

# YEAR 1



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

## Maths

We will be starting our addition and subtraction unit by looking at the vocabulary: part and whole. We will be exploring different compositions; for example, 5 can be composed of 2 and 3 or 1 and 4 or 1 and 1 and 3. It is important to recognise that numbers can be composed of two or more parts. We will then start using a part-whole model, sometimes starting with the whole and sometimes starting with a part.

## *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.

Attached below is a Parent Guide for your information.

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

## English

Now we have finished our *Squishy McFluff* story, we are going to write to the Queen, as Ava, thanking her for inviting us and the invisible cat to dine with her at the palace. We will be looking at sentence structure and trying to add more detail, exploring adjectives.

## Phonics and Reading

From the assessments completed, each class teacher will tailor the sounds we cover this week, reflecting the priorities for their class. There will be no Bug Club text this week as we will be carrying out individual reads with the children. Please can your child have their reading book in their bookbag every day, even if you are mid-way through it. Please continue reading at home and spotting digraphs, trigraphs and tricky words together. Your child can change their reading

book as often as they like. If they have it in their hand when they come into class in the morning it serves as a good reminder. We will also do a whole class reminder every Friday. Our fluency text this week is an AI generated poem entitled: Black History Month.

### Topic

As it is Black History Month, we will be finding out what this means and why we celebrate it. We will be learning about significant individuals and the importance of their actions, as well as sharing a number of stories.

In RE we will be reviewing our learning about the Christian view of creation. The children will choose a way to represent one of the days of the Christian creation story. We will take photos of the children's creations to create a class book.

In Art we will be developing our line drawing skills by looking at how to show detail and texture when making observational drawing.

In Science we will be learning about seasons. We will recap the 4 seasons and look at where Autumn falls in the cycle. We will be spotting signs of Autumn in nature and looking at the weather too.

### PE

We are continuing our fitness unit and ball skills units in PE lessons. We will be learning how exercise helps muscles and bones get stronger and how they feel after exercise.

### Homework

The children will be bringing home phonics sheets. These sheets will revise the content taught the previous week and are to help your child consolidate their phoneme knowledge.

## Dates for your diaries:

*Parents evening week- w/c 14.10.24. Please check the time and day of your chosen appointment.*

*Harvest Assembly Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Please see the Harvest Appeal letter from Mrs Creasey regarding requested donations for the local foodbank. Please leave your kind donations by the hall doors on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October.*

***2 week half term break: 21<sup>st</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November. Back to school Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November***

***Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 3.15pm - 3.35pm Year 1 parents book look in your child's classroom.***

# 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/>).



The class

email addresses are:

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

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

[Squirrels@mead.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:Squirrels@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.