

DCBEAGLE CHALLENGES

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BEYOND THE TEXTBOOK – February 2019

As you know I very much feel that maths teaching is most effective when the topic / concept is connected with the real world or situation. The Netherlands developed Realistic Mathematics Education and I would feel at home with its concepts and philosophy.

RME – what is it?

The features of RME include the following.

- Use of realistic situations to develop mathematics
- Well researched activities encourage pupils to move from informal to formal representations
- Less emphasis on algorithms, more on making sense
- Use of 'guided reinvention'
- Progress towards formal ideas seen as a long-term process

In the publication "Using Realistic Mathematics Education in UK classrooms" Paul Dickinson and Sue Hough – click [here](#) – they have observed the following:

- *They stopped asking 'What is the point of this?'*
- *They stopped saying 'Can we do something different?'*
- *I stopped replying 'We have to do it because you have an exam/test on it'*
- *It has reinforced for me that learning is a long-term process and that expecting small chunks to be learnt every 15 minutes or so is highly unrealistic.*

Much of the material in this article has been taken from the Mathematics Education Innovation website (<http://mei.org.uk>)

Puzzle of the Month

Buying buns

Buns were being sold at three prices: one for a penny, two for a penny, and three for a penny. Some children (there were as many boys as girls) were given seven pennies to spend on these buns, each child to receive exactly the same value in buns. Assuming that all buns remained whole, how many buns, and of what types, did each child receive?

Maths classroom resources

Fresh baked fractions – click [here](#) – equivalent fractions for Years 3 and 4

Math Cats – click [here](#) - a compendium of activities and ideas for Year 3 – 6

Engaging maths – click [here](#) – covering many areas of maths for Year 3 to 7. There is a good presentation on the properties of a circle.

Board games which inspire mathematical thinking – click [here](#)

When parents ask for "holiday" work the best thing to do is direct them to this website which describes many .games which benefits the pupils' numerical skills and confidence. If you have a Maths Club or activity do get the young mathematicians to explore traditional "board" games which are easy to replicate.

DCBEAGLE Challenges

The Summer 2019 programme:

Thursday 25 April	Year 5 Maths	Junior King's, Canterbury	2:00 - 4:00	Booking
Monday 29 April	Year 4 Maths	Aldwickbury, Harpenden	2:00 - 4:00	Booking
Tuesday 30 April	Year 5 Maths	Davenies School, Beaconsfield	2:00 - 4:00	Booking
Friday 03 May	Year 4 Maths	Wolverhampton Girls High	1:00 - 2:45	Private
Friday 10 May	Year 4 Maths	Old Hall (Wrekin College)	1:30 - 3:30	Booking
Monday 13 May	Year 4 Maths	Yardley Court Tonbridge	2:00 - 4:00	Booking
Tuesday 14 May	Year 4 Maths	Brighton College Junior School	2:00 - 4:00	Booking
Friday 17 May	Year 4 Maths	St George's Junior Weybridge	2:00 - 4:00	Booking
Tuesday 21 May	Year 5 Maths	Yardley Court Tonbridge	2:00 - 4:00	Booking
Monday 03 June	Year 5 Maths	Luckley House, Wokingham	1:30 - 3:30	Booking
Thursday 06 June	Year 6 Maths	St Faith's Cambridge	12:30 - 3:30	Booking

Do visit my [Portfolio](#) page to see all my challenges and other events. You are welcome to register for any of the summer challenges now.

Buying buns solution

There must have been three boys and three girls, each of whom received two buns at three for a penny and one bun at two for a penny, the cost of which would be exactly 7p.

Final words

It does not happen often now but last week I hosted a Year 6 in Ealing at Harvington Prep for the first time where none of the adults had experienced a "DCBEAGLE" challenge. I am sure they were apprehensive before the start but once it started they were excited about the concept.

There are a few places left at this term's challenges:

Tuesday 05 March	Year 4 Maths	West Hill Park, Fareham	2:00 - 4:00	Booking
Thursday 07 March	Year 5 Maths	Elmhurst School, Croydon	2:00 - 4:00	Booking
Tuesday 12 March	Year 4 Maths	Lambrook, Bracknell	2:00 - 4:00	Booking
Thursday 21 March	Year 5 Maths	Norwich Lower School	9:30 - 11:30	Booking
Friday 22 March	Year 6 Maths	Norwich Lower School	9:30 - 11:30	Booking
Thursday 28 March	Year 5 Maths	The Paragon School, Bath	10:00 - 11:45	Booking

