

Welcome to Bug Club

Dear parent or carer,

Here we are at the start of a new term and we are looking forward to another step up in your child's reading progress and confidence. As you may remember, we are using a reading programme called **Bug Club** and we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the ways you can help your child with their reading.

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.



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?

For more information about helping your child with their reading at home, click on the Parents' help button on the Bug Club homepage (www.activelearnprimary.co.uk).

If you would like to discuss your child's reading at any point, please do not hesitate in contacting me, I will be only too glad to help.

Kind regards,

Class teacher name _____

School name _____