

RECEPTION



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Coming up next week...28/09/2026

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Reception Welcome Meeting last week. The slides have been attached as a PDF!

Future workshops

Reading/phonics workshop: Thursday 1st October at 9.30am

Maths workshop: Tuesday 3rd November (time TBC)

Reading Books

All children will be bringing home a school reading book to share with you this week.

Reading days with a member of staff are as follows:

Red bookbag box- Monday

Blue bookbag box- Tuesday

Green bookbag box- Wednesday

Yellow bookbag box- Thursday

Orange bookbag box- Friday

Please ask your child which colour box they put their bookbag in to work out their reading day.

Please don't forget to write any comments in the yellow Reading Record book. We recommend that your child reads the book at least 2 or 3 times before changing it.

When you would like the book changed, please send your child into school with it in their hand so that they can change it as soon as they come in. Thank you.

Learning in school:

Theme for the Term: Transport

This half term, we'll be learning all about Transport! We'll explore different types of transport, share what we already know, and discover how transport has changed from past to present. We'll also learn about maps and journeys and how people travel from place to place. To finish our topic, we'll be holding a Reception Transport Museum, where family members will be invited in to share and talk about their exciting vehicles and transport experiences with the children!

Theme for the week: We have another lovely week of learning ahead! We'll be sharing *Chuffa Chuffa Choo Choo*, joining in with actions and following the train's journey as we practise retelling and sequencing the story. The children will continue to practise being little authors, sharing their wonderful ideas and beginning to create their own stories with pictures and writing. We'll also be thinking about love and kindness, talking about the special people in our lives and the different ways we can show others that we care.

Phonics:

This week in school, we will begin to learn the letter sounds g, o, c, k and the tricky word "is". Tricky words are words that cannot be sounded out - so they are tricking us! The children will be learning to recognise tricky words and know which part is tricking them.

The children are beginning to understand the difference between phoneme (the sound the letter makes) and grapheme (the letter written).

Please continue to practice the sound sheets that have been sent home for homework. This really supports your child and their reading.

Maths:

For maths we will be continuing our learning on sorting and matching and then exploring more and fewer.

NUMBOTS

By the end of the week, your child will be bringing home their login details for NumBots (the infant school version of TTRockstars). 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, 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 is a Parent Guide for your information.

Additional notes and reminders

Junk Modelling

We still need any boxes, egg boxes, tubes plastic trays etc to continue our DT topic of junk modelling!

- **Homework:** Folders will be collected on Wednesdays and returned on Friday with the new sounds sheet. There will be a collection box outside the doors at drop off time.
- Library days are as follows:
 - ✓ Turtles: Friday
 - ✓ Jellyfish: Thursday
 - ✓ Starfish: Wednesday
- Please could your child bring a named water bottle and a coat to school every day. Please ensure it only has water and a straw lid rather than a twisty bottle lid. **Can we ask that water bottles are not kept in bookbags as they can leak.**
- Just a reminder that your child will need to bring in a pair of named wellies, in a names bag, that stay on their peg.
- Please make sure that **all** belongings in school are named.

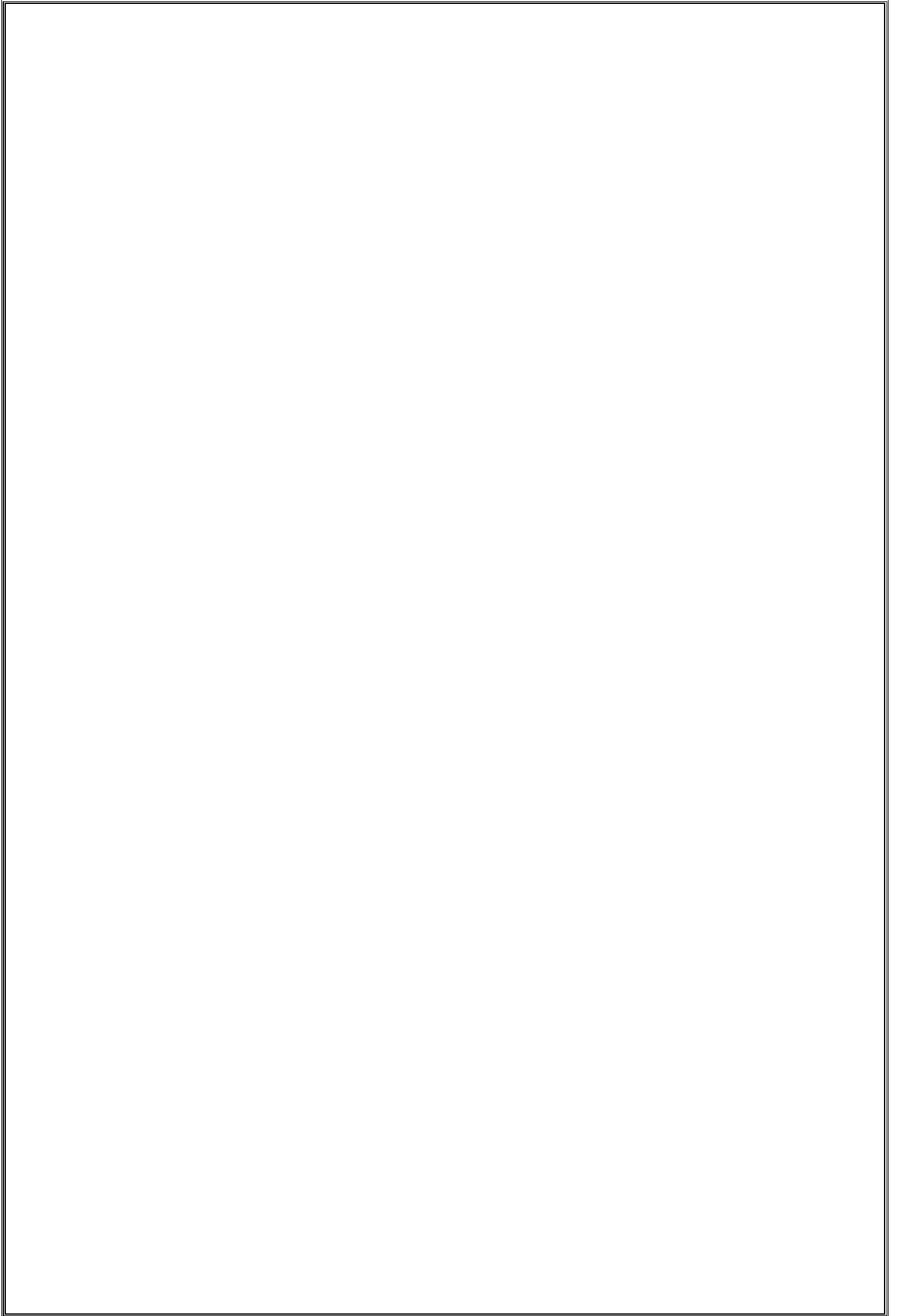
Class email addresses:

turtles@mead.surrey.sch.uk

starfish@mead.surrey.sch.uk

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 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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