

Monday 6th December 2021



Welcome to Bug Club Reading!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to share with you our new phonics and reading scheme – Bug Club by Active Learn. There are two programmes, Bug Club (across school) and Bug Club Phonics (KS1). Both programmes provide comprehensive, clear and progressive learning for children at all stages and will support the children in becoming independent readers.

Your child will soon be coming home with a banded book. This means, your child has been assessed accordingly and placed on this band as their starting point. We are always reviewing progress and will change bands as and when the children are ready, based on their combined fluency and comprehension.

We have attached some supporting documents, as well as some videos at the end of this letter to help you support your child. We hope these prove useful and as always, do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or need some help.

Below you will find key information about the scheme and how you can get involved. We hope that you and your child will love these books and enjoy reading them at home.

Thank you for your continued support,
Miss Alcock – Literacy Coordinator

What is Bug Club?

Bug Club is a finely-levelled reading scheme, which ensures that all children can find books at exactly the right level for them. What's more, there are online versions for every printed title and a personalised website for each child.

What is Bug Club Phonics?

The programme follows an approach of synthesising phonemes associated with graphemes a child sees; or put another way, learning to read by blending the sounds associated with the letters a child sees. The programme is the product of extensive research on the best way to teach children how to read.

The reading books your child brings home are designed to support them in practising and consolidating the learning they have done at school. They also enable children to experience the pleasure and pride of reading their own books.

All the books in Bug Club Phonics have been finely-levelled to ensure that all children can read books at exactly the right level for them. What's more, there are online versions for every printed title and a personalised website for each child.

Using the printed books – Bug Club Phonics

Inside front cover: there are suggestions of things to do before your child starts reading, such as saying the sounds and practising blending them to make words as well as things to do whilst your child is reading to you; for example, checking their understanding of the story or information on the page.

Inside back cover: the activities here are to help your child consolidate what they have read and increase their fluency.

Using the printed books – Bug Club

Inside front cover: for younger children, these notes identify words with which children may need help and give ideas and strategies to help you feel confident that you know how best to help. For older children, the notes are intended to deepen each child's understanding of the book. They provide background information about the time or place the book was written or sometimes information about the author or illustrator.

Inside back cover: these notes suggest puzzles and challenges that help children think about their reading. These include 'Find it!' activities that encourage children to revisit the text; 'Share it!' tasks that may involve making or writing something, and other ideas that offer ideas for further reading.

Using the online reading world

If you have access to an internet connection, your child can enjoy reading Bug Club and Bug Club Phonics books online as well as in print. Each child has a unique homepage and can log into it by following these steps:

1. Go to www.activelearnprimary.co.uk
2. Enter the login details.
3. Your child's homepage will appear.



Reading a book online – Bug Club Phonics

We allocate books to your child according to their reading levels. These books will appear in the 'My Stuff' area of their personal homepage.

The eBooks have three main additional features to help your child. Find them in the 'Independent' section of 'My Stuff'.

- **Phoneme pronunciation guide:** click on the bug icon to hear some of the phonemes (sounds) in the book.
- **Read to me:** after your child has had a go at reading the book, you can click on this to hear the text read out loud e.g. to help your child with giving expression.
- **Quiz question:** click on the second bug icon within the book to answer a question designed to reinforce your child's learning. Their teacher will receive information about attempted questions.

When your child has finished the book, clicked on the phoneme pronunciation guide and attempted the quiz question, he or she will earn 'ActiveLearn Coins'. By reading more books, your child will earn enough coins to 'buy' a reward in one of the many reward schemes.

When your child has finished a book, it will move to 'My Library'. Children can read these books again if they want to, or they can choose new books from 'My Stuff'.

Reading a book online – Bug Club

We allocate books to your child according to their reading levels. These books will appear in the 'My Stuff' area of their personal homepages.



Throughout the books there are quiz questions for your child to complete. To answer a question, just click on the bug icon. Your child does not need to finish all the quiz questions in one sitting and can come back to a book later.

When your child has finished all the quiz questions in a book, he or she will earn 'ActiveLearn Coins'. By reading more books, your child will earn enough coins to 'buy' a reward in one of the many reward schemes. The answers to the quiz questions will be sent back to our teacher site so that we can see how your child is progressing. We will also be able to assign more books for your child to read if the virtual book bag is running low.

When your child has finished a book, it will move to 'My Library'. Children can read these books again if they want to, or they can choose new books from 'My Stuff'.

Getting involved

The reader

Until they are fluent readers, younger children will benefit from reading aloud to you as often as possible. By the time they are in Years 5 or 6, many children prefer to read silently to themselves. Create quiet opportunities for them to do so, but then talk to them about the book they are reading.

Sharing reading

When sharing a book with your child, try to take opportunities to talk about the book - before, during and after reading.

Before reading: look at the book cover and talk about your child's expectations. Is the book likely to be fiction or non-fiction? Have you read other books together about these characters or by this author? What does your child think the book is going to be about?

While reading: support your child when unknown words need tackling: you can sound them out, split them into syllables, or identify suffixes and prefixes. Remind your child to listen to the words while reading them, to make sure that they make sense. Have a 'meaning check' every now and again to ensure that your child understands the text.

After reading: talk about the book. What was it about? Did it match your child's expectations? Ask questions beginning with the words *how* and *why* to check that your child has been able to read between the lines. Ask whether anything seemed puzzling. Then ask your child to explain what the best and worst bits of the book were, and why.

Please see below the Pearson's YouTube channel for individual guidance videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTO8p8hoj-A7OiV4jzcCavUe4yovWKeL4>

And a guide to phonics:

<https://youtu.be/0dCRWLLNXPo>

Another video to help with pronunciation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc>