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Headteacher – Mrs Maureen Thompson



Learning in partnership

Monday 20th September 2021



Letter to Key Stage 1

Dear Parent and Carer,

I'm delighted to inform you about a new service we're using to support your child's maths education. The creators of **Times Tables Rock Stars** have produced a platform for boosting addition and subtraction skills, called **NumBots**.

In Key Stage 1, you have been given access to both Times Table Rock Stars, and now NumBots. For Year 1, you should certainly prioritise time on NumBots, as multiplication may be too difficult for your child at this point in time. For Year 2 Parents, you can look to share the time at home between the two. Perhaps you could have NumBots Days and TT Rock Star days. Or your child could simply spend 5 minutes on one, followed by 5 minutes on the other. They are designed to be engaging, fun and rewarding, so I am confident that the children will want to find time to play these at home.

Big Difference

NumBots is an online game (playable at play.numbots.com) and app-based game (which can be found in all app stores). The aim is to play NumBots little and often. By doing this, your child's ability to recall and understand number bonds, as well as addition and subtraction facts, will significantly improve. These are critical foundations in maths so we are excited by the impact that NumBots will have.

Logging In

The children will bring home a username label in their book bag/school bag – although it is worth pointing out that their username and passwords are the same for NumBots, as they are for TTRockstars, so you can start straight away. They might need some help navigating to the website and entering the details but once they're in, they just need some quiet space to get on with the games for 5 minutes. Please ask your child's teacher if they are struggling to login. Maths Circle (the creators of NumBots) cannot provide username and password information to parents, even during school holidays or out of hours.

Important: please don't allow siblings, friends or family to answer for them but do support your child if they're stuck. The program responds to the progress your child is making. Therefore, if you answer for them, it will not respond in a way appropriate for their needs.

Little and often

In order to get the best out of NumBots children should regularly play for short bursts, so we would ask you to give them 5 minutes 3 to 4 times per week (or more).

Game Types

1. Story Mode – the emphasis is on learning the ideas and concepts behind addition and subtraction, so it features more diagrams, shapes and question styles.
2. Challenge Mode – the emphasis is more on speed of recall of key facts, like number bonds to 10, doubling small numbers or adding & taking away in your head.

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

Yours faithfully,

Mr North

Maths Subject Coordinator

