



Friday 22nd September 2023

Dear Parents/carers,

It is wonderful to see everyone back into the usual school life routines and especially how enthusiastic children are about reading in their new classes. The start of term can sometimes bring issues when trying to access online resources so here is a reminder about our amazing online reading and phonics programme – [Bug Club](#) and how to access it.

What is Bug Club?

Bug Club is a finely-levelled reading scheme, which ensures 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.



“ I think Bug Club is a genius concept... As a parent, I can see what my child is doing, I can work with my child. It gives the teacher an ability to do a real microanalysis of what that child is learning. For the kid it's fun - and if it's fun, they're going to engage with it. ”

Professor Tanya Byron, child psychologist

What do the Book Band Levels mean?

Bug Club books are graded into colour-coded Book Band levels, and within each level there is a carefully planned progression of books. This fine progression gives children plenty of opportunities to develop their reading skills.

Using the printed books

Inside every printed book there are notes to help you make the most of reading with your child.

Inside front cover: for younger children there are notes identifying difficult words. For older children these notes provide background information about the time or place the book was written or sometimes information about the author or illustrator.

Inside back cover: there are suggestions for puzzles and challenges that help by children think about their reading, by getting them to revisit the text, make or write something or read around the topic.



“Being the best that we can be...”

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Deputy Head Teacher: Mr Stuart Spendlow
Chair of Governors: Mr Andy Craven



Using the online reading world

If you have access to an internet connection, your child can enjoy reading **Bug Club** 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.

Login details

Username:
Password:
School ID:

Reading a book online

Your child's teacher will regularly allocate new books to your child according to their reading level and these books will appear on their personal homepage. By now your child should be quite used to the online environment and the process of answering quiz questions and earning 'Bug Points'. If you haven't already, why not ask your child to show you the books they have already read and how many rewards they have accumulated.

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.
- **While reading:** support your child when unknown words need tackling and have a 'meaning check' every now and again to ensure your child understands the text.
- **After reading:** talk about the book. What was it about? Did it match your child's expectations?

Please ask your child to speak to their class teacher or myself if they are finding it difficult to access. Don't forget there is also the Parents' help button on the home screen. Happy Reading!

Mrs Taylor

Early Reading and Phonics Lead

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