

Student Bulletin
What's on next week?
Week 1
15th – 19th December 2025

School timings:

Please be reminded of our school timings below:

Mon, Tues & Thurs		Wed		Fri	
09:10-9:30	Tutor	09:10-09:30	Tutor	09:10-10:05	Lesson 1
09:30-10:30	Lesson 1	09:30-10:30	Lesson 1	10:05-11:00	Lesson 2
10:30-10:50	Break	10:30-10:50	Break	11:00-11:20	Break
10:50-11:50	Lesson 2	10:50-11:50	Lesson 2	11:20-12:15	Lesson 3
11:50-12:50	Lesson 3	11:50-12:50	Lesson 3	12:15-13:05	Lunch
12:50-13:40	Lunch	12:50-13:40	Lunch	13:05-14:00	Lesson 4
13:40-14:35	Lesson 4	13:40-14:35	Lesson 4	14:00-14:55	Lesson 5
14:35-15:35	Lesson 5	14:35-15:35	Lesson 5	14:55-15:15	Celebration Assembly
		15:35-16:30	Elective		

Canteen Menu:



PLEASE REMEMBER
WE ARE A NUT
FREE SCHOOL



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Course	Pasta Bolognaise Garlic Bread Broccoli	Chicken Teriyaki Noodles Mixed Vegetables	Chicken Burger in a Bun Potato Wedges Sweetcorn	Pork Sausage Creamy Mash Carrots Gravy	Chip Shop Friday
Vegetarian	Pasta with a Tomato & Basil Sauce Garlic Bread Broccoli	Quorn & Vegetable Teriyaki Noodles Mixed Vegetables	Vegi Burger in a Bun Potato Wedges Sweetcorn	Quorn Sausage & Mash Carrots Gravy	Cheese & Onion Pastie
Jackets	Jacket Potato Cheese/Tuna/Baked Beans/Salad	Jacket Potato Cheese/Tuna/Baked Beans/Salad	Jacket Potato Cheese/Tuna/Baked Beans/Salad	Jacket Potato Cheese/Tuna/Baked Beans/Salad	Jacket Potato Cheese/Tuna/Baked Beans/Salad
Dessert of the Day	Apple & Raspberry Crumble Custard	Iced Sponge	Chocolate Brownie Chocolate Sauce	Jam Sponge Custard	Jam Donuts
Dessert Alternative	Yogurt, Fresh Cut Fruit, Fruit Pot, Cookie	Yogurt, Fresh Cut Fruit, Fruit Pot, Cookie	Yogurt, Fresh Cut Fruit, Fruit Pot, Cookie	Yogurt, Fresh Cut Fruit, Fruit Pot, Cookie	Yogurt, Fresh Cut Fruit, Fruit Pot, Cookie

Special Breaktime selection on Friday!

Please ask for more information if you have any allergies.

Sparx Learning

A huge well done for all of your work on Sparx this Autumn Term!

"Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit"


RIVER ACADEMY



98.9+% Completion Rates

Sparx Reader: 99.5% 1st out of 1016 schools
Sparx Maths: 98.9% 3rd out of 2594 schools
Sparx Science: 99.5%

	Sparx Maths		Sparx Reader		Sparx Science
12/12/25	98.9%	3 rd	99.5%	1 st	99.5%
05/12/25	98.9%	4 th	99.2%	1 st	99.7%
28/11/25	100%	1 st	100%	1 st	99.7%
21/11/25	100%	1 st	99.5%	2 nd	99.7%
14/11/25	98.9%	4 th	100%	1 st	99.5%

Monthly Maths House Competition

Maths Problem of the Month - answer to November was 27 students in total in the queue. - well done for those with the correct answer.

Maths Problem of the Month – December 25

Answer the question below. Submit your answer to your form tutor or Mrs Strong by the end of **Friday 12th December**. You can only submit one answer. All correct answers will be awarded 3 merits.

