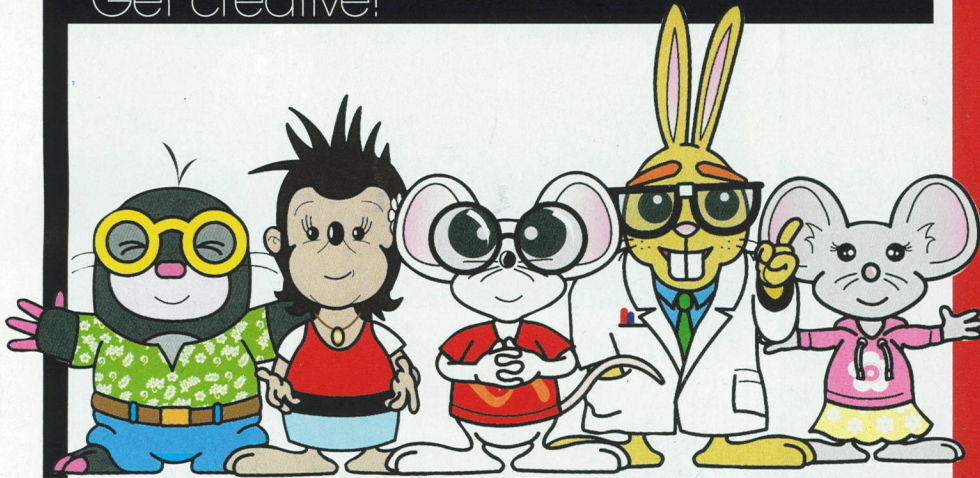


Get creative!



Boomerang Education's annual 'Get Creative' competition, as seen in the *Primary Activity Logbook (PAL)*, ably demonstrates how everyday classroom tools can encourage and celebrate pupil creativity. This year, entrants were tasked with creating a new PAL character to promote good work habits in class. Ten-year-old Caitlin Daff of Dunbar Primary School, East Lothian

triumphed with her creation, Danni the Daredevil – look out for her next year alongside the existing PAL gang (pictured).

To enter the draw to win free 2011/12 PALs for your pupils, email your school name and postcode to competitions@boomerang-ed.com by 18th February (terms & conditions apply). www.boomerang-ed.com/primary

CEREAL SUMS

Get your class in the mood for maths with this breakfast-themed starter...

Some students can be really frightened of numbers and how they're used. By using mundane objects to create investigations it's possible to rise above this fear factor and find a new way in. For example a cereal box can provide a wealth of numeracy starter activities, including mental calculation, money, proportion and measures for KS2 and 3.

To get a great discussion going, while introducing topics such as mental calculation strategies, money, proportion and measures, get everyone to bring in an empty cereal packet. Lead in investigation studies might include why cereals are sold in different size packets, which size is the best value, the most popular (i.e. how many pupils have the same box). Nutritional values can also be counted – with groups split by positive highs such as vitamin and mineral content and negative highs such as sugar and salt content. You could even get a debate going using these stats.

This investigation is detailed in *Maths-Whizz Teacher's Resource*. For more information and a free trial go to the teacher's section at whizz.com or call 0203 3286 564.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

Looking for something to brighten your new year? Look no further than your box of TTS catalogues, because your school could be one of five lucky ones to have been sent a 'Golden Ticket'. Said ticket entitles its bearer to £1000 of resources from TTS's ever-expanding portfolio – be sure to open your box straight away, though, as prizes

must be claimed by 31st January 2011. To find out more, visit www.tts-shopping.com/goldenticket. If you're lacking copies of the catalogue, call 0800 318 686 or head to tts-group.co.uk without delay



At the end of November the coalition Government published its schools White Paper, *The Importance of Teaching*. The document lays out the Department for Education's plan to free schools from centralised bureaucracy, part of which will see the National Curriculum reduced in size and scope in a bid to free-up additional time for a broader range of subjects and activities. Whilst this move has been welcomed in some quarters others have sounded a note of caution. Amongst the latter is Joe Hallgarten, director of cultural programmes for arts education charity Creativity, Culture and Education (CCE), who questions the Government's approach to the arts and cultural education.

“The Government must be careful that a 'slimmed down' curriculum doesn't pin down schools to an even narrower, centrally-prescribed set of priorities. We're concerned about the approach to the arts and cultural education (as) there appears to be a heavy emphasis on music education. This should not be to the exclusion of other cultural forms. The 'first sort music, then sort the rest of cultural education' approach embodied in The Henley Review of music education could be a missed opportunity for some more radical, necessary thinking.”

Joe Hallgarten, director of cultural programmes, CCE

