



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 Pearsons. 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.
- **Strong foundations for writing** by supporting a letter formation that is fluent, accurate and efficient. **Letterjoin is used in addition to Bug Club to support correct letter formation in accordance with the School's handwriting scheme.** Pre-cursive and cursive lettering is modelled from EYFS to expose children to different ways graphemes look and can be formed. In KS1 this is explicitly modelled and taught alongside writing and spelling activities to consolidate fluent and efficient writing.

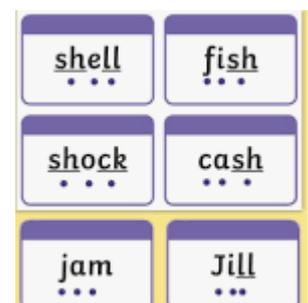
Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

In the summer term, the Year 1s will prepare for the Statutory Phonics Screening Check.

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stage-1-phonics-screening-check-administration-guidance>)

They will have practiced for this by taking part in phonics assessments from reception (Phase 3 onwards) where they will have opportunities to practice using sound buttons to support blending skills.

In year 1, alongside phase 5 lessons, they will have opportunities to practice blending using previous years' assessments and the Bug Club Screening Mock assessments



Supporting Learning at Home

In Reception and KS1, all children are provided with a Bug Club account to practice and apply their phonic knowledge. We promote the importance of reading and practising phonics, emphasising that sharing books daily and 10 minutes per week of phonics practice is the optimum for supporting the children's reading progress.

Each week relevant phonemes, e-books and games are uploaded to each child's Bug Club account. These reflect the phonemes taught and revisit tricky words and blending processes practiced with the children daily.

Phonic reading books are not sent home with children until they are able to confidently recognise and blend set 1 of the phase 2 phonemes. Books are then changed weekly by the teacher or TA after reading with the children.

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	
Phalle1		Phonemic is			
Phase 2	1-2	satplnmdl			
		gock			
		ckeur			
		hbfflllss			
.....3		jywx			
		yzzqa			
		chshthng			
		al ee lgh oa oo			
	10	ar or ur ow ol			
Plwe4	11	ear air ureer			
	12	Consolidation			
	13	wh ph			
	14	ay a-e eigh/ey/ci (long a)			
	15	ea e-a le/ey/y (longe)			
	16	iei-ey i (long i)			
	17	ow o-oo/oe (long o)			
	18	ew/ueu-e (longu) u/oul (shorc:oo)			
19	awc1ual				
Phasall	20	irerrear			
	Green 1	21	ou oy		
		22	ere/eer are/ear		
	Green 2	23	ckckch		
		24	cefc/cy sc/stl se		
		25	gelgi/gy dgca		
		26	lomb knlgn wr		
Orange 2	27	tch sh ea zh (w)ao			