

Dear Families,

At Dixons Newall Green, our mission is to provide your child with a first-class education that opens doors to future opportunities, and one of the key ways we support this is through home learning using our two approaches: **Sparx** and **Read, Cover, Write, Check**.

Sparx

We are excited to inform you that your child will be using Sparx Learning to complete their weekly homework for Maths, Reading and Science.

Sparx provides highly personalised homework to students, tailored to their individual attainment level and working speed. Students receive immediate feedback for each question about whether their answer was correct or they need to have another try. They earn rewards via XP and/or SRP for completion and effort.

To log in to the following websites, students need to enter their school and their username and password. Sparx Learning can be accessed on any device that connects to the internet with a web browser.

Sparx Maths: www.sparxmaths.com

Sparx Reader: www.sparxreader.com

Sparx Science: www.sparxscience.com

We understand how important your child's success is to you. Below, you'll find information about each platform, along with practical advice on how you can support them to complete their homework each week.

Sparx Maths

Your child's homework will be set on Tuesday and due in on Tuesday every week.

Teachers will set topics for homework that have recently been covered in class and this will consolidate their learning.

- Each Sparx Maths question includes a support video, helping your child find the guidance they need on their own. This ensures they always have the tools to succeed.
- While homework is accessed and answered online, children should record their work in a workbook. Sparx Maths includes '*Bookwork checks*' to encourage students to develop this habit.
- Students also have the autonomy to further develop their mathematical knowledge if they desire, via the 'Independent Learning' section of the platform.
- Homework will only be marked complete when 100% of the compulsory questions are answered correctly
- You can also find out more about Sparx Maths on the dedicated parent page - www.sparxmaths.com/parents

If you have any questions, please contact Ms Scully at rscully@dixonsng.com



Sparx Reader

Your child's homework will be set on Wednesday and due in on Wednesday every week.

Students choose from a range of age-appropriate ebooks at their reading level and, as they read, they will answer questions to check that they are reading carefully.

- Motivated readers who demonstrate consistent, careful reading can unlock '*Gold Reader*'. This means they can read any book of their choice and log their reading by scanning the book's barcode within Sparx Reader.
- Sparx Reader reassures teachers and parents that focused and careful reading is taking place, and that readers of all abilities feel successful and motivated.
- Homework will only be marked complete when the Sparx Reader Points target has been met
- You can also find out more about Sparx Reader on the dedicated parent page - www.sparxreader.com/parents

If you have any questions, please contact Ms Russell at krussell@dixonsng.com

Sparx Science

Your child's homework will be set on Thursday and due in on Thursday every week.

- Assigned homework will mostly focus on topics recently covered in class, along with consolidation questions on previously covered topics to embed prior learning.
- Every Sparx Science question has support available, helping your child find the guidance they need on their own. This ensures they always have the tools to succeed.
- Students also have the autonomy to further develop their scientific knowledge if they desire, via the 'Independent Learning' section of the platform.
- Homework will only be marked complete when 100% of the questions are answered correctly
- Find out more about Sparx Science here: sparxscience.com

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Cobain at ccobain@dixonsng.com

Read Cover Write Check

At Dixons Newall Green Academy we use the process of Read / Cover/ Write/ Check to support learning at home. We use this method for English, History, Geography, Spanish and Mandarin.

It is essential that when students are learning through Read / Cover/ Write/ Check they are working in a silent environment free from distractions so they can focus their attention on what they are learning. If they can do this, information they are learning will move into your child's working memory and if it goes into their working memory enough times it will be in the long-term memory. Only when information/knowledge is in your long-term memory have you learned it.

Students work in Silent Independent Mode

Students read up to four chunks of information from their knowledge organiser.

They cover it with their planner/ pencil case/ book

They try to write it down accurately from memory (integrity)

They check against their knowledge organiser and correct errors and fill gaps in green pen

Repeat until they can write the information down accurately.



The process

- Look at the first bullet point or sentence
- Read through it three to five times
- Cover with your planner
- Write it out exactly as it was in your knowledge organiser
- Remove your planner and pick up your green pen
- Check what you wrote and tick if correct
- Make corrections in green pen so it is exactly as in your knowledge organiser.
- Repeat
- When you get it 100% right, move on to the next chunk of information

The testing effect

Once your child has completed look cover write check please test them on what they have learned. You can support your child to remember 50% more of what they have studied if you test them after they have revised.

Students should complete a page of their Read Cover Write Check booklet (unless 1/2 page is specified), with no gaps, clearly labelled with their names. This will be shown to advisors on the days indicated below.

Day	Subject	Type
Monday	Geography and History	RCWC in homework booklet (1/2 side of A4 of each subject)
Tuesday	Maths	Sparx Maths
Wednesday	English	Sparx Reader
Thursday	Science	Sparx Science Stretch project
Friday	English (1/2 page) Spanish odd weeks (1/2 page) Mandarin even weeks (1/2 page)	RCWC in homework booklet

How can you help your child with their homework?

- Provide a quiet space for your child to focus on their homework, with minimal distractions.
- Encourage your child to start their homework early.
- Please let them attempt questions independently. Sparx Learning will automatically adjust the level of questions provided based on your child's answers.
- If your school has parent emails enabled, keep track of your child's progress within their homework by checking the weekly email sent to you from Sparx.
- Encourage your child to use homework club where they can complete Sparx on a computer. This can be easier than on a mobile phone with a small screen!

What support is available at Dixons Newall Green?

- Homework club is available every day in the IT suite.
- There will be scheduled Family Forums to focus on homework support scheduled during this half term.
- Drop-in session at Meet the Advisor evening (17 September 4.30-6.00)
- Students will have a correction free period as they are getting used to our new expectations and learning habits (until week beginning 21 September)
- Overview and Knowledge Organisers available on our website
- Weekly recognitions for students completing both Sparx and Read Cover Write Check homework.

Students should speak to their teacher as early as possible if they are struggling with their homework, or feel free to contact us on the email addresses above if you have any ongoing concerns.

Homework is an important learning habit that is essential to all students achieving the best qualifications possible, and this must start in year 7. We rely on our partnership with you as families to ensure all students complete homework each day and are grateful of your continued support.

Whilst year 7 are getting used to our new homework routines there will be no corrections issued for non-completion until Monday 21st September.

Yours sincerely,

Diane McVey