



wildernschool

C. Oakley BA Hons PGCE NPQH Headteacher

Wildern Lane  
Hedge End  
Southampton SO30 4EJ  
T: (01489) 783473  
E: wildern@wildern.org

S. Mann CEO

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A warm welcome to your child as they begin their Year 7 Mathematics studies at Wildern School. This initial Key Stage 3 year is designed to build upon the foundational knowledge from Key Stage 2 and introduce key concepts necessary for future learning.

We strongly believe that a solid partnership between in-class learning and home practice is essential for success. To this end, we place high value on independent and retrieval practice, which is supported by our homework platform, Sparx Maths. Your child will receive an introduction to Sparx Maths in class over the next few weeks, with weekly homework beginning in late September.

## The Maths Baseline Assessment

To help us best support your child, we will soon be conducting a Baseline Assessment in class. This assessment is designed to provide teachers with a clear picture of any knowledge gaps from Key Stage 2, particularly in topics that underpin much of the content delivered in Key Stages 3 and 4. This early insight allows us to address any gaps efficiently.

Here are the answers to some key questions you may have about the assessment:

**What topics are included?** The assessment focuses on prerequisites from Key Stage 2, including:

- Place value
- Negative numbers
- Addition and subtraction
- Multiplication and division
- Fraction manipulation
- Rounding
- Factors and Primes
- Area and perimeter

**What types of questions are included?** The assessment includes a balanced mix of fluency-based (skills-based) questions and problem-solving questions.

**How should my child prepare?** No revision is required for this assessment. We want to accurately gauge their current understanding. Please reassure them that the main goal is simply to try their best.

**What feedback will be provided?** After the papers are marked, teachers will review the assessment with students and provide a personalised feedback task to address individual knowledge gaps. In addition, teachers will be able to create bespoke problem-solving tasks for the class to help build this vital skill.

**Will my child move classes as a result of this assessment?** Possibly. Due to the limited recent mathematical data available to us over the summer, it is not possible to fully arrange classes for a September start. Following this assessment, and in addition to other data such as SATs results data, we may make some adjustments to ensure that every student is placed in a class that provides the right level of support and challenge.





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## Sparx Maths Homework

Sparx Maths is an online learning platform that provides personalised maths homework for students. Each week, your child's teacher will select topics covered in class, and Sparx will create a custom set of questions that match your child's current level of understanding.

Due to the way Sparx personalises homework, students are set the achievable target of answering 100% of their Compulsory homework questions correctly in order for homework to be counted as complete. Each homework contains a range of questions specifically targeted at the individual to help close gaps in their learning. It is only by working through all of these questions that students will see all of the personalised work that has been set for them. Completing their homework each week also allows Sparx Maths to learn about their working speeds and adapt future homework for them.

If your child gets stuck, each question comes with a short video tutorial to help. With consistent effort and support from home and school, your child can succeed.

Here are our top three tips for supporting your child with their Sparx Maths homework:

- **Encourage them to work independently.** This builds resilience and confidence.
- **Prompt them to use the support videos.** They are a valuable resource if your child is struggling.
- **Suggest they start early.** This provides plenty of time to seek help if needed.

By consistently using Sparx Maths, your child can build a solid foundation in maths and achieve their full potential.

You can find out more at <https://sparxmaths.com/parents/>.

We look forward to a successful and rewarding year. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's maths teacher with any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs L Searley**

Maths Assistant Director of Learning

