The Twelve Days of Christmas

We all know this song about the presents a true love sent over the twelve days of Christmas. But here are some interesting questions you might not have thought of!   Work with a partner or in a small group and see if you can work out the answers.

Imagine you were given all the presents from the song.

*   How many presents would you get on each day?
*   How many presents would you get altogether?
*   Work out the total of each type of present you would get over the 12 days (e.g. you would get 12 partridges in pear trees as you get one every day)
*   Imagine you are given presents for more than 12 days. How long would it take for you to get more than 500 presents altogether?
*   How much do you think your presents would be worth? Try investigating the costs of the items online!
*   How many eyes would you see in your batch of presents each day? How many eyes altogether?
*   How many legs would you see in your batch of presents each day? How many legs altogether? (don't forget, milking stools would have legs too!)

Extra Challenges

*   Create a page of a catalogue advertising each of presents. How would they be described to persuade people to buy them?
*   Make your own price list for each present in the song and work out the cost for each day and the overall cost
*   Write your own version of the song with more modern presents (for example, imagine singing 7 flat screen TVs, 6 games consoles, 5 DVDs!)
*   The pattern of numbers for how many presents you get each day has a special name (clue – it is named after a shape you know well). Find out what this is called and see what you can find out about it online.
*   There is also a link to a special mathematical pattern called Pascal's Triangle. Investigate online and make a fact file or poster about it.