



Abbot Beyne School  
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# Education Evening

Thursday 3rd October 2024

# Plan for this evening



- Introduction and welcome from Mr Tickle, Headteacher
- Introduction to the iPad and Showbie from Mr Holden, Assistant Headteacher
- Introduction to Sparx Maths from Mrs Sutcliffe, Head of Maths
- Introduction to Sparx Reader from Miss Bithell - Head of English
- Knowledge organiser introduction from Mr Tickle, Headteacher
- Any final questions
- Close

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# Mission



## **Mission:**

Our mission is to deliver an outstanding level of education whilst maintaining the students' best interests at our core.

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Abbot Beyne School

# Respectful Responsible Resilient

Our values are held by all members of our school community.



## Respectful

- Showing respect towards all staff, being polite and following instructions first time
- Showing respect towards each other, respecting our similarities, our differences and above all being kind to one another
- Showing respect towards our environment, our school, our community and our planet



## Responsible

- Taking responsibility for everyone's safety, including our own
- Taking responsibility by doing our best and completing our work and homework to the highest possible standard
- Taking responsibility by being on time for school and lessons with the correct uniform and equipment



## Resilient

- Demonstrating resilience by attending school every day
- Demonstrating resilience by not giving up, especially when things seem difficult
- Demonstrating resilience by accepting mistakes, reflecting on them and improving next time

# Learning and Teaching



## Our teachers

- Know their subjects inside out and have a passion for teaching that subject
- Use a range of research based best practices that enable students to learn effectively
- Build good relationships with students to enable them to learn effectively
- Instil effective routines for learning that support all students to achieve
- Use technology to support and stretch students while enriching their learning experiences

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# Apple Distinguished Status



- Since 2018 we have been designated as an Apple Distinguished School (redesignated September 2021 and again in September 2024).
- We are described by Apple as ‘a centre of innovation, leadership and educational excellence that use mobile technology to inspire creativity, collaboration and critical thinking.’

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# Showbie and the iPad



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# Sparx Maths

[www.sparxmaths.uk](http://www.sparxmaths.uk)



## What exactly is Sparx Maths Homework?

- Sparx homework is tailored to your child, and should offer them just the right level of challenge, based on the topics that their teacher has set.
- Homework contains 3 elements: Compulsory, Optional and Target.
- All questions in the Compulsory section must be answered correctly for the homework to be marked as complete.
- Each task bar will show as green when fully complete. For the homework to be classed as complete, all task bars for that homework need to be fully green. The percentage of homework complete will show on the menu page:

The screenshot displays the Sparx Homework interface. At the top, the header shows 'sparx Homework', '44 XP', 'Y7-Demo Student 13', and a 'MENU' button. On the left sidebar, there are three categories: 'Compulsory' (3 new, 1 started), 'Optional' (4 new), and 'Target' (None available). The main content area features a blue banner with a message: 'You must correctly answer all these questions before we consider your homework to be complete and ready to be handed in. Your compulsory homework contains questions around the topic(s) set by your teacher, plus a smaller number of revision questions and questions around topics that you've recently covered. The questions are tailored to your level of understanding.' Below this, a section titled 'Homework due Monday 25th May' shows a progress bar at 17%. A table lists five tasks: 'Homework Task 1' is 'Completed' (green bar), while 'Homework Task 2' through 'Homework Task 5' are 'New' (orange bars).

Task Name	Progress	Status
Homework Task 1	100%	Completed
Homework Task 2	0%	New
Homework Task 3	0%	New
Homework Task 4	0%	New
Homework Task 5	0%	New

# Why are there bookwork checks, and how do they work?

**We believe that a good standard of bookwork is very important in helping students to embed good practice, and to help them and their teachers to keep track of any misconceptions.**

- In Sparx, every question is accompanied by a 'bookwork code'.
- Your child should write this down, and then write their workings and answer next to the code.
- When they are asked for the answer they gave for a particular bookwork code, they need to give the exact answer they wrote down, even if it was wrong.

