



Dear Family

We are really pleased to launch our new electronic Home Reading and Phonics resource – Bug Club – which has been funded by the PTFA. Bug Club is for pupils in Reception to Year 6. You will be able to log on at home and enjoy electronic books and games which have been allocated by your child's teacher. Pupils will still bring home hard-copy books as they always have done.

At St James's we recommend you read with your child a little **every day**, but as a minimum pupils are expected to record three entries in their reading record each week. The children can now read either the hard-copy books or the electronic books at home, or both, and can also extend their reading to other material you may have at home such as recipes and instruction manuals – whatever they show an interest in. The new electronic books will be particularly useful for families who find themselves unable to send their children in to school at times during this academic year.

Using the online reading world

Bug Club is an e-book reading scheme that your child will use for independent reading at home throughout the week. For younger children phonics games will also be allocated. Each child has a unique homepage and can log into it by following these steps:

- Go to www.activelearnprimary.co.uk
- Your child's username will be the first four letters of their first name, unless shorter, followed by the first four letters of their second name, unless shorter and finally the digits 02
So, if your name is Rebecca Jones, your username will be rebejone02
Lee Jackson would be leejack02
- Your child's password and our school code will appear on a Bug Club sticker in or on the cover of their reading record

Please note: If you have any problem accessing Bug Club, or viewing the books and games, click the 'help' button in the top right hand corner of the screen and go to 'technical guidance.'

Reading a book online

We will allocate books to your child according to their reading levels. These books will appear in the 'My Stuff' area of their personal homepages.

Email: info@st-james.dudley.sch.uk Website: www.st-james.dudley.sch.uk





There are questions and activities within the books for your child to complete, marked by the symbol above. By answering these questions, your child will earn 'ActiveLearn Coins'. By reading more books, your child will earn enough coins to 'buy' a reward within their personal Bug Club area.

The answers to the quiz questions will be sent back to our teacher site so that we can see how your child is progressing.

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'.

Getting involved as a parent

There is information for parents on the inside covers of each book. In addition, the following general advice can help adults support young readers.

- Look at the book's front 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?
- 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.
- 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.

We hope your child enjoys reading on Bug Club! Remember any books that pupils read can be added to their Reading records, including our new electronic ones.

There is a wealth of information to support parents on our **Reading at Home** page on the school website. Go to www.st-james.dudley.sch.uk/reading-at-home

Yours Sincerely

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