Parent Guide

Bug Club Phonics

Dunnington CofE Primary School

September 2024

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Bug Club Phonics

At Dunnington CofE Primary School, we use the Bug Club Phonics programme 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.

The Bug Club Phonics programme follows the teaching sequence of letters and sounds and lessons are structured in the same way each day with an introduction, revisit, teach, practise and apply element to every session, providing the children with consistent routines that they can become familiar with. We implement a multi-sensory approach in the teaching and learning of phonics which enables the children to learn from visual, audio and kinaesthetic activities. Throughout the programme, teachers supplement the provided materials and embed the taught skills through a range of activities that they have identified to be successful. This helps to secure essential phonic knowledge and skills as well as ensuring the lessons are fun, interactive and engaging.

How does my child learn to read in school?

We begin by teaching children the sounds that letters make, alongside teaching children sounds, we blend sounds to read words e.g. d-o-g, dog. We teach the children to use a (pretend) slinky to sound out words and blend them together.

Once your child recognises the first set of sounds (s, a, t, p), we will send home reading books that will allow them to practise their blending skills and to consolidate their knowledge learnt in their phonic sessions. We use the Bug Club Phonics decodable reading books that have been written specifically to match the order in which grapheme phoneme correspondences are introduced in class. These books are fully decodable, which means that every word in the book can be read using just the children's developing phonics knowledge. Not only does this allow children to embed and secure their phonics knowledge, but it also allows them to experience success. This in turn builds their confidence, motivation and enthusiasm for reading.

How can I support my child's reading?

Children will experience the most success in reading when school and home work together. Children learn

about the importance of reading as they watch family members use reading and writing for everyday purposes. Reading for pleasure, sharing stories at home or using a recipe shows them that reading is a useful skill. Research shows the importance of reading on a daily basis in developing children's use and understanding of vocabulary and reading at home will enable them to practise and solidify their skills learnt at school.

We will send a sound mat home for your child to practise recognition of the sounds they are learning in school.

Please listen to your child read their school reading book every day. We will only change your child's reading book once they have read their new book at least 3 times so that they are able to read the text with minimal sounding and decoding. They should start to recognise the words that they initially had to sound out and their fluency should be smooth. The aim is that your child should be able to read these fluently and confidently.

Tips for reading together at home

One of the most important things you can do as a parent at home is to read to your child. Reading is an essential life skill that underpins all aspects of learning and development. We want to work together to inspire our children to develop a love of reading. Children who read a lot become better readers. Here are some top tips to help children enjoy reading:

1. Make it fun – Introduce each new book with excitement.

2. Get comfortable! – Snuggle up together somewhere warm and cosy, whether it's in bed, on a beanbag or on the sofa. Try and ensure your child has somewhere comfy to read on their own too.

3. Join your local library – Get your child a library card. They'll be able to get their hands on hundreds of fantastic books, as well as audio books. Let them choose what they want to read to help them develop their own interests.

4. Talk about the story e.g. I wonder why they did that? Oh no, I wonder what will happen next?

5. Read favourites again and again – Encourage your child to re-read the books and poems they love. Re-reading helps to build fluency and confidence.

6. Use different voices – Read with enjoyment.

7. Make the most of rhyme and repetition – Books and poems with rhymes and repeated words or phrases are great for getting your kids to join in and remember the words.

8. Enjoy bedtime stories – Read with your kids at bedtime as often as you can. It's a great way to end the day and to spend valuable time with them.

How do I listen to my child read?

At the beginning of each Bug Club book, there is guidance on how to support your child read their book. You will also find handy questions and activities that will help with the comprehension of the text.

The books are matched to your child's phonic ability and contain decodable words and some tricky and common exception words that they have learnt. Tricky words are words that cannot be sounded out easily.

To read a word, ask your child to say the sounds from left to right (c-a-t) then blend them together to say the word. They may need to say the sounds in each word a few times to be able to blend them. You can encourage them to use their 'slinky' to help them to blend the sounds to read the word.

How can I help my child to spell words?

- Ask your child to stretch out (segment) the sounds in a word with their slinky to spell words.
- Practise oral segmenting first and then progress onto writing the words when they are ready.
- Ask your child to write the letters – if they get stuck, say the sounds again.

Phonics phases

Phase Two

This is the beginning of more formal teaching of sounds and letters and will be taught during the Autumn term in Reception. There will be short daily sessions where a phase two phoneme will be focused on as well as opportunities to use and apply their learning throughout the day. Children will begin to see the links between the sounds they hear, and the written letter shape (grapheme). They will begin to merge (blend) and separate (segment) these sounds to make small words for reading and spelling (e.g. s-i-t).

