THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

An Ofsted Graded Good School

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7th October 2026

Dear Parent / Carer,

Sparx Reader Platform

We are excited to inform you that we are now using a platform called Sparx Reader. For Years 7–11, Sparx Reader will become the main source of English homework at KS3 and will also be used alongside GCSE content at KS4.

Why is reading important?
Reading is one of the most important things your child can do to support their education. Regular reading helps students to:

- improve their concentration and focus
- develop their vocabulary
- improve their comprehension skills
- experience different people, places and perspectives
- become more confident and successful readers

For these reasons, we have chosen to prioritise reading as our weekly English homework.

Sparx Reader provides personalised reading activities, allowing students to choose from a range of age-appropriate eBooks matched to their reading level. As they read, students answer questions to check their understanding and demonstrate that they are reading carefully. Students earn Sparx Reader Points (SRPs) for their reading and are rewarded for careful reading.

All students have been given a weekly target of 300 SRPs, which equates to approximately 30 minutes of careful reading. Your child's Sparx Reader homework will be set every Monday and will be due the following Monday each week.

Students can access Sparx Reader at sparxreader.com on any device with an internet connection and a web browser. They can log in using their school username and password or by selecting 'Login with Google'.

We have been using Sparx Reader within KS3 Library lessons since the start of the year, and all students (KS3 and KS4) have now completed their initial reading test. This ensures that Sparx can provide reading material and questions at an appropriate level for each student.

How can you support your child?
You can help your child by:

- providing a quiet place where they can read without distractions
- encouraging them to complete their homework early rather than leaving it until the deadline
- allowing them to attempt questions independently
- asking them about the book they are reading and encouraging them to talk about it
- checking their weekly progress where parent emails from Sparx are enabled

The Buckingham School is committed to ensure that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to finance@buckinghamschool.org, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.

You can find further information for parents at www.sparxreader.com/parents.

What support is available at The Buckingham School?
A dedicated homework club is available in the LRC until 4:30pm, Monday–Thursday.

If your child is struggling to complete their weekly reading target, please contact their English teacher before the homework deadline so that we can provide support.

We expect all students to engage with this important weekly reading homework. If a student does not complete their homework, they will be issued a B3 homework detention, where they will have the opportunity to complete the required reading.

If you have any questions about Sparx Reader or your child's reading homework, please contact their main English teacher.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs S Merrick
Curriculum Leader, English
smerrick@buckinghamschool.org

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