

Ref: Com/Reception /Ltrs/General/Maths/APA/Mathematics-Sparx

September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## RE: MATHEMATICS- SPARX

The Maths Faculty will be using Sparx Maths set one of their two weekly Maths homework. This is an online learning platform that research has shown supports students in making progress. Research by Cambridge University showed that 1 hour of Sparx can improve their grade, and students made 83% more progress by completing 15 mins of Sparx tasks. Sparx provides a highly personalised weekly homework to students, tailored to their attainment level and working speed.

Your child's homework will be set on Wednesday and due on Wednesday every week.

We know you want to support your child's Maths progress, so we are sending this letter to explain how Sparx works and how you can help your child complete their homework each week.

### What is Sparx Maths Homework?

- Sparx provides personalized homework to each child, with questions that are challenging yet achievable, and tailored to their learning needs.
- The majority of each week's homework will be based on recently learnt topics, but it will also include some questions from previous topics to help reinforce their learning.
- Students access their homework on their online Sparx account, where they will get immediate feedback for each question about whether their answer was correct or they need to have another try.
- While homework is accessed online, it is predominantly a written homework and students should record their work in the back of their exercise books. Sparx has a "bookwork checks" system to help students form this habit.
- Every question in Sparx has a support video attached to that your child can get help independently.

### How can you help your child with their homework?

- Provide a quiet space for your child to focus on their homework each week.
- Encourage them to start their homework early so they can get help from their teacher before the deadline if they get stuck. To ensure no gaps form in your child's Maths knowledge, homework is not marked as complete until **all** of the compulsory questions have been answered correctly.
- Check the weekly email you will get from Sparx and praise your child for starting or completing their homework. Encourage them to finish it before the deadline if they have not already done so. We encourage 100% completion but we recognise that students may experience difficulty so we encourage your child to discuss with their Maths teacher any difficulties they are having.
- Sparx is a live platform so all work is able to be seen by their teacher and Maths staff can identify any errors or misconceptions for a students or class.
- Try not to help your child with a question until they have had a go first. It is essential they try to complete their homework independently so that Sparx can give them questions that are at the right level for them. Remember they can watch the support videos if they need to.

### How do student log onto Sparx?

Students do not need a login; they need to set up an account and instructions can be found overleaf. Maths staff will also be available to support any issues with log in and our Year 7 students will spend time in one of the IT suites.

## Student Guide to Logging In

- 1 Go to [sparx.co.uk](https://sparx.co.uk) and click **Log in**
- 2 Select **Student Login**
- 3 Carefully select your school from the list
- 4 Select **New Sparx user**
- 5 Enter your:
  - First Name
  - Last Name
  - Date of Birth
- 6 Click **Submit**
- 7 You will be prompted to set your own password. The password must be at least 6 characters long and you will need to remember it
- 8 Confirm your username and password, and click **Finish**
- 9 You can now log in to Sparx using your username and password
- 10 If a password is lost, you can select the option to request a new password from your teacher




