

Dear Parent/ Carer,

We're excited to let you know that we've partnered with Sparx to start using their new reading platform, Sparx Reader. From **Monday 8th January 2023** your child will be using Sparx Reader to complete weekly homework.

The ability to read is a fundamental life skill and essential for full participation in society and the world of work. As an Academy we recognise the significant impact that secure literacy and reading skills have on the progress and outcomes of students. Reading is arguably the most crucial literacy skill, for cross-curricular success in secondary school.

Sparx Reader helps every student to achieve regular independent reading, which is incredibly important for building vital literacy skills.

Students can choose from a range of ebooks at their appropriate level and as they read, they'll answer questions to check they're reading carefully. Careful readers earn points meaning they can track their progress and climb the league table!

Motivated readers who demonstrate consistent, careful reading can unlock Gold Reader. This means they can read any paper book from the library or from home by scanning in its barcode.

How do they log in?

- Students log in at sparxreader.com. They will need to find their school and log in using their Sparx Maths details.

What devices are supported?

- Your child can access Sparx Reader on any device that connects to the internet with a web browser.

How can I support my child with their reading?

- Sparx Reader adapts to each student's reading level, so it's important that you **don't** help by answering questions for them. If you help them, Sparx Reader might think they're a very strong reader and show them books that are too difficult.



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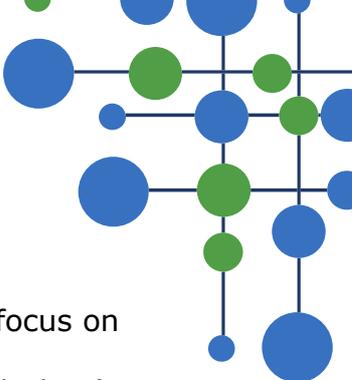
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- You can however help to provide a quiet space for your child to focus on their reading homework each week.
 - The best way to support your child is to ask them about the book they're reading; what aspects they're enjoying, or what characters and events they've recently read about.

How can I monitor the reading my child is doing?

- You are able to keep track of the reading your child is doing by clicking through the link to the Parent Portal in your Sparx Maths weekly homework email.
- On the Parent Portal, you can choose to view homework progress for any Sparx learning system your child is using. For Sparx Reader, you can see progress with the current and previous homework, and browse books that your child has been reading as part of their current homework.

What support is available at Thornhill Community Academy?

- The library is open at break, lunchtime and after school until 4pm for homework to be completed
- Homework can be completed on any device that has access to the internet

Reading interventions may include, but are not limited to:

- Fresh Start Phonics 5x per week – small group or 1:1
- Lexia PowerUp
- Intensive EMA intervention to support children new to the country to acquire English language.
- In class support via an Academic Mentor
- Small group or Individual literacy intervention lessons
- 1:1 or small group reading

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Pringle via the school's contact number: [01924 324890](tel:01924324890)

Kind regards,

Mrs Pringle (KS3 English Coordinator)