

## Welcome to Bug Club Phonics!

As you know our school uses a reading programme called Bug Club Phonics.



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 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 reading books your child brings home are designed to support them in practising and consolidating the learning they have done at school. They also enable children to experience the pleasure and pride of reading their own books.

All the books in Bug Club Phonics have been finely-levelled to ensure that all children can read 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 printed books

Inside every Bug Club Phonics printed book there are notes to help you make the most of reading with your child.

**Inside front cover:** there are suggestions of things to do before your child starts reading, such as saying the sounds and practising blending them to make words as well as things to do whilst your child is reading to you; for example, checking their understanding of the story or information on the page.

**Inside back cover:** the activities here are to help your child consolidate what they have read and increase their fluency.

## 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](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 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.
- **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'.

## After your child has learnt to read

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.

## Phonics for Parents and Carers

Bug Club Phonics walk-through for parents

Step 1: Firstly, go to [www.activelearnprimary.co.uk](http://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk)

Click on the yellow Log in button and use your child's username, password and school code that the teacher provided



[Forgotten password?](#)

[Will it work on my computer?](#)

Once logged in you will be taken to the Pupil World homepage. This is where you can access all of the homework.

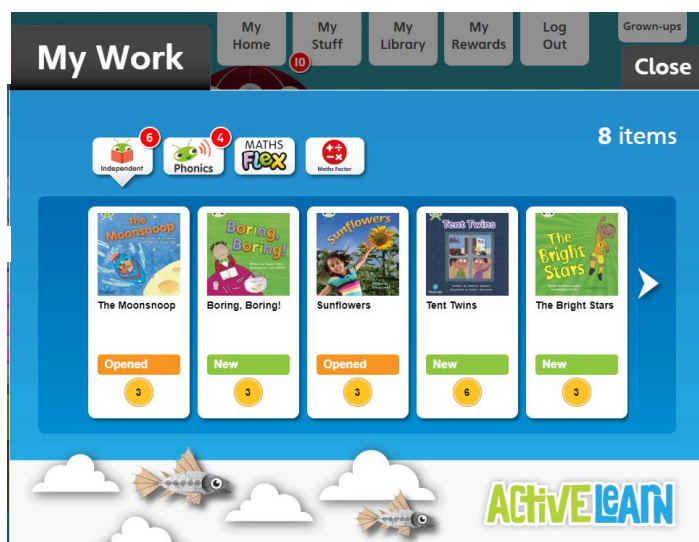


You will see there are several tabs at the top of the page: My Home, My Stuff, My Library, My Rewards, Log Out and Grown-Ups.

Use My Home to change the home page theme.

My Stuff is where any new homework gets sent to. The number displayed indicates how many pieces of homework have been allocated to your child.

Step 2: Open My Stuff to see what's been allocated



The eBooks homework will come under the Independent tab, click on this to bring up the homework. In this case three books have been allocated.

At the bottom of each book icon you can see a gold coin and a number. This number indicates how many coins the child will get for attempting every quiz activity and reading to the end of the book.

**Step 3: Open one of the books**



On the left of the eBook you can see which sounds and letters will be covered in the books, as well as any tricky words and top tips to help your child.

You will notice that there is a yellow circle with a bug's face in the middle. This is our hotspot icon and whenever you click on it there will be an activity to do.

In the bottom left of the screen you have a magnifying glass should you wish to zoom in.

In the bottom middle we have a Read to me function. If you click on this the narrator will read the book aloud. We advise that your child attempts to read it by themselves first if you want to use the Read to me function.

In the bottom right corner you can close the book.

**Step 4: Completing an eBook**



At the end of the book there will be an activity to do with your child. Once you are ready to finish, click the cross to close the book.

Your child's teacher will be able to see when your child has finished a book and also to see how they got on.

*Step 5: How to find games that have been allocated*



The teacher may also allocate Bug Club Phonics games. These can be found in the Phonics tab.

As with the eBooks, the gold coin represents how many coins the child will get as a reward for completing the game.

