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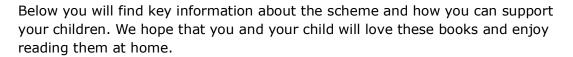2014|2015

Welcome to Bug Club Phonics!

Dear Parent/Carer,

We use a phonics/reading programme called Bug Club Phonics that we'd like to share with you.

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

Learning to read

We have chosen to use the Bug Club Phonics programme to help your child to develop their phonological awareness and help them learn to read. 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. In order for your child to become an independent reader, they need to read 100 words a minute with 95% accuracy.

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 (ebooks)** for every printed title and a personalised website for each child.

Using the printed books

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

Each week your child will bring home **two** printed Bug Club reading books which are pitched at their phonic reading ability. We now suggest that you read these two printed books using the following approach:

Step 1- Begin by reading aloud the whole book to your child, showing how to use expression, punctuation and pace Look at the tricky words inside the front cover and find these in the text. Look at

the sounds and decodable words inside the front cover. Model how to break the words up into the sounds and blend them back together. (E.g. b-r-ow-n 'brown') Check for understanding of these words. Now use the comprehension questions in the back of the book to check for your child's understanding. (This may take more than one reading session)

Step 2- Revisit briefly the sounds and words from inside the front cover. Children should be able to read the first half of the book to an adult at this point building their accuracy. Now read the second half of the book in the same way.

Step 3- At this point your child should be ready to read the whole book independently to an adult with fluency and minimal mistakes.

Using the online reading world

If you have access to an internet connection, your child can enjoy reading Bug Club Phonics books online as well as in print. Each child has a unique homepage with allocated eBooks and games which focus on the sounds from their weekly taught phonics sessions in school. They can log into it by following these steps:

1. Go to **www.activelearnprimary.co.uk**

2. Enter your child's login details (**see the sticker in their reading record**)

3. Your child's homepage will appear.

Please see the **Parent's Guide** on our English Curriculum Page for information on how to use the programme.

Reading a book online

We allocate books to your child according to their phonics teaching. 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'.

After your child has learnt to read

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. Although many children choose to read alone, there is much benefit in sharing a book together.

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.

Need help?

If your child is having trouble using the pupil world, help can be found in the Help Section of ActiveLearn Primary (in the top right-hand corner of the website).

Please note: We strongly recommend using Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox web browsers with ActiveLearn. If you prefer to use Internet Explorer, please check you have at least IE9 in order for everything to work as it should.

Should you not have access to a device that can access ActiveLearn/Bug Club Phonics please get in touch.

School Website

We have updated the following website page to provide parents/carers with further information about Bug Club Phonics inc. a useful video tutorial.

https://www.pontesburyprimary.org.uk/home/learning/subjects/english/

We hope that you will see the range of benefits of using Bug Club Phonics at home with your children.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the programme, or you have any difficulties logging-in, please contact your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely

Tom Lowrie-Herz

Acting Headteacher