

Richard Challoner

Mathematics Department Gifted & Talented

Advice for parents

BOOKS

Build up a collection of individual books for interest or borrow copies from the library. Look for interesting material that makes maths "live". Titles may include:

- *The Number Devil* by Hans Magnus Enzensberger
- *The Joy of Pi* by David Blatner
- *Four Colour Suffice: How the Map Problem was Solved* by Robin Wilson

Advanced Students:

- *The Magical Maze: Seeing the World through Mathematical Eyes* by Ian Stewart
- *Game, Set and Math: Enigmas and Conundrums* by Ian Stewart
- *Fermat's Last Theorem*: Amir D. Aczel

Aimed at Teachers and Parents:

- *Maths Challenge books (One, Two and Three)* edited by Tony Gardiner and published by Oxford University Press (tel: 01536 741068)
- *Mathematics Minus Fear*: Lawrence Potter

INTERNET

Explore the internet for Mathematical problems and investigations. Particularly good websites include:

- NRICH On-line Maths Club at www.nrich.maths.org.uk
- School of Mathematics, Leeds at UKMT.org.uk
- The Mathematical Association (resources include books, stickers, posters and postcards) www.m-a.org.uk
- The association of Teachers of Mathematics (resources include books. Games, posters, software and postcards) at www.atm.org.uk

CLASSES & LECTURES

- Involve your child in enrichment sessions run by NAGC or LEAs, or in master classes run by organizations such as the Royal Institution - for more info visit www.rigb.org
- Simon Singh's website has a wealth of interesting information, including dates of forthcoming lectures, website www.simonsingh.net
- Various universities and colleges (such as Kings College, Imperial college) offer summer schools and lectures designed for Secondary school pupils.

GAMES AND PUZZLES

Play games, as a family, that have a mathematical content of some sort. Resources are available online. Particularly good websites include:

- An educational company called Tarquin create various puzzles and games. A catalogue is available from www.tarquin-books.demon.co.uk
- The Happy Puzzle Company, website www.happypuzzles.co.uk has a mail-order catalogue containing a wide range of products
- SMILE Mathematics create various resources including playing cards and software, website www.smilemathematics.co.uk

Avoid pushing your child to do "more of the same" Look for things that are different and that provide both a challenge and enjoyment.