

Shirebrook Academy

Principal: Lindsey Burgin BA (Hons) PGCE, MA
Chair of Governors: Mike McDermott
Executive Principal: Rebecca Hibberd BEd (Hons), MA
CEO: Rebecca Scutt BSc (Hons) PGCE



Vice Principals
Lindsay Ward BA (Hons) PGCE
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Ref: DRU/CG

January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

We are excited to inform you that your child will be using Sparx Maths to complete their weekly maths homework. Sparx provides a highly personalised weekly homework to students, tailored to their attainment level and working speed.

Students are being logged onto this platform during lesson time, throughout the next two weeks and will be advised to record their username and password in their planner. Following this, **all homework will be live on Sparx for all year groups by Wednesday 7th February 2024.**

Your child's homework will be set and due on Wednesday's each 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 personalised 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 if they need to have another try;
- While homework is accessed online, it is predominantly a written homework and students should record their workings out on paper. Sparx has a "bookwork checks" system to help students form this habit;
- Every question in Sparx has a support video attached, so that your child can get help independently.

How can you help your child with their homework?



All adults in school have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

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- Provide a quiet space for your child to focus on their homework each week;
- Encourage them to start their homework early, so that 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 that you will receive from Sparx and praise your child for starting or completing their homework. Encourage them to finish it before the deadline, if they haven't already done so;
- Try not to help your child with a question until they've had a go first. It is essential that 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.

We hope you agree that Sparx will play an exciting and important role in growing your child's understanding, success and confidence in maths.

Kind regards

Miss D Russell
Head of Mathematics & Computing



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