



THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Part of The Good Shepherd Catholic Trust

24th May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are excited to inform you that from Monday 5th June 2023, 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 will be given details on which day the homework will be set and due 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 **personalised 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 their workbooks**. Sparx has a "bookwork checks" system to help students form this habit.
- Every question in Sparx has a support video attached so that your child can get help independently.
- Students can also use Sparx to complete extra **boost** and **target** questions based on the homework set and also complete **independent learning on any topic at any level**
- Students will gain Experience XP points for each compulsory homework and extra points on boost/target/independent work completed. Half termly rewards will be linked to this.

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, at least 50% of the task set must be completed within the first 3 days** 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.

What support is available at The Palmer Catholic Academy?

- Students will have access to a computer **room (IT4) from 3.20-4.20 as follows; week 1 year 7 & 8 and week 2 year 9 & 10**
- Students can get help from their Maths teacher after watching the videos linked to the homework
- There will be a Sparx section on the academy's website that will have a FAQs page answering queries about why bookwork checks and 100% completion are important

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 Maths teacher.

Yours faithfully

Mrs M Sharma
Head of Mathematics