

7 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

We are excited to inform you that from Thursday 7th December, your child will be using Sparx Maths to complete their weekly maths homework. Sparx provides a highly personalised weekly homework to pupils, tailored to their attainment level and working speed.

Your child's homework will be set on Thursday's and due on the following 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.
- Pupils access their homework on their online Sparx account, where they'll 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 pupils should record their work in their workbooks. Sparx has a "bookwork checks" system to help pupils 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?

- 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.

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- Check the weekly email you'll get 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 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.

What support is available at Fairlands Middle School?

- A homework club will run on Mondays from 12:15 –12:45 in the main computer (ICT1) room
- Pupils may ask for a laptop to complete their homework's during social time.
- If a pupil struggles with a question, they should, in the first instance, watch the associated video for that question. If this does not help, then please ask them to speak to their maths teacher during the next lesson
- A weekly email will be sent to you giving an update on the current completion of that week's homework

We hope that Sparx will play an exciting and important role in growing your child's understanding, success and confidence in maths. If you have any questions, please contact your child's maths teacher.

Thank you for your support

Yours sincerely



Neil Jones
Head of Faculty – Maths