Easter Time is time for a Maths Puzzle

Mouth-watering smells of hot cross buns and shelves laden with Easter eggs of all sizes. Isn't that what the next few weeks are all about?

Nearly, but not quite. To add to the fun and excitement, we've put together a differentiated set of Easter egg puzzles that will entertain and stretch your students. So here goes!

Puzzle 1 involved addition to totals less than 10 and so should be accessible to a wide range of year-levels.

Numbered Eggs in the Easter Rings
Puzzle 1

We had five numbered Easter eggs and put one in each space made by the Easter Rings.

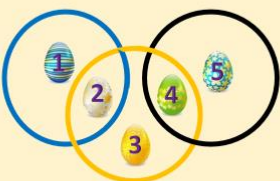By suggesting the first total, we feel that success should be readily attainable from Year 1 onwards.

That the puzzle has another solution might be seen as the sting in the tail, and there's also the mathematical result that a solution can be flipped over to give another solution.

Can you make the numbers in each ring add to 6? Is 6 the only total that this works for?

So, here are the possibilities. In each case the first number is larger than the last number – so that we don't include to reverse of a solution. But allow your students to find both versions.

Space 1	Space 2	Space 3	Space 4	Space 5	Total in Each Ring
5	1	3	2	4	6
5	2	1	4	3	7

Here are the next two versions of the puzzle – simple extensions of Puzzle 1 but finding solutions is quite a lot harder!

Here are the possibilities for Puzzle 2:

Space 1	Space 2	Space 3	Space 4	Space 5	Space 6	Space 7	Total in Each Ring
7	2	6	1	3	5	4	9
6	4	5	1	2	7	3	10
7	3	2	5	1	4	6	10
5	6	2	3	1	7	4	11

For Puzzle 3, which we think is really quite challenging, here are the only solutions that we could find.

Space 1	Space 2	Space 3	Space 4	Space 5	Space 6	Space 7	Space 8	Space 9	Total in Each Ring
9	2	5	4	6	1	7	3	8	11
9	4	1	8	3	2	5	6	7	13

We hope you are able to use one of more of these puzzles and would love to hear from you if other solutions were found!