

Early Reading

At St Peter's, Cowfold, we use a systematic synthetic phonics program called 'Bug Club Phonics' which has been produced by the education publisher Pearsons. The program is one of those on the DfE Validated list, March 2022.

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 phonemegrapheme 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 lessons, 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.

For further reading about how Bug Club Phonics is used effectively, at St Peter's, to meet the requirements of the Ofsted Inspection Handbook please refer to our:

Bug Club - Ofsted requirements - chart

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