



Penistone Grammar School

Never Stop Flying

Principal: Mr P Crook (B.Ed Hons)
Huddersfield Road, Penistone, Sheffield, S36 7BX
www.penistone-gs.uk
enquiries@penistone-gs.uk
01226 762114
@PenistoneGS



Achieving Excellence through a Values Driven Education

Dear Parent/Carer

We're excited to let you know that we've partnered with Sparx to start using their new home learning platform, Sparx Reader. This is the same platform that students use for their Maths home Learning, which has proved to be extremely successful.

From Easter your child will be using Sparx Reader to complete their weekly home learning for English. This will replace our current home learning which uses Educake. Sparx Reader helps every student to achieve regular independent reading, which is incredibly important for building vital literacy skills, such as comprehension, reading fluency and expanding vocabulary.

Your child will complete an initial reading assessment in school during an English lesson this half term which will gauge the level of book that is most appropriate for their reading ability. They will also be given a demonstration of how to use Sparx Reader.

Your child's homework will be set on Teams each week as a reminder. It will be set on a Tuesday and will be due on the following Monday each week. Students will access the home learning through sparxreader.com.

Students can choose from a range of ebooks at their appropriate level and as they read, they'll answer questions to check they're reading carefully. Careful readers earn points meaning they can track their progress and climb the league table!

How do they log in?

Students log in at sparxreader.com.

What devices are supported?

Your child can access Sparx Reader on any device that connects to the internet with a web browser, such as a laptop or mobile device.

How can I support my child with their reading?

Sparx Reader adapts to each student's reading level, so it's important that you don't help by answering questions for them. If you help them, Sparx Reader might think they're a very strong reader and show them books that are too difficult.

You can however help to provide a quiet space for your child to focus on their reading homework each week.



Aim High

Be Determined

Be Brave

Be Supportive

Be Proud

The best way to support your child is to ask them about the book they're reading; what aspects they're enjoying, or what characters and events they've recently read about.

How can I monitor the reading my child is doing?

You are able to keep track of the reading your child is doing by clicking through the link to the Parent Portal in your Sparx Maths weekly homework email.

On the Parent Portal, you can choose to view homework progress for any Sparx learning system your child is using. For Sparx Reader, you can see progress with the current and previous homework, and browse books that your child has been reading as part of their current homework.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's English teacher, or alternatively email Mrs Mann at smann@penistone-gs.uk.

Kind regards,

Mrs Mann

Curriculum Strategic Leader – English