Phases Three and Four

Continuation of the teaching of single sounds and letter names as well as moving on to sounds represented by more than one letter (diagraphs e.g. ch, sh, th, oa, ai) and those formed with two consonants blended together (e.g. st, fl, dr). Previous skills are built upon at each stage in order to develop the children's ability to read and write/spell a wide range of keywords.

Phase Five

At the beginning of year 1, the children consolidate their learning from the end of Foundation Stage by revisiting the phase 4 sequence where they also have the opportunity to apply their previously learnt phase 2 and 3 knowledge. Daily sessions of phonics last up to 30 minutes. This is in addition to daily Literacy lessons. Children then progress to phase 5 where they learn a set of new graphemes, alternative pronunciations for graphemes already known and alternative spellings for phonemes.

Phase Six

In Year 2, daily phonics lessons follow the phase 6 sequence of Bub Club Phonics looking at suffix morphemes, plural morphemes and prefix morphemes. Spelling, grammar and punctuation lessons continue throughout the year in addition to daily English lessons. We have an intervention programme for children who need extra support in phonics, which can be used in Year 2 and KS2.

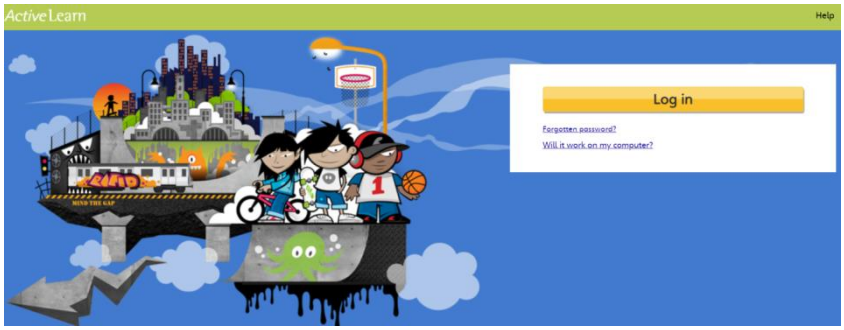
Parent Guide to Active Learn

Active Learn is an online learning resource created by Pearson who are the publishers of Bug Club. Each pupil has their own logon details for Active Learn. Pupils will be assigned ebooks to read by their teacher and they can earn 'gold' which they can exchange for rewards.

Step 1 - Login

Go to www.activelearnprimary.co.uk

Use the logon, password and school code that the teacher has provided to access the system.



Step 2 – My Home

Your child will see their home page. They may change the theme of their home page from the My Home section. On the Active Learn platform, as long as children read the books and complete practises, they will earn 'golds' which they may use on different activities. They can see how much gold they have on their My Home page.



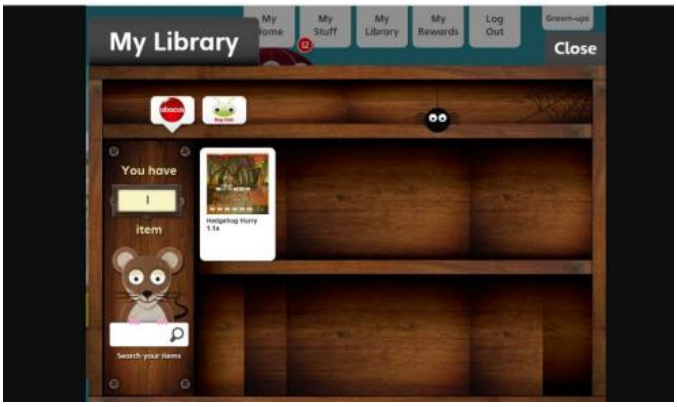
Step 3 – My Stuff

The 'My Stuff' tab this is where allocated work will be left for children to work through. They may access the books and activities that are assigned to them by their teacher. They are able to see other books by using arrow buttons. If you see 'Opened' below the books, this means that the book was read but the activities were not completed. They may click on the book again to complete the activities. In order to complete all of the activities, they need to make all bugs on the book sleep.



Step 4 – My Library

All of the books that your child has read and the activities they have completed are kept in their private My Library section. They may access the ones that they want to read again from this section.



Step 4 – My Rewards

My Rewards is the page that allows children to choose their rewards. Your children can personalise their avatars and play games on this page. The more they read books and complete activities, the more they are allowed to play games and earn rewards.



Resources for Parents

Link to Bug Club Login Page https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0

Overview of Bug Club Phonics for Parents (video) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MP38k4Vwqu4

All You Need to Know About Phonics (Bug Club video) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44mZZQfgkjY

What is Active Learn Primary and How to log in https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=paOEVzjgwnk

How do rewards work? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWXKVGBSftw&feature=youtu.be

The Grown-ups Area https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNeFIly58wk

How to use Bug Club eBooks https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1R8xRz43PU