



September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

SPARX Reader Years 7, 8 and 9

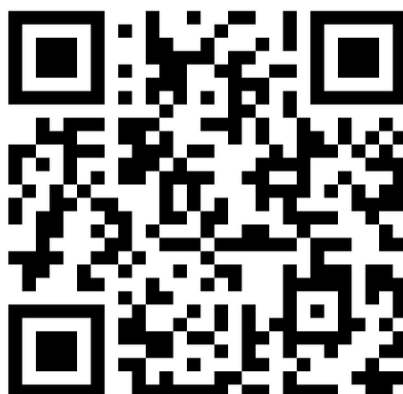
We're excited to let you know that we've partnered with Sparx Learning to start using their new reading platform, Sparx Reader, for all Year 7, 8, and 9 students. Year 8 trialled the system last term and it was very successful.

It's really important to us that young people are able to practice careful, silent reading for a decent amount of time, without distraction. Sparx Reader reassures us as teachers and parents that focused reading is happening, and that readers of all abilities feel successful and motivated.

From Wednesday 24th September 2025, your child will be using Sparx Reader to complete weekly home learning. They are expected to read for at least 30 minutes per week to achieve their target of 300 Sparx Reader Points. It is designed to suit their reading ability, so careful reading (not rushing) achieves the best results.

Your child's home learning will be set on Wednesday and is due on Tuesday night every week. Students can choose from an appropriate range of eBooks at their reading level and as they read, they'll answer questions to check they're reading carefully. Careful readers earn points, meaning they can prove they've been focusing and ultimately climb the league table!

Motivated readers who demonstrate consistent, careful reading can unlock Gold Reader. This means they can read any paper book from the Library or from home by scanning in its barcode. We encourage you to watch a series of short videos, explaining what Sparx Reader is and how it works, available at <https://sparxreader.com/parents/> or by scanning this QR code:



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Minsthorpe Lane, South Elmsall, West Yorkshire, WF9 2UJ T. 01977 657600 E. enquiries@minsthorpe.cc **minsthorpe.cc**

Principals Mark Gilmore & Rachael Merritt



How do they log in?

- Students log in at sparxreader.com. They will need to find their school and log in using their name, date of birth, and a username will be generated for them. They can then set their own memorable password. It is important that students write this information down and keep it safe. A simple password is easier to remember: eg. ABC123
- If they forget it, they need to click 'Forgotten password' and the system will send a message to their teacher, asking them to activate a reset. Then the student needs to create a simple password again. Years 9 students can use the same password as their Sparx Maths password, so it is easier to remember.

Which devices are supported?

- Your child can access Sparx Reader on any device that connects to the internet with a web browser. (Eg, phone, laptop, tablet, desktop computer.) Students do not have to complete the reading in one session, they can spread it out over the week.

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 help by providing a quiet space and a set amount of time for your child to focus on their reading home learning each week.
- The best way to support your child is to ask them about the book they're reading; which aspects they're enjoying, which characters and events they've recently read about or what they think could happen next.

How can I monitor the reading my child is doing?

- You are able to keep track of your child's reading by clicking through the link to the Parent Portal in your Sparx Maths weekly home learning 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 home learning and browse books that your child has been reading as part of their current home learning.
- When your child finishes their book, we will send you an email celebrating their achievement!

What support is available at Minsthorpe Community College?

- If you do not have any access to the internet at home, students can do their reading at College in the library and on the LRC computers every afternoon.
- Your child will be reminded of the reading expectations every week in English lessons, in P&A time and this will be celebrated in Assemblies. We shall also regularly send text messages as reminders.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Thompson or your child's English teacher.

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Yours sincerely,

S Thompson

Mrs S Thompson
English Literacy Lead

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Mr L Ruston
Associate Assistant Principle

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