

Our ref: SCA/set/office/English/sparxreader

27th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Sparx Reader

At Hayes School, we have a strong belief that a love of reading, coupled with academic exposure to challenging texts across the whole curriculum, is central to students’ learning.

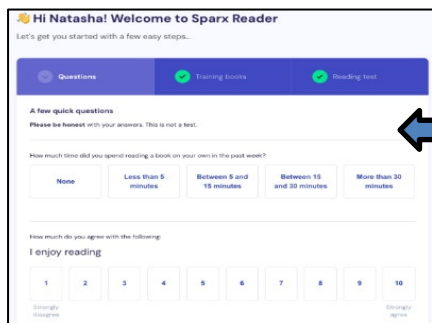
As part of our literacy programme this year, we are trialing Sparx Reader with all Year 7 students and we are delighted that your child will be able to take part in this.

What is Sparx Reader?

Sparx Reader is a reading, comprehension and vocabulary programme that gets all young people reading regularly to help improve their literacy.

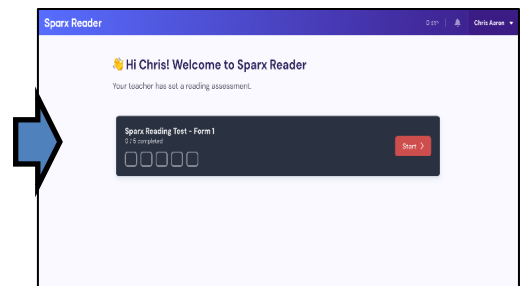
What do we need from you?

Your child will today receive instructions for logging on to Sparx Reader. (This uses the same log-in as the one used for Sparx Maths.)



When students log in, they will be asked to complete a couple of short questions about their current reading habits. It's important that the students answer these questions honestly as it helps us to understand where they currently are with their reading and track any improvements they make within Sparx Reader.

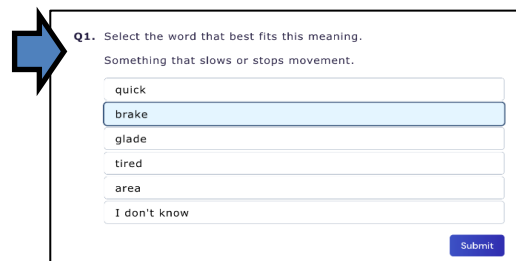
Please could you then ensure that your child completes the initial reading test in circumstances as close to ‘test conditions’ as possible? It should not take more than half an hour. The test, and subsequent reading tasks, can be accessed via phone, tablet or computer. Again, the more accurately this test is completed, the more successfully we’ll be able to track your child’s reading progress this year.



A company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales with number 07697400
Registered office: Hawksbrook Lane, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham. BR3 3BE

Cont/.....

This is an example of what your child may see when taking the test:



Q1. Select the word that best fits this meaning.
Something that slows or stops movement.

quick
brake
glade
tired
area
I don't know

Submit

The next step is for your child to read the training book. This will help your child to understand what reading with Sparx Reader will be like. If you would like to read this with your child, that would be a great help.

Once your child has completed the initial questions, the Sparx Reading Test and the training book, s/he will be able to access Sparx Reader and choose his/her first book:

Weekly reading homework

Your child will be expected to spend at least half an hour each week reading a book s/he enjoys. At first, these books will be e-books, drawing from Sparx's large library of books that cater for students of different ability levels, right up to sixth form. Once a certain number of Sparx Reader Points (SRPs) have been accumulated, your child can start adding his/her own books to the app, meaning s/he can choose to read electronically or more traditionally with paper books. Students will be able to earn SRPs, which will be converted into House Points. There will be individual commendations and prizes as well as house prizes and certificates.

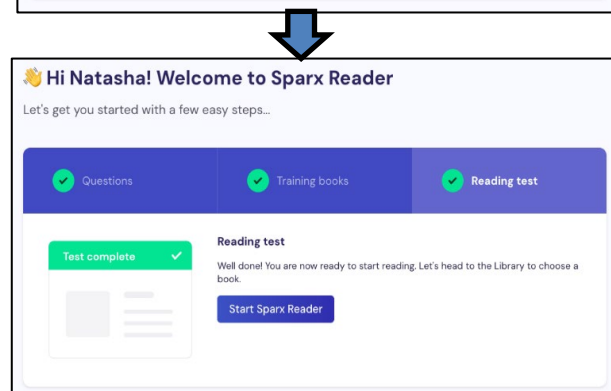
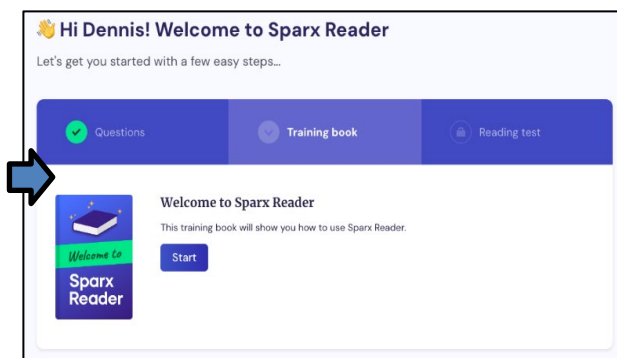
My child struggles with reading

Whatever the reason for a child struggling with reading, whether it's problems with vocabulary or problems with decoding the letters on the page, Sparx Reader is designed to be supportive and accessible. Fonts and backgrounds can be changed, and there are coloured reading rulers. Vocabulary is explained in a context-specific way to help students understand the meaning of a word as it's being used in that particular sentence in that particular text. Those students with lower reading ages will be able to earn as many SRPs as students who find reading much easier, and can get as many house points as anyone else. This should be an exciting year for students who struggle with reading as they get access to quality texts that are challenging but accessible and enjoyable.

Yours faithfully



Ms S C Alexander
Leader of Literacy Across the Curriculum
SCA@hayes.bromley.sch.uk



A company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales with number 07697400
Registered office: Hawksbrook Lane, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham. BR3 3BE

