

Dear Parents,

We are currently evaluating the resources we use to support the development of pupils reading at home and have noticed a significant decline in the use of online e-books available from Bug Club.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of what a valuable resource Bug Club can be in increasing your child's reading attainment and progress when used regularly with parents at home. It is a particularly useful tool to engage reluctant readers and to increase comprehension skills.

*"Researchers have shown that, once social and economic factors are removed parental engagement is a more significant impact on attainment than almost everything else." The younger a child is, the stronger the impact. At age 5 it is some 5 x the impact of school. At 11 it is about the same strength as school.*

*Source: Sacker, Amanda et al (2002) Social inequality in educational achievement and psychological adjustment throughout childhood: magnitude and mechanisms. Social Studies and Medicine, 55, 863-880*



As we start the final half term for this academic year, we would like to ensure that as many pupils as possible make use of this fantastic online facility. We have attached guidance on how to make the most of these resources at home with your child. Please revisit Bug Club and support your child in accessing this online site regularly at home over the coming term.

Remember this form of reading can be used as an alternative to the school reading book and can also be logged in reading diaries. Reading these e-books is also another way for pupils to earn stickers towards their next reading star. It would be a great achievement for your child to earn their Gold Reading Star before the summer holidays!

We are aware that some families may be experiencing technical difficulties when trying to run e-books on different devices and so have attached a troubleshooting guide which may help resolve access problems.

Becoming fluent and confident readers aids children in all aspects of their learning and allows them to journey into new and exciting worlds, learn more about the world they live in and so much more! Thank you in anticipation for your support.

Kind Regards,

Miss Underhill

English Subject Lead

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.

## 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.

## 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](http://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk)
2. Enter the login details.
3. Your child's homepage will appear.

## Reading a book online

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.

## 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.