Atlantic Academy Portland

A Parent and Student Guide to Sparx Maths

Helping students work independently, show their mathematical thinking and learn from feedback.

What is Sparx Maths?

Sparx Maths is the online platform used for weekly Maths homework. It sets personalised questions, marks work automatically, gives immediate feedback and provides short support videos when students need help.

The key message: Sparx Maths is designed to make students think. A wrong answer is not a failure - it is an opportunity to use feedback, check working and try again.

What are the homework expectations?

Sparx Maths is set weekly and Monday is the Maths homework deadline. Students should work on it during the week rather than leaving the whole task until the deadline.

Weekly expectation
1 hour of purposeful Sparx Maths work

Students log in using the Google option with their school account. Sparx may ask a 'bookwork check' question, so students are encouraged to record their workings carefully enough in their Homework Practice Books to find and use them again.

If one hour is reached: Students should have worked purposefully, attempted questions and used the available support. If they are repeatedly unable to complete their homework within the expected time, please contact the school so that we can support them.

A good Sparx Maths homework routine

Step 1	**SET UP**	Open Sparx Maths, have the Maths practice book and a pen ready, and check the homework due.
Step 2	**SHOW WORKING**	Write the question number and clear mathematical working in the practice book - not just the final answer.
Step 3	**ATTEMPT**	Have a genuine attempt before asking for help. Read the question carefully and avoid guessing.
Step 4	**USE SUPPORT**	If stuck, use the Sparx video or explanation, then return to the question and try it yourself.
Step 5	**CHECK & LEARN**	Use feedback, correct mistakes and keep going purposefully. Make sure bookwork is clear enough for a later check.

How Parents and Carers Can Help

The most useful support is to help your child think - not to do the maths for them.

If your child says, 'I can't do this...'

Try saying: 'Show me what you have tried.' • 'Where is your working?' • 'Which part do you understand?' • 'Could the Sparx video help?' • 'What did the feedback tell you?'

Do...

- Know that Monday is the Maths homework deadline and encourage your child to begin before the last minute.
- Make sure they have their Maths practice book beside them and are recording clear workings.
- Encourage an independent attempt before they use a video or ask for help.
- Ask them to explain how they reached an answer rather than simply asking whether it is correct.
- Praise persistence, careful working and learning from mistakes.
- Contact school if your child is regularly struggling to access or complete the work.

Avoid...

- Giving the answer, completing a calculation for them or taking over the keyboard.
- Allowing workings to be done on scraps of paper that cannot be used for a later bookwork check.
- Turning homework into a race for 100%. The purpose is to think, practise and improve.
- Assuming a wrong answer means the homework is going badly. Productive mistakes are part of learning.

Accessibility and additional needs

Sparx includes video explanations, questions broken into manageable steps and visual mathematical representations. Browser or device accessibility tools may also be helpful where appropriate.

Important: If your child has an additional need and is finding Sparx difficult to access, please contact the school. We can help identify the most appropriate support rather than expecting families to solve access difficulties alone.

Need help?

Maths Lead	Mrs A Bird
School contact	Please use the Pastoral Contact Form on the school website.
Sparx support	Use the Sparx Maths Parent Help pages for technical or platform support.

Final reminder: Encourage effort over perfection. Check that homework is underway and that workings are being recorded, but let your child lead. Independent mathematical thinking is the goal.