

**RECEPTION**



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*Coming up next week...14/10/2024*

*We will be holding a maths workshop in school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 9:05am in the school hall. All parents and carers are welcome to attend.*

*Please also see that note on Numbots in the maths section.*

*Just a reminder that Parents Evening is on Tuesday and Wednesday.*

*On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November we will be exploring the festival of Diwali and would like to invite you to share your experiences with the children. Please see the email sent out for details of how you may be able to help us to enhance our children's understanding and appreciate of this vibrant festival.*

We are looking to enhance our outdoor role play home corner and thought it would be lovely if the children could bring something from home to donate. Items such as old phones, dressing up clothes or other clothes that could be used for dressing up, non-breakable kitchen items, material, plastic flowers or plants etc.

*Learning in school:*

**Theme for the Term:** All About Me!

During this topic we will be getting to know each other and finding out about our new friends, our families, where we live and looking after the environment.

**Theme for the week:** This week we are learning about community and how we can change things for the better. As part of Black History Month, we will be learning about Martin Luther King and thinking about what our dreams would be to make Reception a better place. We will also listen to the story of sisters Kirsten and Aiyven and how we need to be resilient (keep trying like Tigger) to achieve our dreams of becoming authors. This is linked to Tigger, one of our learning behaviours.

*Phonics:*

This week, we will be recapping all the sounds and tricky words we have learned so far during this half term. Please keep learning these over the holidays as we have more to learn next half term!

*Maths:*

This week we will be learning about the numbers 1, 2 and 3. We will learn how to recognise and write these numerals and relating these to numbers of objects. We will also be learning to subitise (recognise numbers of objects without the need to count) up to 3.

**Numbots**

Your child has brought home login details for Numbots. NumBots is an online maths learning platform that helps children learn how to add and subtract, improving their fluency and recall in basic mental maths, and equipping them with maths confidence. NumBots covers subitising, number bonds, and addition and subtraction of double-digit numbers; gradually helping children to build a solid conceptual understanding of number sense.

Numbots creates fun opportunities for children to develop and recognise their lifelong maths skills and grow their confidence with maths. It compliments their learning in school, focussing on securing any gaps in understanding before moving on to the next challenge. This is all done at your child's own pace.

It is recommend playing for at least 3 minutes a day, 4 or 5 days a week. Have fun!

**Attached below is a Parent Guide for your information.**

*Additional notes and reminders*

**Junk Modelling: we would love to have egg boxes, milk bottle tops or other types of lids (great for wheels!), and boxes up to cereal box size. Many thanks!**

**Evidence Me**

**Please look out for an Evidence Me login which will be sent to your email. These often go to the junk folders. The link will allow you to have access to your child's**

account. Please share photos and wow moments that your child achieves when not at school. We would love to see these. We will share some key learning moments for your child.

### Reading

*We hope that the children are enjoying taking a reading book home. Please remember that once your child has shared a book with a grown up at home, they can change it - they don't have to wait until their reading day! It is beneficial for your child to read a book 3 times before changing it, this can be across school and home. Please send your child into school with the book in their hand so that they can change it first thing when they come in. Please also remember to log into Boom Reader so that you can read comments from the staff and make recordings when you read with your child. Log-ins went home in children's homework folders. If you do not have the log in sheet, please speak to your class teacher. Thank you.*

Please remember to put your child's library book in their book bag on their class library day. Library days are as follows:

- ✓ Turtles: Tuesday
- ✓ Starfish: Thursday
- ✓ Jellyfish: Monday

*Class email addresses:*

[turtles@mead.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:turtles@mead.surrey.sch.uk)

[starfish@mead.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:starfish@mead.surrey.sch.uk)

[jellyfish@mead.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:jellyfish@mead.surrey.sch.uk)

*Please note that as the week progresses it is sometimes necessary to change what is planned to meet the learning needs of the children and therefore changes to the above may occur.*

# PARENT GUIDE

## ABOUT NUMBOTS

**What is NumBots?**

NumBots is an online maths learning platform that helps children learn how to add and subtract, improving their fluency and recall in basic mental maths, and equipping them with maths confidence.