- Here's an example of good bookwork; as you can see all workings and wrong answers have been recorded:

<u>Task 1</u>			
D40	$12 + 13 = \underline{\underline{25}}$ ✓	E41	$P(\text{yellow}) = \frac{3}{6}$ ✗
E50	$4 \times 3 + 2 \times 5 =$ $12 + 10 = \underline{\underline{22}}$ ✓	F51	$P(\text{black}) = \frac{4}{8}$ $= \frac{1}{2}$ ✓
F60	$\left( \begin{array}{l} 12 : 18 \\ \div 6 \end{array} \right) \div 6$ $\underline{\underline{2 : 3}}$ ✓	<u>Task 2</u>	
H70	$\frac{1}{14} + \frac{1}{7} = \frac{1}{\underline{\underline{21}}}$ ✗	G61	All the marbles are green The probability of choosing a purple marble is <u>impossible</u> ✓
J90	$\frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{8} + \frac{2}{8}$		

**If a student receives too much assistance with their homework, Sparx may think they're able to tackle more difficult questions and their work could get harder. To prevent this, always encourage them to attempt the question first and to watch the support video before getting help.**

## How can I support my child when they're stuck?

- Even if your child thinks they will answer incorrectly, they should make the first attempt on a question without assistance. This will enable the teacher to see what they are working on, and also helps Sparx and School correctly determine their level.
- Each question is accompanied by a help video. Watching the video with your child is a great way to support and encourage them with the question.
- If your child gets a question wrong three times, Sparx will suggest they seek help.
- The teacher will also be notified that they need help with this particular question.
- You can also contact the child's teacher for help using the school's normal communication channels.
- To help the teacher, we recommend supporting your child in writing down their workings clearly in their book. You can share this with the teacher to help them identify the problem.



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# Sparx Reader



## Sparx Reader

# What is Sparx Reader?



- Sparx Reader is an online reading platform that helps students to practise reading regularly, to set them up for success at secondary school and in life beyond.
- It helps students to improve their reading, comprehension, and vocabulary skills.
- Students will complete Sparx Reader during their English lessons (at Key Stage 3) and for homework.

## Sparx Reader



- 100s of books in their e-library covering reading ages of 6 – 17+. New books are added all of the time.
- Books are chosen to cover a large range of genre covering a diverse range of topics, characters and cultures.
- Students read an entire book, not extracts.

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## Sparx Reader



# Who will do Sparx Reader?

- 
- Our current Year 10 students trialled the program last year and continue this year.
  - Year 7, 8, 9 and 11 have been introduced to Sparx this September and all students should now have completed their baseline test.



## Sparx Reader

# How does it work?



- Initially, students take a baseline test which assesses their understanding of a text and generates a reading age.
- The software will then provide students with appropriate texts for both their reading ability and their age.
- Students are given a couple of books at a time to choose from. Once they have selected a book, it is presented to them a small chunk at a time. After reading, the text disappears from the screen and 4 questions are asked.
- If students do not get the questions right, they are shown the text again and have another chance to answer the questions. They get 3 attempts in total before moving on.
- Getting questions right first time rewards students with more SRP and as their homework is to achieve 300 SRP a week, it is in their best interests to slow down, read carefully and get the questions right on their first try.



## Sparx Reader

# How does it work?



- At the end of the reading session, students have to opportunity to rate the difficulty of the book, and to say how much they're enjoying it. Please encourage your child to rate their enjoyment of the book as it creates an algorithm and the program will be able to determine which books they like and offer them similar ones.
- Once a book is complete, the program assesses their accuracy and will alter the difficulty of the new books offered in line with this. If your child read well, they'll get another book offering of the same difficulty or harder. If they struggled, the next book options may be slightly easier.



## Sparx Reader

# Why do we think it will help?

- With 30 - 40 minutes of homework time per week students will arguably be reading more quality texts.
- Students' comprehension of what they're reading should improve, along with their ability to retain knowledge.
- Students' vocabulary should improve along with an ability to write more accurately.
- Students should have a wider knowledge and understanding of the world around them.
- Teachers will be sent weekly reports from Sparx Reader that will enable us to easily monitor progress.





