



Early Reading at St Peter's

At St Peter's, Cowfold, we use a systematic synthetic phonics program called 'Bug Club Phonics' which has been produced by the education publisher Pearson. The program is one of those on the DfE Validated list, September 2025.

The Bug Club Phonics programme offers schools a complete systematic synthetic phonics programme. The teaching program and readers are grouped in a developing order based on the order of sounds introduced in synthetic phonics programs.

- **It has plans and resources for daily lessons** from the start of Reception
- Teaches the main grapheme-phoneme correspondences of English in a clearly defined, incremental sequence
- **Gets children reading and spelling** from very early on
- Includes blending for reading and segmenting for spelling activities
- Provides opportunities for children to practise and apply known phoneme grapheme correspondences for spelling through dictation of sounds, words and sentences
- Features language sessions that **teach 'tricky' common exception words**
- Provides resources that support the teaching of lower-case and capital letters correctly, with clear start and finish points
- Includes direct teaching sessions, with extensive teacher-child interaction and involves a multi-sensory approach
- Has reading texts that closely match what has been taught up to that point
- Includes assessments and **support for the lowest 20%**
- **Provides full guidance for teachers** to support the effective delivery of the programme

- **Provides remote learning capabilities via eBooks**, allocatable teaching screens and phonics games.

Bug Club Phonics helps St Peter's, Cowfold, achieve:

- **A solid foundation in reading for all:** Written by the same authors of the Clackmannanshire study, *Bug Club Phonics* uses the systematic synthetic phonics approach. This has been shown to give the best foundation in reading for all children regardless of social and economic background.
- **Comfortable and confident learners:** Videos and books featuring much-loved characters, such as Cbeebies Alphablock characters are weaved into books, helping to link children's home environment with school.
- **A rich and varied reading experience:** As part of the Bug Club family, you can choose when to weave in readers that aren't fully decodable to ensure an enthusiasm for reading is nurtured.
- **Frequent and detailed assessment:** In addition to end of unit and phase assessments, appropriate and informal assessment opportunities are offered in the daily lessons and through fun games in the online world. The program also helps students prepare for the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check.
- **Extra help for those who fall behind:** Guidance on how to support those who fall behind is provided throughout.

Bug Club – Reading Progression Chart

See below to see how the Bug Club decodable books follow the phonics scheme progressively. The books are designed to practice and apply phonemes taught from the previous week, and children take home books to practice phonemes they have already learnt at school.

Phonk Phase	Set/ Unk	Focus	Fiction	Non-fiction
Phase1		Phonemic is		
	1-2	satplnmdll		
Phase 2		goek		
		clleur		
		hbffffl liss		
	3	jYWX		
	10	y zzzqu		
	11	chshthng		
	12	al ee igh oa oo		
Phase4	13	ar or ur ow ol		
	14	ear air ureer		
	15	wh ph		
	16	ay a-e eigh/ey/ei (long a)		
	17	ea e-e le/ey/y (longe)		
	18	iei-ey i (long i)		
	19	ow o-eo/oe (long o)		
	20	ewueeu-e (longu) u/ou/ u/oo/ (short:oo)		
	21	awc1ual		
	22	ere/ear are/ear		
	23	ckckch		
	24	cefc1/cy sc/stl se		
	25	gelgi/gy dgq		<img alt="Book 10