



## **St Ivo Academy**

High Leys, St Ives, Cambs PE27 6RR

Tel: 01480 375400

office@astreastivo.org

www.astreastivo.org

**Principal:** Tony Meneagh

### **Sparx Reader**

Dear Parent / Carer,

Following the success of Sparx Maths, the English Department will be introducing Sparx Reader starting this year, and wanted to let you know a little bit about it; this will be how KS3 pupils (Years 7, 8, and 9) complete homework for English moving forwards. Sparx is an exciting online platform that offers every student a personalised reading journey.

We know that you want to support your child's reading progress, so we've put together this letter to explain how Sparx works, and why it is important to make sure English homework is 100% completed.

#### **How does Sparx homework work?**

In their English lessons, pupils will complete a reading test on Sparx Reader, assessing pupils' vocabulary knowledge, reading speed, and comprehension skills. The test will adapt itself based on each pupils' answers in order to find their level. The test will then provide a selection of books for each pupil based off this; pupils will choose one to read. The books are designed to be achievable whilst offering the stretch pupils need to make progress with their reading. Pupils are given questions after reading sections of their book, thereby testing their comprehension and allowing them to earn Sparx points.

Each week, pupils will be set a certain number of Sparx points to achieve on their reading; this is detail by how long they have spent reading, how much, and how many comprehension questions they have answered. More challenging books will be offered as your child progresses with their reading skills.

Sparx also provides vocabulary tasks, which pupils can also complete to improve their spelling and widen their vocabulary.

#### **What is Gold Reader?**

Students who are doing additional reading on top of their compulsory homework will be rewarded for this with gold stars. Once they reach 5 gold stars, students are awarded a Gold Reader pass which lasts for 5 weeks. Conscientious students can retain their pass indefinitely if they continue to do additional e-book reading, earning their 5 gold stars during the 5-week pass. When a student is awarded a Gold Reader pass they can read a physical book of their choice. They choose a book and then add this to their Gold Reader library. Students can earn Sparx points by successfully reading through Gold Reader and do this as part of their homework.

#### **SEND Accessibility**

Sparx Reader has the following accessibility arrangements to support all readers:

- Dyslexia-friendly fonts pupils can choose from
- A mouse-controlled reading ruler
- A variety of background colours

- A manual teacher override – if a pupil is struggling with the book Sparx Reader has assigned to them (or finds it too easy), teachers can manually change their reading level to reflect this and make the books accessible for the pupil.

### **Our Aim With Sparx Reader**

We intend to use Sparx Reader not only to increase pupils' reading abilities, but also expose them to a wider range of books, accessible through their computers, phones, and our Resource Centre. We want to encourage pupils to read, raising enjoyment. If a pupil doesn't like reading, it is simply because they haven't found the right book yet.

Kind regards,

Miss Amy Noon (she/her)

Year 7 and 8 English Coordinator