

Nine Ashes Road  
Blackmore  
Ingatestone  
Essex CM4 0QR  
Tel: 01277 821528  
Fax: 01277 821394  
Headteacher Mrs Andrea Farrant



March 2020

Dear Parents,



NumBots has landed for Class R and Class 1!

We are pleased to inform you that we are using Numbots. This online maths programme will be used in school and as a homework tool to support your children's maths development at home. We hope that you will embrace this maths programme with us, as we know it will add huge value and enjoyment to your child's key stage 1 math curriculum.

### What is Numbots?

NumBots is an online learning platform designed to boost fundamental foundations in Maths, such as, recall of number bonds and boosting addition and subtraction skills.

### How does my child login to NumBots?

Every pupil has been provided with a username and password to take home. It is expected that they will keep this in a safe place. NumBots is a free app available to download - playing little and often will improve your child's recall and understanding of number facts.

### How does my child use NumBots?

It is very important that your child works independently. However, offer them support if they are stuck. Please speak to your child's teacher if you feel concerned about anything your child finds difficult.

### There are two types of modes that can be used:

1. **Story Mode** - In story mode, the emphasis is on learning the ideas and concepts behind addition and subtraction. Story mode features a variety of question styles, such as visual representations and exposure to different calculation methods. Story mode is carefully sequenced into a series of levels (rust, tin, iron.) that follow a natural mathematical progression and move the pupil through the game automatically. To unlock the next mode, the children must earn stars, showing proficiency.

**2. Challenge Mode** - In challenge mode, the emphasis is on rapid responses and speed of recalling key facts, like number bonds to 10, doubling small numbers or adding & taking away in your head.

Challenge Mode is and is unlocked once players reach a certain level on Story Mode. There are 20 Challenge levels and only the first is unlocked to begin with. To unlock the next Challenge, players must correctly answer 12 questions in a minute.

### **How often should my child be using NumBots?**

We expect the children to use NumBots **at least two-three times a week at home** (this will be monitored). We will provide opportunities to use NumBots in school, however their usage at home is equally important. NumBots is most effective when it is used 'little and often.' Therefore, we encourage you to monitor your child's usage and for children not to spend any longer than 10 minutes completing the maths challenges.

### **What other features does NumBots have?**

The children are rewarded with stars which can be used to earn badges and accessorise their robot in 'the custom shack'.

### **Useful Terminology**

**Bridging to a multiple of 10** - When you split the second addend so that you count up to the nearest multiple of 10 and then count on the remainder, e.g. to add 27 and 5 you might add 3 (=30) then add 2 (=32). The same principle applies in reverse when subtracting, e.g. for 23 - 5.

**Partitioning** - when you split (partition) the 10s and 1s and add/subtract them separately before recombining, e.g. to add 27 and 32 you might add 20 and 30, 7 and 2 and then combine the totals.

**We will be monitoring every child's usage and analysing their progress.** We hope that your child enjoys using NumBots! We look forward to celebrating and rewarding the children's efforts and successes in school with certificates.

Please do not hesitate to see your child's class teacher should you have any queries regarding NumBots.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss Bellamy



**Be the best you can be**

@ admin@blackmore.essex.sch.uk  www.blackmore.essex.sch.uk