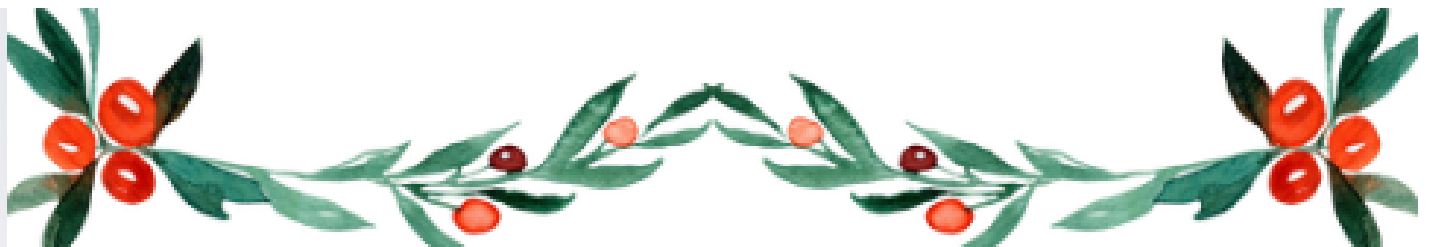
5 bakers decorate 5 Christmas cakes in 5 minutes.

How many Christmas cakes will 10 bakers decorate in 10 minutes?

Using AI to complete SparxMaths homework - WHY NOT TO!!:

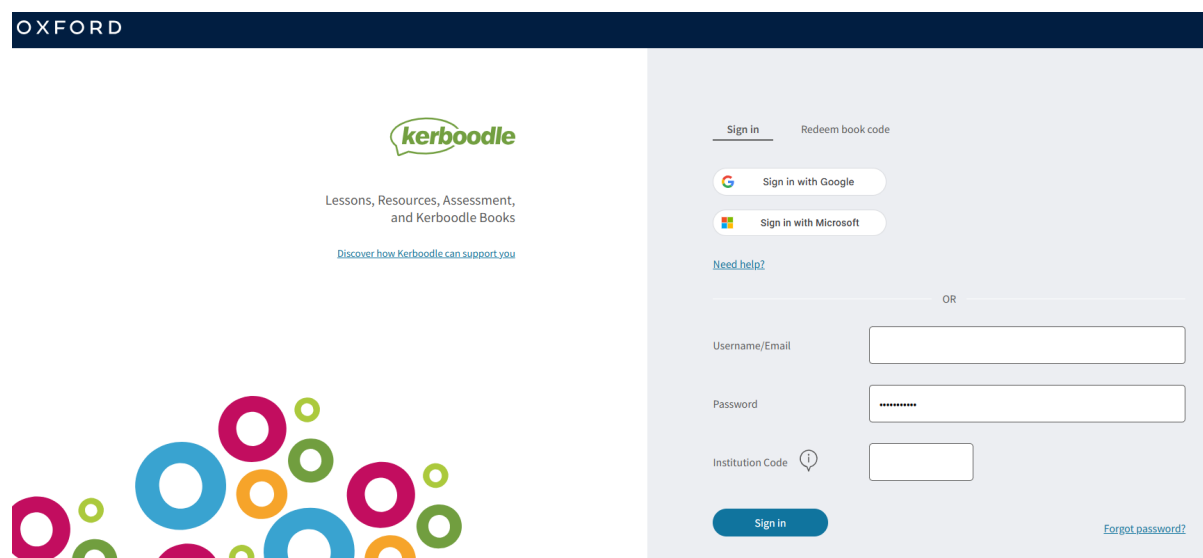
Bypassing the Learning Process: Sparx Maths is designed to provide personalized practice that helps students build deep understanding and long-term retention of mathematical concepts. When AI provides the answers, the student avoids engaging with the material, which is where true learning occurs.

