

# The Downs Primary School and Nursery

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Monday, 23 March 2020

Dear Parent/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.

## Big Difference

NumBots is an online game and 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

Some children have been shown how to login and have brought home a username label. For children in Years 3-6 their log in is the same as their TT Rockstars login. For pupils in Year 1 and 2 please can parents email Miss Weekly ([sam.weekly@downs.essex.sch.uk](mailto:sam.weekly@downs.essex.sch.uk)) and she will send the logins as soon as she can. Children 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 5-10 minutes. Maths Circle (the creators of NumBots) cannot provide username and password information to parents, even during school holidays or out of hours.

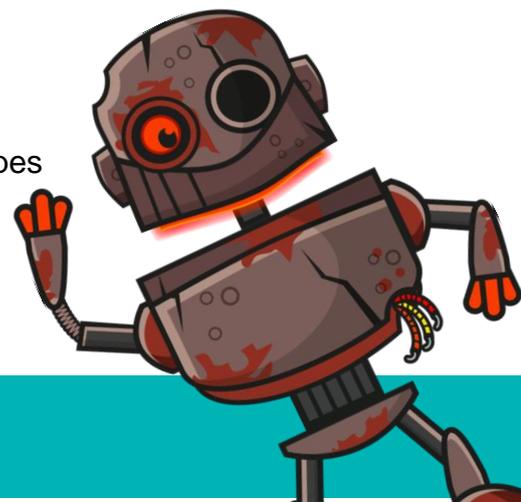
**Important:** please don't allow siblings, friends or family to answer for them but do support your child if they're stuck.

## 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 5-10 minute sessions.

## Game Types

Story Mode – the emphasis is on learning the ideas and concepts behind addition and subtraction so it features more diagrams, shapes and question styles.



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 myself or your child's teacher know if you have any questions or comments. Please note the programme gets progressively harder but gives children a good understanding of number.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Weekly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Miss Weekly

Deputy Head Teacher