

Thursday 13th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to inform you about an online programme we are using to support your child's addition and subtraction skills, called NumBots, from the company who provides Times Tables Rock Stars.

In order to get the best out of NumBots, children should play for short bursts, four or five times a week. Playing little and often will significantly improve your child's recall and understanding of number bonds and addition and subtraction facts. These are critical foundations in maths so we are excited by the impact NumBots will have.

Logging In

The children have been shown how to login and have been given a username label which has been stuck into their reading record. They might need some help navigating to the website (<https://play.numbots.com>) and entering the details but once they're in, they just need some quiet space to get on with the games.

Playing the game

Children are welcomed to the game with an opening video, where they are introduced to the central character, "Rusty". In the video, Rusty asks for help in his quest to find new parts to upgrade him to a diamond robot. Next, your child will be able to choose a bot name they will play under, as well as their own robot character.

Story mode: The game starts in 'Story Mode'. There are 18 stages - from Rust to Diamond - and each stage is made up of a number of levels. Players start at Rust level 1 and, to unlock the next level, they need to earn at least 2 out of 3 stars. To earn the 2 or 3 stars required to pass the level, children must demonstrate a level of fluency when answering the questions. This means they must be accurate and timely with their answers; if children get 0 or 1 stars they need to answer more quickly. The game ensures that learners don't move on to the next level until they show they are prepared for it. Story Mode starts with very basic maths (subitising numbers) and progresses steadily and rigorously to addition and subtraction of double-digit numbers.

Challenge mode: When players complete Stage 3 (Tin): Level 35 in Story Mode, they will unlock Challenge Mode. Here they can race the clock to test themselves on how many questions they can answer correctly in one minute. There are 20 different challenges to choose from; each challenge testing a different skill, for example number bonds to 10, adding single digits or subtracting double digits.

The Custom Shack: For every maths question answered correctly, your child will receive coins to spend in the Custom Shack. Here, they are able to purchase new parts to upgrade and personalise their own robot character. As well as earning coins, the children will be kept motivated throughout their NumBots journey by collecting badges and winning trophies to reward their achievements.

Please let your child's teacher know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

R. Cheetham

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Maths Leader

