

St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher: Rachel Swindell

Assistant Head: Amy Casey

Chair of Governors: Joseph Zammit



We try to follow Jesus by loving each other and caring for God's world.

Welcome to Bug Club Phonics! EYFS



Dear Parent or Carer,

Our school uses a reading programme called **Bug Club Phonics** that we would like to share with you.

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.

Learning to read

Your child's school has chosen to use **Bug Club Phonics** to help your child 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. Your child is being supported in learning Phonics through daily teaching sessions and reading support this year.

At the moment, we are still introducing phase 2 sounds, and practicing the blending skills needed to read. It will only be when your child has demonstrated that they are able to blend these sounds that they will be sent home with a reading book. We may send home some books without words for your child to 'read'. Your child can use these books to look at the pictures, tell their own story, and ask and answer questions about what they think is happening and what might happen next. This will practise the skills needed to further reading.

When your child receives a book, it may seem like the printed books are 'too easy' and your child is 'done' but it is essential to be thorough with each sound, re-reading lots of time so that your child gains a strong understanding of each sound. Of course alongside these Bug Club books, we strongly recommend your child reads and listens to a range of books for pleasure. Your child will also be allocated games which support them to embed their phonics learning, which further complements their journey to learning to read.

There will be further information in the Reception newsletter regarding reading books.

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 and can log into it by following these steps:

1. Go to www.activelearnprimary.co.uk
2. Enter the login details below for your child.

User name _____ Password _____ School code _____

3. Your child's homepage will appear.



Reading a book online

We allocate books to your child according to their phonic level. 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 and saying each sound accurately.
- **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'.

Developing Comprehension and Understanding

Until they are fluent readers, younger children will benefit from reading aloud to you as often as possible. When they are older 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.

If you have any queries, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,

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