



Shropshire
Gateway
Educational Trust

Lacon Childe School

...more than just a school

Head of School Mrs. Rachel Croxton-Broome
Consultant Executive Headteacher Mrs. Ruth Allen



11 September 2024

Dear Year 7 Parent/Guardian,

We are excited to inform you that from 16th September, 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 Thursday and due on 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.
- 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 the homework exercise book we will be providing. This book does not need to be brought into school. Sparx has a "bookwork checks" system to help students form this habit.
- Every question in Sparx has a support video attached to that your child can get help independently.
- Your child will be shown how to log onto the Sparx maths website in their maths class. There is a student and parents' guide accompanying this letter outlining this in case they forget. If they forget or lose their log in, they can reset it themselves following the prompts on the screen.
- A parent's guide to Sparx maths can be found using this link: <https://sparxmaths.com/parents/>

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.

How much homework will your child be expected to complete?

- Following the revised whole school homework policy, Year 7 students will be expected to complete 3 x 20-minute maths homework sessions per week on SPARX. If your child wishes to complete these all at once or spread them across the week before hand in date, they are welcome to choose.
- Homework completion means that your child has completed all tasks set with 100% pass rate. If students get a question incorrect, they are guided how to correct it and then complete it again. As such 100% pass rate is attainable for all. If students manage this in a shorter time that the 3 x 20 minute expected independent learning tasks are available to them. Tasks set are designed to fit the timeframe with ease.
- Your child's maths teacher can see what has been attempted, how long has been spent in total, activity levels in this time, strengths and areas for support back in class.

What support is available at Lacon Childe School?

- Weekly homework support is available each Tuesday in an IT room. Students can come and get help or complete part of their homework ahead of the Tuesday completion date if they have been struggling at home. Members of the maths department will be on hand each week to help.
- Encourage your child to speak to their maths teacher or come to myself in room 2 if they are experiencing a problem, or you may wish to contact them yourself via email.

During w/c 16th September all students will be shown by their maths teacher how the system works and how to log on. During this first week, student's homework is to create an account and log into it and complete the two simple homework tasks allocated. These have been purposefully set as very easy tasks so that students can focus on navigating the system and the bookwork. Homework will be set formally from the following week, with us spending the first week ensuring students are confident.

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 me via email - ailsa.harding@laconchildeschool.co.uk.

Kind regards

Ailsa Harding

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The Shropshire Gateway Educational Trust

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