



Hebburn Comprehensive School

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Head Teacher: Mr D R Thompson

JF/JE

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Dear Parent/Carer,

We are excited to inform you that from Monday 05 January, your child will be using Sparx Learning to complete their weekly English homework. This is the same platform pupils use for their maths homework. Sparx Reader provides highly personalised reading homework to pupils, tailored to their individual attainment level and working speed. Sparx Reader will replace Tassomai homework.

Your child's homework will be set on Friday at 4.00pm and be due in on Friday at 8.00am every week.

Pupils log in at www.sparxreader.com by finding their school and using Microsoft Single Sign On. Sparx Reader can be accessed on any device that connects to the internet with a web browser.

We understand how important your child's success is to you. Below, you'll find information about Sparx Reader, along with practical advice on how you can support them to complete their homework each week.

What is Sparx Reader?

- Pupils choose from a range of age-appropriate e-books at their reading level and, as they read, they will answer questions to check that they are reading carefully.
- Pupils receive immediate feedback for each question about whether their answer was correct or they need to have another try. Careful readers earn rewards via SRP for completion and effort.
- Motivated readers who demonstrate consistent, careful reading can unlock '*Gold Reader*'. This means they can read any book of their choice and log their reading by scanning the book's barcode within Sparx Reader.
- Sparx Reader reassures teachers and parents that focused and careful reading is taking place, and that readers of all abilities feel successful and motivated.
- Homework will only be marked complete when the Sparx Reader Points (SRP) target has been met. The target SRP is 300, which equals around 30 minutes of careful reading per week.

How can you help your child with their homework?

- Provide a quiet space for your child to focus on their homework, with minimal distractions.
- Encourage your child to start their homework early. The earlier they start, the easier it is to complete it.
- Please let them attempt questions independently. Sparx Reader will automatically adjust the level of questions provided based on your child's answers.
- Keep track of your child's progress within their homework by checking the weekly email sent to you from Sparx.
- You can also find out more about Sparx Reader on the dedicated parent page - www.sparxreader.com/parents

What support is available at Hebburn Comprehensive School?

- Homework Club is available Monday-Friday from 3.00pm-4.00pm in room 103.
- Pupils can use the laptops in the library on Mondays during break and lunchtimes. They also have access to the library before and after school each day.
- Please encourage your child to speak to their teachers ahead of the deadline if they have any issues with completing their homework.
- If pupils do not complete their homework, they will be required to stay after school and complete it with the support of a member of staff from the English Department.

Finally, research indicates that reading ability affects attainment in all subjects. It is therefore crucial that your child completes their Sparx Reader homework regularly and on time. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

If you have any questions, please contact me via telephone on 01914833199.

Yours sincerely

J Fenwick

Mrs J Fenwick
Head of English