

# **A Handy Guide**

NumBots is an online learning platform which is accessed through the Times Tables Rock Stars login. The game is aimed at boosting addition and subtraction skills for all aged children, particularly in Key Stage One and Lower Key Stage Two.

All children start at the same place in Story Mode, and when they get to a certain stage they unlock Challenge Modes. The idea is that they play little and often, and this will significantly improve their understanding of number bonds and addition and subtraction facts.

## **Unlocking Levels**

Story Mode is set out as a series of Stages (Rust, Tin, Iron, etc) containing levels, a bit like Angry Birds. Rust is the first Stage and level 1 is unlocked, so this is the place for everyone to start. To unlock the next level, players need to earn two stars by showing sufficient proficiency.

#### Get in the Habit

Aim for pupils to play in Story Mode for three minutes four to five times a week, to get the best out of NumBots. Little and often is key (spaced practice is more effective than blocked practice).

#### 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.

### **NumBots App**

The NumBots App is available at the Apple Store and on Google Play Store. This allows children to use NumBots on mobile devices and tablets. The app is free to download but your child will need to enter their log in details to play.

