BEYOND THE TEXTBOOK = October 2017

October is here!

Yes, this is one of my favourite months because I spend nine days in Ireland travelling between the two countries exposing as many people to the love of maths through puzzling and problem solving. Maths Week Ireland is the largest maths festival in the world and I am proud to be part of it over the last six years.

In September I visited Kenya for three days and it was a joy working with young people who are wanting to better themselves and appreciate everything in the classrooms.

We're All Born With Mathematical Abilities (And Why That's Important)

In an extract of an investigative paper Kirsty vanMarle from the University of Arizona believes that all living creatures are born with some mathematical ability. This is essential for survival when it comes to animals moving away from negative environs or towards positive ones.

From the teaching point of view are we 'destroying' the mathematical abilities with our archaic methods of teaching we have in some schools. When was a swallow assessed on their navigation skills before flying to Africa?!

This interesting article can be found on the nprEd website.

Puzzle of the month

Weighing the Tea

Many years ago a grocer was going to pack 20lb of China tea into 2lb bags but could only find a 5lb weight and a 9lb weight. He discovered they could be used for him to accomplish his task.

What method is the most efficient for him to reach his goal of having 10 2lb bags of tea?

Websites of the month –

Domino Games
Ten simple games where some maths is required but logic is required. All ages.

Dice games
Encourage the pupils to play these games during "wet" breaks or at home.

Video of the month

Why Maths Instruction is Unnecessary – a TED [presentation](#) given by John Bennett, a maths teacher and a home schooling parent. This is an amusing but a thought provoking talk which will touch readers who are not confident in mathematics but have to teach the subject.

DCBEAGLE Challenges diary

Tuesday 3 October	Year 6 Maths	Red Maids' High Bristol
Thursday 5 October	Year 4 Maths	King Edwards School Bath
Monday 09 October	Year 5 Maths	Ballard School, Bournemouth
Tuesday 10 October	Year 6 Maths	Dean Close, Cheltenham
Tuesday 31 October	Year 6 Maths	St Edward's School Oxford
Tuesday 07 November	Year 4 Maths	Summer Fields, Oxford
Friday 10 November	Year 4 Maths	St Edward's Cheltenham
Monday 13 November	Year 4 Maths	St Edward's Reading
Thursday 16 November	Year 6 Maths	Aldwickbury School
Tuesday 21 November	Year 5 Maths	Rupert House
Thursday 23 November	Year 6 Maths	Monkton Combe Bath
Friday 24 November	Year 5 Maths	St Edward's Cheltenham

My full programme can be found on the [Portfolio](#) page.

Weigh the Tea solution

With the two weights in different pans weigh 4lbs of tea,
With the 4lb of tea weigh another 4lb of tea then weigh a third 4lb of tea and then a 4lb of tea and the remainder will be 4lb,
Divide each portion of 4lb in turn equally on the two sides of the scales.

Words of wisdom

"If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then giving Fido only two of them". ~ Phil Pastoret