- **Preventing Skill Development:** Mathematics is a subject where practice is essential. Relying on AI prevents students from developing critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, logical reasoning, and resilience when faced with challenging problems.
- **Inaccurate Progress Tracking:** The platform's adaptive features rely on genuine student performance to adjust the difficulty of questions and identify areas where a student needs more help. Using AI to generate answers provides a false impression of mastery, leading the system to assign more complex work for which the student is unprepared.
- **Also, the maths staff can see how long it takes you to complete every question, whether you have used the video, whether you are completing your book checks etc and it becomes very obvious when you can't do well in, in-class assessments that you have not been completing SparxMaths properly.**

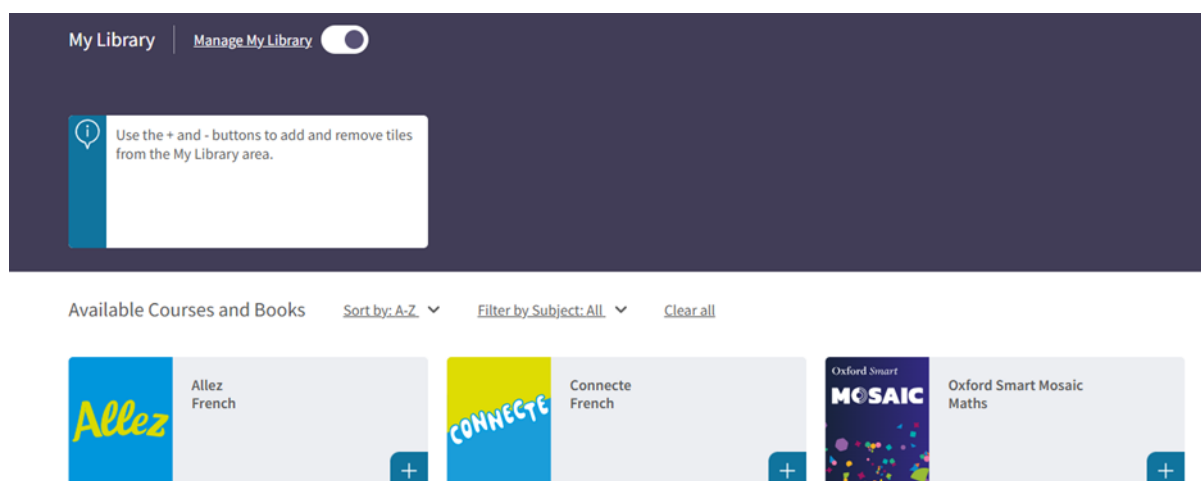


How to access Kerboodle at home

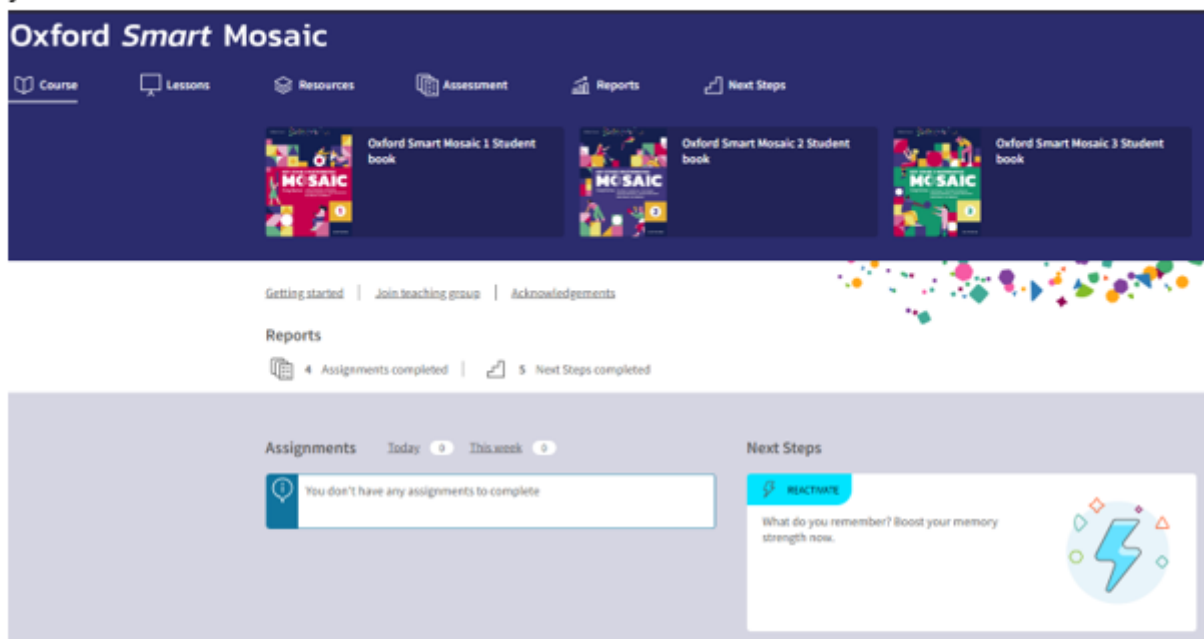
Go to www.kerboodle.com



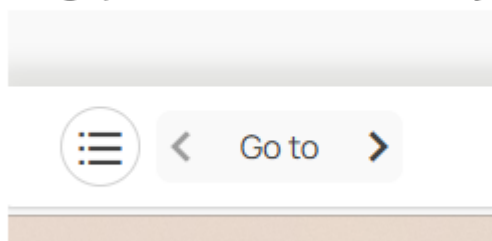
2. Put in your username and password. You should have this written down in your planner. If you need this reset, please speak to your maths teacher and they can reset your log in and password. You username is usually the initial of you first name and your last name, all in lowercase letters and with no gaps. For example, Fred Bloggs would probably have a username of fbloggs.
3. Use the institution code dyu6.
4. Once you are in Kerboodle, click on the Oxford Smart Mosaic Maths section from your library



- Then click on Student Book 1 if you are in year 7, or Student Book 2 if you are in year 8:



Next click on the icon bottom left of the screen, with the dots and lines, this will bring up the index for the book for you to navigate around:



Do Not look at chapters we have not yet covered. Lessons are designed to teach the necessary content to support the use of the text book.