*Step 6: Playing the games*

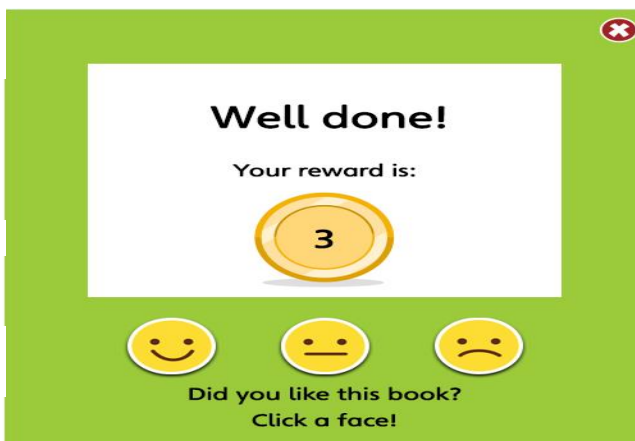


Whenever you open a game the first step is to click the play button and the narrator will provide the instructions for the game. You can also click the Guide button at the top right of the screen for written instructions.

In every game your child will have three chances to answer each question. If they get all three wrong, the narrator will provide the correct answer.

You can see how you did in the score counter. A green hexagon is shown for each question answered correctly and a red hexagon is shown for each answered incorrectly.

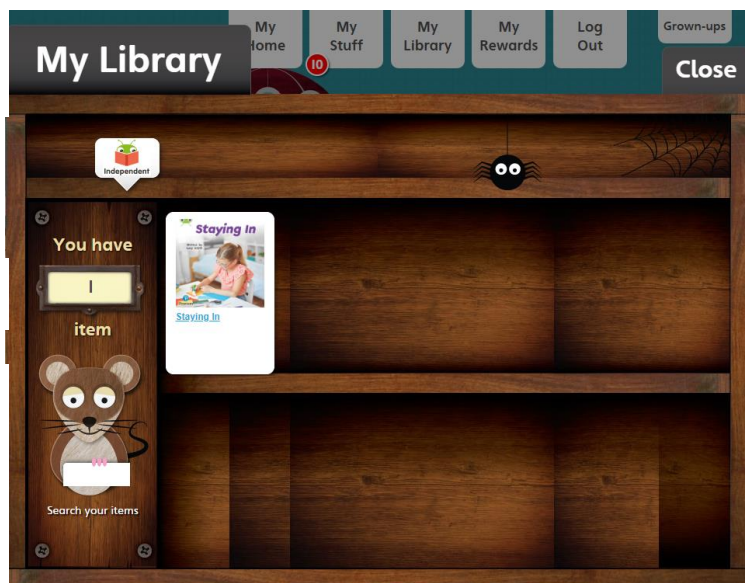
*Rewards for finishing the book or game*



For eBooks, once you read to the end and attempt all of the activities, your child will be given a reward and the opportunity to say whether they liked the book.

For games, your child will be given a reward after attempting every activity and clicking finish at the end of the game.

## My library



Once you finish a book it will drop out of My Stuff and move into My Library. Your child can read this any time they wish, but they won't be able to earn additional coins.

## Step 7: Spending the coins



Over time, your child will accumulate more and more coins as they read more and more Bug Club Phonics books. You can see just how many coins they have on the homepage.

Now for their favourite part (after reading the eBooks of course), spending those coins. Click on My Rewards to spend the coins. In the Pit Stop area children can play a racing game; in the Sticker Factory area they can buy digital stickers; finally, in The Tree House, they can decorate their tree house.

## ActiveLearn

ActiveLearn > Grown-ups

### **Grown-ups' Area**

Welcome to our Grown-ups' Area. This is a new area we're developing to give you everything you need to support your child's learning.

#### **Reading**

Have a look through the links below to find out more around how Bug Club can help your child to learn to read.

- > [Getting the most out of Bug Club](#)
- > [How children learn to read](#)
- > [Reading at home](#)

In this area there are some top tips on how you can help your child read from home.

#### **Need help?**

You can also use the Help guide link to go over any functionality or technical support questions.

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. eBooks have been optimised for tablets.