



Welcome to Bug Club!

Dear Parents

Many of you with older children in Year 1 & 2 and 3 will already be very familiar with the 'Bug Club' reading scheme we use here in Brill. However, for those of you that are new to us, or for those with children further up the school, please let me explain how the system works...

Our school uses a reading programme called Bug Club. 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 as much as we do and enjoy reading them at home together.

What is Bug Club?

Bug Club is a finely-levelled reading scheme, which ensures our children can access books at exactly the right level for them. Each child will have their own online reading account with an individual homepage for them to personalise. As well as the books, there are learning games and incentives designed to encourage even the most reluctant of readers to engage with their reading.

As a school, we provide a dual system of reading opportunities that includes a combination of hard copy books as well as online access to every printed title in the Bug Club scheme. This has proved to be an invaluable learning resource especially throughout this year's Covid pandemic and subsequent lockdown, where we were able to continue to allocate every child the books they needed to progress with their individual reading needs. This scheme supports the teaching of phonics and provides the systematic and progressive approach needed to secure strong foundations for lifelong reading. Inside every book there are notes to help you make the most of reading with your child.

Inside front cover: for younger children, these notes identify sounds or words with which children may need help and give ideas and strategies to help you feel confident that you know how best to help. For older children, the notes are intended to deepen each child's understanding of the book. They provide background information about the time or place the book was written or sometimes information about the author or illustrator.

Inside back cover: these notes suggest puzzles and challenges that help children think about their reading. These include 'Find it!' activities that encourage children to revisit the text; 'Share it!' tasks that may involve making or writing something, and other ideas that offer ideas for further reading.

Using the online reading world

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.

You will receive a bookmark with your child's individual log in details. Should these be mislaid, the codes will also be written into the front of the yellow reading records.

Please be reassured that your child will still have many opportunities to access hard copies of books. We have our own Year R library as well as access to the main school library which is very well stocked. Teaching staff will continue to listen to the children read and carry out guided reading sessions as usual. We believe that physical books are still very important and there is nothing quite like holding a physical book. We do, however, need to be mindful of the new technologies available and take advantage of the additional benefits that come from their use.

Reading a book online

We allocate books to your child according to the children's reading level, starting with picture books where they will begin to develop story-telling skills and vocabulary. The levels then progress through each of the phonics sound groups to practise and consolidate what the children have learnt in school.

The books will appear in the 'My Stuff' area of the children's personal homepage. Click on a book to open it up and start reading. (Books will open up into a new window, so Pop-up blocker will need to be turned off.) Within 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 of the book or the quiz questions in one sitting and can come back to the book later. The answers to the quiz questions will be sent back to our teacher site so we can see how your child is progressing. Please ensure your child completes the quiz questions independently so that the data we receive portrays an accurate record of their understanding. 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 online reward areas.

When your child has finished a book, it will move to 'My Library' and they will be able to access them again to re-read. This is especially important for new and early readers to help consolidate their understanding of the story, to memorise repeated text and to build fluency to their reading. There is also a 'read to me' facility which will read the story to the children and will help the children understand the story in its entirety and will demonstrate how the can be read with expression and fluency.

New books will be available from the 'My Stuff' tab. Teachers will be automatically notified when the virtual book bag is running low and new books will be assigned without the need for specific requests or waiting for a specific day.

Getting involved

The reader

Until they are fluent readers, younger children will benefit from reading aloud to you as often as possible. We recommend that children should be read with at least three times a week with the expectation of having completed two books per week. As the children progress through the levels, the quantity of words and pages will substantially increase and this could mean that by the end of Year 2, one book per week would prove adequate. By the time they are in KS2 many children will prefer to read silently to themselves. Please create quiet opportunities for them to do so, but then talk to them about the book they are reading to ensure they understand what they have read.

Sharing reading

Whether reading a hard copy or online reading book, parents should still follow the reading guidance provided.

Please note: The Activelearn website can be accessed from any PC, laptop, tablet or indeed any device that has internet access including mobile phones. However, we would like to stipulate that mobile phones should not be used with our pupils for 'Bug Club' reading practice due to the limitations of their screen size.

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 log in page). The developers 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.

We hope you and your child enjoy the Bug Club experience.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need further guidance.

Kind regards

Gill Salt

Year R Teacher & EYFS Lead.