Sparx Reader

## Some misconceptions



- As a rule of thumb, 10 SRP equates to 1 minute of reading.
- Reading quicker or slower does NOT affect how quickly students will gain SRP, it is down to how accurately they answer the questions.
- Lower ability readers will be given smaller chunks of reading to complete before the questions than higher ability readers.

# This is what the students see.

Sparx Reader



This tells students all about their homework – when it's due and how much they've completed.

Here's their all-time SRP total

The screenshot shows the Sparx Reader interface for a student named Pam. At the top, it says "Good evening, Pam" and shows a total of 1,342 SRP. The main dashboard is divided into several sections: "Current Task" with a 100% progress indicator and 477/300 SRP earned; "Previous Tasks" showing 2/2 completed; "Latest book" section featuring the book "PUNCH" by Barbara Henderson with a progress bar and "Start Reading" button; "Unlock Gold Reader" section with a 5-star progress bar and "Go to Gold Reader" button; "Leaderboard" showing a current position of 9th; and "Vocab practice" showing "Last completed" as "Never". A sidebar on the left contains navigation icons for Home, Library, Leaderboard, Vocab, and Gold Reader.

Here is a record of how many of their previous homework tasks they have completed.

Every time a student reads, they earn points towards Gold Reader, where they can choose their own book.

Here is the book the student is currently reading, showing their progress. To continue working, they click here.

They can earn extra SRP by completing Vocabulary tasks each day.

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# Sparx Reader



## Examples of texts.

After students have completed the reading test, they will be assigned a library personalised for them. They will read different books and complete quizzes on each book to gain more points.

As you can see, Sparx work hard to provide books in a range of genres, cultures and reading ages.

Title	Authors	Genres	Book reading age
 A Bridge to the Stars	Henning Mankell	Real life • Adventure • Mystery • Family • Sweden	12.5 years
 A Cake for the Gestapo	Jacqueline King	Historical • World War II • Self-discovery • Friendship • Jersey	14.5 years
 A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens	Classics • Paranormal • Friendship • Family • Social issues • Christmas	17 years
 A Christmas Delivery	Julian Norton	Animals • Real life • Jobs	9 years
 A Ghost in the Castle	Abi Clark	Mystery • Paranormal	6 years
 A Good Day for Climbing Trees	Jaco Jacobs	Real life • Friendship • Activism • South Africa	10.5 years
 A Good Night for Shooting Zombies	Jaco Jacobs	Real life • Friendship • Loss • Art • South Africa	12 years

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## Completing a lesson



< Sparx Reader 496 SRP

Start reading here

Noah carried on.

A figure came into sight. She came from between the trees behind his house. She looked at him, then turned and ran through the grass away from him. He followed slowly.

His mind was whirling. He was following an actual fairy through the grass. And she wasn't at all what he'd pictured. He thought they'd be small, winged creatures with

She stopped up ahead in the waist-high grass, and Noah held back. He opened his sketchbook and crept slowly forwards, keeping low to the ground.

There were more now. Noah crawled until he could see them through the blades of grass. Two boys and a girl. They were covered in flowers and sat together on a flattened patch of grass. Noah stayed hidden. He placed his sketchbook on the damp grass in front of him and started to draw what he saw.

Pointed ears, large eyes, torn clothing, flowers and tangled hair. His pencil scratched across the page rapidly. Until he looked up again and saw they were watching him. All three of them smiled.

Stop reading here

I have read up to here

Once a student's clicked 'start reading', they're given a chunk of reading to read CAREFULLY. If they try to skip it, the program knows and will make them read it again!

Once they've finished reading, they click the box at the bottom. This page will disappear and they'll get 4 questions.





## Completing a lesson

Q1. Noah got up and ran. What did he do while getting up?

Not in story

Tripped on a thick root

Dropped his pencil and sketchbook

Pulled some wire out of his pocket

Screamed in surprise and fear

There is a countdown timer at the top – they have to answer before the green bar runs out.

