



# Tomlinscote School

September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Whilst many of you are aware we have introduced SPARX maths within the maths department, I wanted to highlight our expectations and provide a little information.

SPARX maths is a home learning tool which requires your child to complete a series of classroom related tasks and has replaced Hegarty Maths nationally. SPARX gathers information from your child's answers to determine how easy they find the work set. The tool gives your child the opportunity to show what they can achieve on their own and will increase the difficulty and frequency of questions to match your child's strengths. If your child answers a question correctly the questions will become more difficult. It is important your child attempts each question on their own first as this attempt is the one which decides on the difficulty level in future. Please feel free to help them after this attempt as your support is always valuable.

If your child is stuck on a question, they must click on the video icon where they can watch the same method applied to a similar question. They must try it on their own before seeking help. If students are still stuck after watching the video, they can ask their teacher for help.

SPARX maths will also email you directly if your child has not yet completed the weekly task set. This email is generated automatically. It has been proven that parental engagement increases student completion, and we believe this to be important. However, if you do not wish to receive these updates then you can update your preferences at the bottom of the email.

Our expectation:

Year 8 and 9 are expected to complete 60 minutes of maths home learning in a week. **Their maths teacher will set SPARX tasks on the designated home learning day (it will go live to pupils at 3pm) and will be reviewed in class the following week.** The expectation is that pupils are to complete their SPARX home learning by 8pm

the day before it is due to be checked in class to allow their teacher time to check through and analyse the results. This gives your child the option of completing their maths home learning on the designated home learning day or the flexibility to fit these tasks around their other work/home commitments. Specific due dates and timings can be found weekly on your child's Google Classroom and Edulink.

We expect students to complete all tasks or complete 60 minutes worth of work. Home learning not done stamps will be issued on Edulink for incomplete work and/or poor effort. Teachers can issue up to two stamps per home learning, e.g. 2 stamps will be issued if nothing/ very little is complete, 1 stamp will be issued if about half has been completed or if only around 30 minutes has been spent on it.

We ask that your child:

1. completes the SPARX task set on time, even if they are absent (although deadlines will be extended if your child has been ill all week)
2. attempts every question
3. watches the video to help their understanding if they struggle with a question (it is expected they will do this)
4. re-attempts the question they were unsure of.

What your child's teacher will see:

- The quantity of work completed by your child.
- The accuracy of your child's answers.
- The time it took your child to complete the set work
- Which videos they watched.
- Each answer given and the number of attempts taken to answer each question.

This information will help identify possible gaps in your child's learning for us to address next lesson.

I hope you will join us in supporting your child's mathematical progress and I look forward to seeing their success in the subject.

Yours sincerely

Mr E Fairley

Head of KS3 Mathematics