

Dear Parents,

In the Mathematics department at The Burgate School we use Sparx for our homework system. Your child will be using Sparx Maths (<https://sparxmaths.com/>) 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 a day decided by their teacher and due in the same day a week later. Sparx homework will be turned off for the school holidays and the week leading up to an assessment so that they have time to revise.

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'll 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 a workbook. Sparx has a "bookwork checks" system to help students form this habit. **Please can you purchase a suitable notebook or exercise book for your child to use as a workbook.** *(Do contact us if this is not possible)*
- Every question in Sparx has a support video attached to it that your child can get help independently.

How can you help your child with their homework?

- Encourage them to start their homework early after it has been set 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 **100%** 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 learn the level that's right for them. Remember they can watch the support videos if they need to.
- Please make sure your child is properly equipped with a pen, pencil, ruler and calculator,. They will need a ruler that can measure lines not just a straight edge and a scientific calculator. Here is a link to the Casio FX-83GT calculator that fulfils the minimum requirement for GCSE, so will last them the full 5 years, (Amazon £10.45) <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Casio-fx-83GTX-Scientific-Calculator-Black/dp/B0BVW4TGFX?th=1>

What support is available at Burgate?

Sparx can be completed at home on your own internet enabled devices. However there is support in place including:

- Maths clinic which runs once a week on a Wednesday in room 3 (3-3:45)
- HW support which runs once a week on a Tuesday in room 22 (3 – 3:45)
- Computers can also be accessed in the library and Wheeler building before school and during lunchtime if needed
- Students can speak to their classroom teacher on topics or questions they find difficult after having a go themselves

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 your child's teacher

Kind regards

The Burgate Maths Department