

Here is some information about the Mathematics Enhancement Resources produced by the Centre for Innovation in Mathematics Teaching at Plymouth University. The resources are based on Hungarian schemes of work and their strength lies in the area of teaching skills. Exercises are very well structured on a sound mathematical basis and they will be challenging for the highest attaining pupils whilst offering your lower attainers the chance to gain access to real mathematics rather than counting activities. They aren't a complete panacea but will give you very useful support as you tackle the challenges of the new curriculum.

You will find them at: <http://www.cimt.plymouth.ac.uk/projects/mep/>. Download and print out the Scheme of work from

here: <http://www.cimt.plymouth.ac.uk/projects/mepres/primary/y126sw.pdf>. You can use that to identify series of 5 lessons, 4 to present the topic and 1 for revision on every topic listed. The focus is on thorough clear exposition of each area. Taking an example from the Scheme of work: You will find that Week 29 for Year 1 has the theme: Number bonds for 18 & 19 and practice. To find the Lesson Plan that belongs to it: take the week number (29 in this case). Multiply it by 5 (145) and subtract 4 (141). This gives you the Lesson number for the first in the sequence of 5 lessons on the topic. Find the group of numbers in which this lesson (141 - 175) sits and scroll through to find the Plan. The corresponding Pupil Practice book page (141) will give you the linked exercises and the Copymasters (141) the right images to project onto the whiteboard.

The presentation does look dull but my experience of using them with children suggests that they are ideal for direct teaching and the exercises are very well structured practice. The way in which the lessons are divided up into very short sections also means that they can be used in mixed attaining groups without leaving anyone behind for long. Hungarian classroom culture means that results are shared quickly and efficiently and pupils get immediate feedback on each task by self or peer marking and sharing answers with the rest of the class.