

# Being Naturally Mathematical at Easter time: Middle Primary Solutions

These solutions show how mathematical problem solving can be enhanced by the use of spreadsheets. The spreadsheet 2018 Middle Solutions.xls gives the full solutions; this document discusses how the spreadsheets were put together.

## Question 1

We can approach this problem by using a method of elimination. It's sometimes called the greedy algorithm because you always try to do the best you can from where you are.

Set up a spreadsheet so that you have the numbers 1 – 25 and a column of 1s next to it where a 1 indicates which numbers you can choose from. I chose 1 for my first number and that meant that I couldn't choose 5, 11, 17 or 23 and so I deleted those 1s from the **I chose 1** column. This column now showed which numbers were left that I could choose from. Next I chose 2 and that meant that 4, 10, 16 and 22 had to be removed from the list of options.

Can you see how to continue the process? Just keep going until you run out of numbers to choose from.

Step 1	After 3 choices																																																																																																																																																																																											
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