



MATHEMATICS: BEYOND THE TEXTBOOK – January 2019

DCBEAGLE Challenges ~ Douglas Buchanan

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My 2019 message for all teachers of maths

“Children do not seem to learn maths in a linear way, learning one thing after another. It is a complex process. They often learn things that we don’t we have taught them and fail to learn things that we have taught them. Learning seems to resemble a jigsaw with the concept clicking into place as new experiences inform previous experiences.” = Sue Atkinson Developing a Scheme of Work for Primary Mathematics

“There are too many adults absolutely petrified by maths. Much of this has resulted from poor teaching. We don’t want to create a new generation of fearful mathematicians. We need problem-solvers to be ready to take on this changing world.” = June O’Sullivan MBE is the CEO of the London Early Years Foundation

Enough said!

Website of the month

Greg Tang, who I highlighted in a newsletter last year for an excellent [TED Talk](#) also has a [website](#) well worth visiting for resources including activities, games and puzzles levelled from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 3. The majority of the items are free.

Greg Tang writes: “I was inspired to begin writing by a basket of dominoes. One day, while helping in my daughter's first grade class, I noticed that all the dots on the dominoes had a pencil mark, which meant that kids were counting them instead of seeing them in groups

.... .. It immediately struck me that dot patterns could be a great visual way to teach arithmetic and maybe even problem solving too. My challenge was to figure out how to make this idea fun and instructive. Instead of dots, I thought about grouping things kids would like – acorns, snowflakes, frogs, bugs – just to name a few. By coloring, spacing and arranging them in strategic ways, I discovered I could create simple problems that were challenging and fun for people of all ages. And it all started with a basket of dominos!” His book is *The Grapes of Math* (Scholastic)

Puzzle of the month

Farmer Gidsby’s Geese

Farmer Gidsby explained to his poor suffering wife what happened at the market: “I sold Mr Jasper Brown half of the flock and half a goose over; then I sold Farmer Woods a third of what remained and third of a goose over; then I sold Widow Winter a quarter of what remained and three-quarters of a goose over; and I was coming home whom should I meet but Ned Tompkins and sold him exactly a fifth of what I had left, and gave him the fifth of a goose for the missus. These nineteen I have returned home with I could not sell to anybody.

How many geese did he take to market? Please note: none of the birds were harmed or cut up or inconvenienced in any way whatever. From *A Puzzle Mine* H.E.Dudeney

DCBEAGLE Challenges

2019 has started in a manic mode, not only for the number of challenges I am hosting but the number of waiting lists being created at the events. At one there are seventeen waiting for cancellations.

Thursday 31 January	Year 5 Maths	Ryde School, IOW	Full
Monday 04 February	Year 6 Maths	St John's Beaumont	Full
Tuesday 05 February	Year 4 Spell It!	Eagle House, Berkshire	Full
Wednesday 06 February	Year 6 Maths	Harvington Prep, London W5	Private
Friday 08 February	Year 5 Maths	St Gabriel's Newbury	Private
Monday 25 February	Year 5 Maths	Belmont (Mill Hill)	Full
Tuesday 26 February	Year 5 Maths	Cranford Oxfordshire	Full
Thursday 28 February	Year 4 Maths	Christ's Hospital, Horsham	Full
Friday 01 March	Year 5 Maths	Wrekin College Shropshire	Full
Monday 04 March	Year 4 Maths	Gayhurst, Bucks	Full
Tuesday 05 March	Year 4 Maths	West Hill Park, Fareham	Places left
Thursday 07 March	Year 5 Maths	Elmhurst School, Croydon	Places left
Monday 11 March	Year 6 Maths	Orley Farm, Harrow	Full
Tuesday 12 March	Year 4 Maths	Lambrook, Bracknell	Places left
Friday 15 March	Year 6 Maths	St Gregory's, Harrow	Private
Monday 18 March	Year 5 Maths	Abbot's Hill Hemel Hempstead	Full
Tuesday 19 March	Year 5 Maths	Wolverhampton Girls' High	Private
Thursday 21 March	Year 5 Maths	Norwich Lower School	Places left
Friday 22 March	Year 6 Maths	Norwich Lower School	Places left
Wednesday 27 March	Year 5 Maths	London Guildhall – Christ's Hospital	Private
Thursday 28 March	Year 5 Maths	The Paragon School, Bath	Places left

Visit the Portfolio [page](#) on my website to access the booking forms.

Cribbage

I was playing cribbage with a friend over the festive season and it dawned on me what a wonderful game for young people because it is easy to learn – difficult to master! – and it is filled with many mathematical skills. It is fun to have the cribbage board but it is not a necessity. Click [here](#) for the description and [here](#) for the video. “The Works” sell boards for £3.

Resource website of the month

The Science Museum in London has a comprehensive [website](#) on mathematics and how it has shaped the world. The Stories About Maths makes for interesting reading and allowing teachers to put more “body” into their maths teaching relating to the work done in the classroom and the outside world.

Puzzle Solution

101 geese

Have an enjoyable Spring Term