

A HELPING OF PI

If you divide the length of the perimeter of a circle by the length of its diameter you get a number slightly more than 3. But amazingly it is the same for every single circle, no matter how big or small. We call this number pi and usually use the Greek letter π to represent it. The first few digits are $\pi = 3.14159...$

Pi cannot be expressed exactly as one whole number divided by another whole number. The decimal places just go on forever and do not repeat. A lot of people have spent a lot of time looking for patterns in pi. Pi has been calculated to trillions of places!

CHALLENGE:

Three tennis balls are packed snugly in a cylindrical pack. Can you figure out which is longest: the length of the pack or the distance around the edge of the lid?

Check www.mathsweek.ie for answers



π