They are asked a question and have a choice of answers, including 'not in story'.

If you get the answers right, you move on to the next section of text. If you get them wrong, you get 2 additional attempts to read and answer the questions.

For attempt 2 and 3, the text is left of the screen alongside the questions and, for attempt 3, the questions are easier.

BUT...remember... you get far more SRP for completing the questions on the first attempt!



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# Knowledge organisers

# Homework and knowledge organisers - why we changed?



- Ensure homework is consistent
- Ensure all students complete their homework
- Ensure students understand the value of homework
- Develop effective revision strategies

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## Knowledge organiser

A Keywords		
1	Homework	Homework will either be completed on the iPad or will be to learn part of a knowledge organiser.
2	Knowledge organiser	Knowledge organisers have all of the key terms and definitions for a unit of work.
3	Key terms	Key terms are the words or phrases students need to learn.
4	Definition	A definition is the meaning of the key term.
5	Unit of work	A unit of work is the topic that students are currently studying in a particular subject.
6	Knowledge organiser book	Students will use the same knowledge organiser book for all of their subjects
7	Space	Students should not leave any spaces or lines empty on the page in their knowledge organiser book.
8	LCWC	Students will use the look, cover, write, check method to learn the knowledge organiser.
9	How to memorise	Students can try reading it out loud, saying it back to themselves or using a ruler.
10	Testing	Students will be tested in class on what they have learnt from the knowledge organiser.

B Using a knowledge organiser		
1	Step 1	Students should find a quiet place to work, free from distractions and place their mobile phone in a different room.
2	Step 2	Students need to ensure they have their iPad and knowledge organiser book, two different coloured pens, a cover and a ruler.
3	Step 3	On a new page, on the top line, write the subject title and date and underline these.
4	Step 4	Look - spend a few minutes trying to memorise the section of the knowledge organiser.
5	Step 5	Cover - cover the right hand column of the section you have just learnt.
6	Step 6	Write - put the number, then write the first term and the definition.
7	Step 7	Check (in a different coloured pen) - uncover the first definition and tick it if it is correct. Make any corrections on spellings or grammar.
8	Step 8	Write - put the number, then write the second term and the definition.
9	Step 9	Check - uncover the second definition and tick it if it is correct. Make any corrections.
10	Step 10	Repeat this process until you have completed a full page of the knowledge organiser book.

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## A Knowledge organiser



1	Homework	Homework will either be completed on an app on the iPad or to learn part of a knowledge organiser.
2	Knowledge organiser	Knowledge organisers have all of the key terms and definitions for a unit of work.
3	Key terms	Key terms are the words or phrases students need to learn.

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# Knowledge organisers - how to use them



- All students will have a knowledge organiser exercise book
- Students will 'Look, Cover, Write, Check' in their self-quizzing books
- Look / study the knowledge organiser to begin with
- Cover it up
- Write as much as they can (exactly)
- Check and make corrections if necessary

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## Knowledge organiser

4/9/23

- 1) Homework - Homework will either be completed on an app on the iPad or learn part of a Knowledge organiser. ✓
- 2) Knowledge organiser - Knowledge organisers have <sup>all of</sup> the key terms and definitions for a unit of work. ✓
- 3) Key terms - Key terms are the words of ~~phases~~ <sup>phrases</sup> students need to learn.

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# Showbie code - Y9K4Z

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# Optimum learning conditions



- Quiet place to work
- Free from distractions
- Phone in another room
- Be present and attentive

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# Year 7 Homework



Maths and English - 60 minutes per week

Science after half term - 40 minutes per week

French after half term - 40 minutes per week

Onward Together after Christmas - 20 minutes per week

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# How do we check students have completed their homework?



- When they come into a lesson, they should open their knowledge organiser book on the relevant page (we will check the dates) and their teacher will check the page is complete.
- Students who have not completed their homework are given a detention (for the first few weeks we monitor this and not necessarily issue detentions)

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# Good homework routines



- Same time every night?
- What about weekends?
- What about breaks and rewards?
- How will they monitor if they have homework and when it is due?

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Any questions?