**Why is NumBots important?**

Basic number skills are the essential building blocks for higher-level maths concepts. NumBots covers number recognition, number bonds, and addition and subtraction of double digit numbers; gradually helping your child to build a solid conceptual understanding of number sense.

**How often should my child play?**

We recommend a little and often approach; 3 minutes practice a day, 4 times a week is a good target.

## LOGGING IN

**What is my child's username and password?**

Your child's teacher will provide a unique username and password (or picture pin). Please encourage your child not to share their password with others.

**How does my child log in?**

Log in to NumBots on a browser at [play.numbots.com](http://play.numbots.com) and select Schools > Pupils > enter the school name or postcode. Select the correct school and then enter their username and password/pin details.

**Is there an App?**

Yes, there is an app for Amazon, Android and Apple devices. Please go to the relevant app store to download the app for free.

## HOW THE GAME WORKS

**Who is Rusty?**

Rusty is the central character of NumBots who needs help in his quest to find new parts to upgrade himself to a shiny diamond bot. Children progress through the game, unlocking levels and upgrading Rusty as they go.

**How does my child accessorise their Bot Avatar?**

When your child first logs in they will be able to choose a Bot Name and Bot Avatar. Coins earned by answering maths questions correctly can be spent in the Custom Shack on new parts to personalise their own robot.

**What is Story Mode?**

Story Mode consists of 18 stages, each containing numerous levels which players must pass to unlock the next, focusing on conceptual understanding of core maths. Using a variety of visual representations, Story Mode introduces different calculation strategies in a carefully sequenced order.

**What is Challenge Mode?**

Challenge Mode consists of rapid responses to essential maths facts against the clock. Each of the 30 challenges focuses on a key skill or objective, and each game lasts 1 minute. Unlike Story Mode, all of the challenges are available to play as soon as Challenge Mode is unlocked.



**NUMBOTS**  
numbots.com



## LEARNERS WITH DIFFERENT NEEDS

**The questions are too hard**

Encourage your child to be resilient and try each question a number of times. They are not expected to pass the level first time! They can also press the "i" icon for further instructions if they are stuck. If they are still struggling, please speak to your child's teacher.

**My child is unable to pass a level**

To earn the 2 or 3 stars required to pass a level, children must be both accurate and timely with their answers. If your child is getting 0 or 1 stars, they need to answer more quickly. This is deliberate, as it ensures that they have the number fluency required to move on to the next level. If your child cannot progress any further, we suggest going back to previous levels where they scored 2 stars and trying to score 3 stars on them all. Once completed with 3 stars, they should be fluent enough to pass the current level they're stuck on. If your child still needs more time to answer the questions, speak to their teacher about relaxing the time constraints in the accessibility settings.

**My child gets anxious playing in Challenge Mode**

The timer can be hidden in Challenge Mode via the settings. Press ⚙️ and ensure the "Show Timer" toggle is switched off.

**My child has visual impairments; what settings are available?**

Head to settings (press ⚙️) where the colour scheme can be changed to high contrast colour settings, which also helps to reduce the visual stimuli and declutter the screen. Children can also press the speaker icon next to each question for it to be read out loud.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

**My child's coins have suddenly dropped**

Another child may have logged in as your child. Please reassure your child that this can be rectified. Contact their teacher who can set a new password, refund any coins and talk to the class about online safety.

**My child has forgotten their login details**

Please contact your child's teacher for a reminder, as the NumBots team are unable to provide login details to parents for data protection reasons.

**My child finds it too easy**

We encourage all pupils to start at the very beginning of Story Mode, even those with strong maths skills, as they can progress through the early levels quickly which will help reaffirm the basics and make connections with the more difficult questions. You can speak to their teacher who can skip the first topics if needed.

**How can I tell if my child has completed their Activity Goal set by the teacher?**

When logged in, your child will be able to see how many minutes they have left remaining to reach their weekly goal in Game Data on the Game Modes screen. Once they have achieved their weekly Activity Goal, an animation of an arrow hitting a target will appear on their screen.

**Is NumBots safe?**

Yes. There are no adverts, no in-app purchases nor any chat functions. See more in our Privacy Notice (<https://numbots.com/privacy-notice/>).



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