

Headteacher: Mr D. Whales | Chair of Governors: Mr A. Brown

26<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

In January, we launched **Sparx Reader**, and we're really pleased with how well students have taken to it, especially in terms of engagement with reading and improving on their comprehension.

### Why Reading Matters

At Ken Stimpson Academy, we are committed to giving students the very best chances of success in school and beyond. Developing strong reading habits early on is one of the most important ways to help students thrive. That's why reading is one of our top priorities.

Here are just some of the reasons why reading is so important:

- 1. Boosts Academic Performance**  
Students who read regularly tend to perform better across all subjects—not just English. Reading improves comprehension in science, history, and even maths.
- 2. Improves Vocabulary and Communication**  
Reading exposes students to a wider vocabulary, helping them express themselves more clearly in both writing and speech—essential for exams, interviews, and everyday life.
- 3. Builds Critical Thinking**  
Reading encourages students to evaluate ideas, form opinions, and analyse information—skills that are crucial for future studies and the workplace.
- 4. Strengthens Mental Health**  
Reading can be a calming activity that helps reduce stress and anxiety. It fosters empathy and provides a healthy escape from everyday pressures.
- 5. Increases Focus and Concentration**  
In a world full of distractions, reading helps students develop stronger focus and attention spans—important for classroom learning and revision.
- 6. Encourages Lifelong Learning**  
Students who read for pleasure are more likely to become independent learners, curious thinkers, and lifelong readers—traits that support long-term success.
- 7. Supports Future Career Opportunities**  
Strong literacy skills are key in almost every career path. Reading develops the comprehension, communication, and problem-solving skills that employers value.

### Sparx Reader Homework Detentions

Detentions for students who do not complete their **Sparx Reader homework**. These detentions will begin the week starting **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of October**. For clarity, this will be from Homework set on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October and due in on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Therefore, it is important that students resolve any issues prior to this date.

### **Sparx Reader Homework Schedule:**

- Homework is set every Wednesday\* and is due the following Tuesday with a deadline of 10pm. (\*This will also be the same for Sparx Maths and Sparx Science).

Headteacher: Damien Whales, Ken Stimpson Academy is a school within the Four Cs Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)

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Registered office: Helpston Road, Glington, Peterborough, PE6 7JX



The Quality in Careers Standard >>>>



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- Students are expected to achieve a minimum of 200 Sparx Reader points (in most cases).
- If a student does not meet this requirement for Sparx Reader, a **30-minute after-school detention** will be scheduled for **Thursday**.
- Parents will be notified by text message.

#### Escalation for Missed Detentions:

- If a student fails to attend the Thursday detention, it will be **upgraded to a 45-minute after-school detention** the following **Tuesday**.
- Failure to attend the Tuesday detention will result in the student being placed in our **Internal Exclusion Unit (IEU)** for the day, until **4:00 pm**.

#### Sparx Reader Reminders:

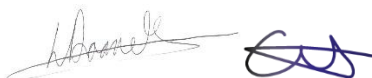
- Students should log in at [sparxreader.com](https://sparxreader.com).
- They can sign in by selecting their school and using their Sparx Maths login or by clicking "Log in to Sparx using Microsoft" and using their usual school IT credentials.
- Sparx Reader can be accessed on any internet-connected device with a web browser.
- On the Parent Portal, you can track your child's progress on Sparx Reader and other Sparx Learning platforms. This includes viewing completed and pending homeworks and browsing the books your child has read as part of their assignments.

#### How You Can Support at Home:

- Provide a quiet space and regular time each week for your child to complete their reading homework.
- In addition to Sparx Reader homework, encourage your child to read for 20 minutes daily—whether it's books, comics, or articles they enjoy.
- Talk to your child about what they're reading—ask about the plot, characters, and what they think.
- Consider visiting the library together to discover new books and authors.

A love of reading starts early—help your child turn the page on a brighter future.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr L. Donnelly and Mrs C. Read**

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