



11 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

We are excited to inform you that from this week, 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.

Your child's homework will be set on the same day each week and they will always have one week to complete the task. Your child's teacher will show them how to log into the platform and explain what will be expected from their homework 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'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 a written homework and students should record their work in their orange homework books issued at school. Sparx has a "bookwork check" 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?

- 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'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 John Flamsteed?

- Maths support is available every Monday at lunch in M5 should your child need in school support.
- Students can access a computer in the library however, we recommend them completing the work at home. Should there be an issue with online access at home please contact the school.
- If your child is struggling with any work set after watching the support video, they should speak to their teacher who will guide them and provide additional support.

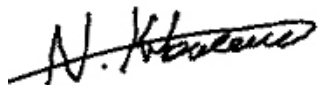
Answers to frequently asked questions

- Homework is personalised to each student's attainment level and every question has a video to provide extra support. The more they use the platform the better it will understand their strengths and weaknesses, providing appropriate challenge as a result.
- 100% completion is important in allowing your child to make progress and preventing gaps in their learning. Completing their homework each week also allows Sparx to learn about their working speeds and adapt future homework for them.
- Bookwork Checks support the importance of students writing things down. If students are recording work in their book, they will find passing bookwork checks easy and they will see them less often. [Here is a video](#) explaining how they work.
- The odd long homework is nothing to worry about. Future homework lengths will adapt, if you notice your child is regularly spending longer than 60 minutes on their homework, check to see if your child is writing their answers in their book and is not distracted by anything else while doing their work.
- Homework can be completed in one go or in small chunks **but** early completion is always recommended. It will allow students to get help from the teacher before the deadline.
- Parental support is fantastic, but over-helping or doing the work for your child could lead to Sparx misunderstanding their level and making their homework too difficult. Always encourage your child to:
  - Have a go at the question before seeking help
  - Watch the videos when they get stuck
- Here is a link to [Sparx's impact research](#) that was evaluated and validated by Cambridge University and RAND Europe for further information

We hope you agree 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 Mr N Krbacevic at [krbacevicn@jfcs.org.uk](mailto:krbacevicn@jfcs.org.uk)

Kind regards



Mr N Krbacevic  
Head of Mathematics