Bug Club Phonics

What is Bug Club?

Bug Club is a synthetic phonics programme that carefully guides children through a programme of study. This programme enables them to learn, practise and master skills which enable them to decode words confidently in reading, read words onsight, support their spelling and in turn lead on to the comprehension of books they are reading.

Bug Club Phonics is a DfE validated phonics programme with an accessible and inclusive teaching approach at its heart. Its creators were the authors of the Clackmannanshire Report which not only proved the effectiveness of systematic synthetic phonics at teaching all children to read but also showed how keeping your class together at the start of their school journey fosters a sense of social inclusion for pupils and boosts the performance of those that may be progressing more slowly.

Class Teaching

Bug club phonics takes place daily. All children are involved in lessons, adult support is given where needed and activities may be varied depending on where children are in their learning journey.

Bug Club uses interactive boards to support both reading and spelling including characters, songs and some short video clips! Children are given opportunities

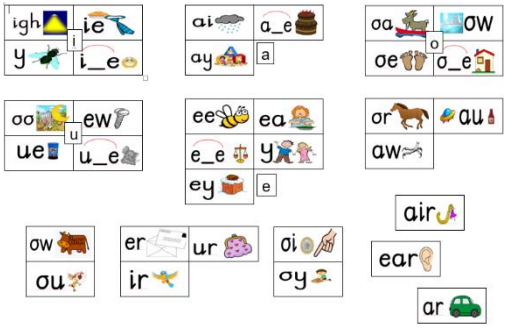
to apply new learning in reading and writing, and online books are used to support whichever sound or digraph is being learnt that day.

Sometimes children may work in small groups in addition to whole class teaching in order to give extra support where needed.

Support resources

Physical and online Bug Club books are used to support children's learning. These are grouped according to whichever 'phase' or set of sounds children are learning.

Rhymes and visuals are also used to help children remember learnt sounds but to also support with spelling as they develop and deepen their knowledge. These resources are used in writing lessons also.



Book reading and stickers

Children are given books to take home to read. These are colour banded which are linked to the level they are reading at. Within these colour bands books are grouped into 'sets'. These sets link to the group of sounds children may be working on at the time, or that they may need to consolidate.

Children will also be given a sticker in their reading record. This sticker provides a link to online books that parents can access on the Bug Club website that again, link to whichever phonics the children may be learning at the time. They are interactive books and are allocated and tracked by teachers who are able to monitor progress.

Online access

Children are given their own log in and access to the Bug Club website through Active Learn Primary. They can save up Rewards and access books that link to the Bug Club level they are reading at. These books are 'allocated' by teachers so they can ensure children are accessing books that will enable them to consolidate and move their learning on. The children love the website!