Year 7 - will have completed chapters 1,2 and 3 by the Christmas break. Year 8 - will have completed chapters 1,2,3 and 4 by the end of the first week in January.

Taking place this term:

Make sure you are signing up to these amazing FREE opportunities!



Description		Y7/Y8?	Date	Time
Italian for Beginners		Y7 ONLY	8/1/26	3.45-4.30pm
Linguistics Olympiad		Y7 & Y8	13/1/26	3.45-4.30pm
Community Lecture: Victorian Reading		EVERYONE- including parents, carers, staff, students, members of our community.	20/1/26	4-5pm
Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration		Y7 & Y8	27/1/26	3.40-4.45pm
Classics for All Day (invite only)		Y8 ONLY (invite only)	29/1/26	All Day
How Does Mythology Impact Our Modern World?		Y7 & Y8	3/2/26	3.45-4.30pm
Community Lecture: Planetary Defence		EVERYONE- including parents, carers, staff, students, members of our community.	10/2/26	4-5pm
Villains- why do we love them so much?		Y7 ONLY	2/3/26	3.45-4.30pm
Maths Challenge Preparation		Y7 ONLY	10/3/26	3.45-4.30pm
Science Masterclass: Heart dissections		Y8 ONLY	19/3/26	3.45-4.30pm
What did the Romans do for fun?		Y7 ONLY	DATE TBC	3.45-4.30pm

Speak to Miss Angell if you have any questions.

More details about each session will be shared in the bulletin.



PE Updates – 19/12/25

Read the final bumper edition of the PE bulletin, including updates on clubs, fixtures, lessons and a look ahead to 2026.

Next Term

We will be changing sports next term as both Year 7 and Year 8 move onto badminton and health and fitness. Students will learn to explore different shot types in badminton as well as employ tactics to beat an opponent. In health and fitness, students will learn how the body works and what it is capable of through pairs and small group challenges. In year 8, we will introduce some basic fitness movements such as press ups and squats.

A reminder for kit expectations that it should be a River PE top, shorts/long black socks or tracksuit bottoms as well as trainers.

