Students might learn more from observing the real world.
- Go on a hike.

- Tell students to visit an amusement park.
- Kids need rest!
- Many parents and students dislike holiday homework.

### **Puzzle of the Month – the camel and the bananas**

The owner of a banana plantation has a camel. He wants to transport his 3000 bananas to the market, which is located after the desert. The distance between his banana plantation and the market is about 1000 kilometre. So he decided to take his camel to carry the bananas. The camel can carry at the maximum of 1000 bananas at a time, and it eats one banana for every kilometre it travels.

What is the most bananas you can bring over to your destination?

### **DCBEAGLE Challenges update**

The November and December venues are as follows (including availability):

Monday 05 November	St Edward's Reading Year 4	Postponed
Tuesday 06 November	Summer Fields Year 4 (Oxford)	Waiting list
Thursday 08 November	Headington Year 6 (Oxford)	One or two places
Friday 09 November	St Edward's Cheltenham Year 4	One or two places
Thursday 15 November	Aldwickbury Year 6 (Harpenden)	Waiting list
Tuesday 20 November	Rupert House Year 5 (Henley Upon Thames)	One or two places
Thursday 22 November	Monkton Combe Year 6 (Bath)	Places left
Friday 23 November	St Edward's Cheltenham Year 5	One or two places
Tuesday 04 December	Wolverhampton Girls High School Spell It!	Private event

Venues in the Spring Term can be found by clicking [here](#). Locations include Blandford Forum (Dorset), Portsmouth, Sandhurst (Berkshire), Bristol, Cambridge, Ryde (Isle of Wight), Old Windsor, Harrow, Moulsoford (Oxford), Horsham, Wellington (Shropshire), West Hill, Bath.

### **It's Christmas!!!! Not quite yet**

Please find an array of websites which provide material for mathematics lessons. The Times Education Supplement (TES) requests you to register and it is safe and they do not trouble you with correspondence.

TES Christmas collection – click [here](#).

Christmas booklet of puzzles Ages 8 - 9 – click [here](#)

Santa's reindeer game Ages 10 - 13 – click [here](#)

Video = Doubling numbers Ages 5 - 7 click [here](#)

Video = Christmas based problems – Ages 7 - 9 – click [here](#)

### **Puzzle of the Month – solution**

533 Banana. To read the full commentary do click [here](#)