Girls Y7 football fixtures

River's U12 girls put in a spirited performance in their final fixtures, showing great teamwork and determination throughout. They earned a well-fought draw against the Wren and Little Heath, matching their opponents with strong passing and plenty of energy across the pitch. We were really unlucky to not win both games as we dominated throughout. In the third game, River faced a tough challenge against Bohunt and, despite creating chances and battling to the final whistle, were unable to avoid defeat. There were standout performances from Thalia, Emili and Inas, who all impressed with their effort, skill and positive attitude, setting a great example for the rest of the team.

Basketball fixtures

U12's - Our U12s produced a dominant display in their impressive 45–2 victory over Blessed Hugh Faringdon. From the first whistle, we took full control of the game, showing excellent teamwork, high energy, and disciplined defence that kept their opponents to just two points. Adam, Damyán and Talleh all delivered standout performances, showing great composure on the ball and making smart decisions throughout the match. By the time you have read this, we will have played against Denefield as we look to secure a second win.

U14's - Our U14's delivered a commanding performance from start to finish in their impressive 45–22 victory over Theale Green. From the opening tip-off, we set the tone with high energy, sharp defence, and fast-paced attacking play, dominating every quarter and never allowing their opponents a chance to settle.

The standout of the game was **Maks**, who put on an outstanding scoring display. He was ably supported by Mana, Julius and Teodor who were fantastic in both attack and defence. This was an important victory for us as we were keen to bounce back from our 65-40 defeat to Bohunt a few weeks ago.



Basketball Club

We have been focusing on attacking and making our scoring shots more accurate and consistent. Basketball club will continue on a Wednesday morning the first week back (7th) with games carrying on in the New Year.

Boys football

The U13 River Academy boys bowed out of the County Cup after a narrow and hard-fought 2–1 defeat to Bohunt. After finding themselves 2–0 down, River showed great character and resilience, pushing Bohunt back for long spells and coming agonisingly close to a comeback, hitting the post twice.

Nabil pulled one back with a superbly taken goal that lifted the whole team and kept hopes alive right to the final whistle. Despite the scoreline, River were unlucky not to come away with more from the game. There were excellent performances across the pitch, with Teodor, Aryan, Leif and Jacob all standing out in a committed and impressive team display.

Please note that we have two football training sessions in the first week back, one on Tuesday and the other on Thursday, with the focus firmly on the league which begins in the first week of March.

Sport at River in 2026

We have so much to look forward to in the New Year, with the continuation of the basketball season that our teams have made a great start to. The boys football season kicks off in March as we look to push on from our strong start. The Y8's have a 5-a-side tournament at the end of January to look forward to and I very much fancy our chances in that one to do well.

The girl's netball season starts in March too, with River hosting every game thanks to our amazing and brand-new facilities. Our Y8's begin the defence of their league we won so well last year, with the Y7's looking to follow in their footsteps.

We also have the National Indoor Rowing Championships to look forward to, as well as rounders and athletics fixtures in the Summer Terms.

Fixture dates:

U12 Basketball		
Date	Opposition	Venue
13 th January	BHF-B	River
27 th January	Bohunt	Bohunt
3 rd Feb	Little Heath-A	Little Heath

U14 Basketball		
Date	Opposition	Venue
15 th January	Prospect	River
20 th January	BHF	River
22 nd January	Denefield	River
12 th Feb	Little Heath	Little Heath

U12 Boys Football		
Date	Opposition	Venue
3 rd March	Denefield/Highdown	Denefield
10 th March	Wren/Willink	Wren
17 th March	BHF/Little Heath	River
24 th March	Prospect/Theale	Prospect
14 th April	Finals/TBC	TBC

U13 Boys Football		
Date	Opposition	Venue
5 th March	Denefield/Highdown	River
12 th March	Willink/Wren	Willink
19 th March	Little Heath/BHF	Little Heath
26 th March	Prospect/Theale	River
16 th April	Semi's	TBC

U12 girls netball		
Date	Opposition	Venue
26 th February	BHF and Highdown	River
5 th March	Prospect and Little Heath	River
12 th March	MER and Kendrick	River
19 th March	Reading Girls	River
26 th March	Finals	TBC

U13 girls netball		
Date	Opposition	Venue
25 th February	Reading Girls, Highdown	River
4 th March	Kendrick, Little Heath	River
11 th March	Denefield, Wren	River
18 th March	Prospect, BHF	River
25 th March	Finals	TBC

Year 7 and 8 Athletics		
Tuesday 9th June	GIRLS MATCH 1	4.15 - 5.45 pm
Thursday 11th June	BOYS MATCH 1	4.15 - 5.45 pm
Tuesday 16th June	GIRLS MATCH 2	4.15 - 5.45 pm
Thursday 18th June	BOYS MATCH 2	4.15 - 5.45 pm
Tuesday 23rd June	GIRLS MATCH 3	4.15 - 5.45 pm
Thursday 25th June	BOYS MATCH 3	4.15 - 5.45 pm
Tuesday 30th June	GIRLS & BOYS FINAL (all Teams)	2.00 - 6.00 pm



Student Services expectations:

Any borrowed equipment will be an automatic BREAK TIME DETENTION

Any equipment borrowed and not returned will incur a cost.



RIVER ACADEMY

Merry
Christmas



Merry Christmas
to RIVER



REPORTING ABSENCES

If you need to report an absence, please do so **daily by 8:00 a.m.** via the **Class Charts App**.

If you are unable to log the absence on Class Charts, please send an email to riverattendance@maidenerleghtrust.org.

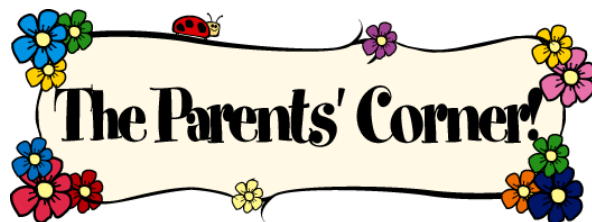
For any attendance-related matters, please contact us at riverattendance@maidenerleghtrust.org, rather than river@maidenerleghtrust.org

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

If you need to book a medical appointment for your child, please try to arrange it **outside of school hours** whenever possible. If this isn't possible, aim to book appointments **early in the morning** or **towards the end of the school day**. This helps ensure students miss as few lessons as possible.

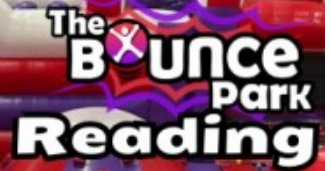
If your child is unwell, please refer to the **NHS guidance** when deciding whether to keep them at home: [Is my child too ill for school? – NHS](#)

If your child has an appointment during the school day, please bring them to school before or after the appointment -even if it is just for one period. Every single period counts, as each lesson missed is valuable learning time lost.



Common Illnesses and What to Do

Condition	Should They Stay Home?	When Can They Go Back?
Chickenpox	Yes	When spots have crusted
Cold sores	No	Can attend – avoid sharing cups, kissing
Conjunctivitis	Usually no	Unless very unwell
COVID-19	If mild, can go	Stay home if fever or too unwell; if positive, stay home 3 days
Ear infection	Yes, if fever/severe pain	When feeling better
Hand, foot & mouth disease	No, if feeling well	Can attend
Head lice/nits	No	Can attend after treatment starts
Impetigo	Yes	Until sores crusted/healed, or 48 hrs after antibiotics
Measles	Yes	4 days after rash appears
Ringworm	No	Once treatment starts
Scarlet fever	Yes	24 hrs after antibiotics
Slapped cheek (fifth disease)	No	Once rash appears, they're no longer infectious
Sore throat	No, unless fever	Return when fever gone
Threadworms	No	Can attend after treatment
Vomiting/diarrhoea	Yes	Stay home 48 hrs after last episode/ You may bring them back to school once you feel they have fully recovered.



The Bounce Park Reading

code: student20

Applicable for 1-Hour & 2-Hour Open Bounce, Tots and SEN Sessions

20% OFF

**River Academy
27th - 31st Dec, 2nd - 4th Jan**

BOOK NOW

www.TheBouncePark.com/Reading

