



Pearson


Significantly boost progress and achievement of EAL pupils with Bug Club



School name:  Greet Primary School

School type:  Primary school

Region:  Birmingham

Ofsted rating:  Outstanding (2007)

Area type:  City

Pupil premium %:  35%

Number of pupils:  915

EAL %:  83%

Key points to take away

- The online element of Bug Club makes it **accessible to pupils from anywhere at any time.**
- Bug Club has helped EAL pupils at Greet to **gain in reading confidence**, with the percentage of pupils in Year 5 who are reaching age-related expectations doubling in 12 months.
- Bug Club has been crucial in accelerating reading progress at Greet so that it is **now higher than the national average.**

Background

Greet Primary was judged "Outstanding" by Ofsted in 2007, and an interim assessment in 2011 found that performance has been sustained. It is a very large primary school with Nursery provision. The majority of pupils are from minority ethnic groups with most unable to speak English when they start in the Nursery class. A significant number of pupils join the school in other year groups and most have no or very limited spoken English at that point. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is above average.

A modern approach to reading

With such a high proportion of EAL pupils, staff at Greet Primary have quite a task on their hands to ensure pupils reach age-related expectations in English. Reading is fundamental to a child's ability to access all areas of the curriculum, and there is a wide body of evidence that suggests reading for pleasure is the best way to improve all areas of English, including writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation. Therefore, leaders at the school were keen to introduce a reading scheme that would engage children in books; one that offered children the type of books that they would actively want to pick up and read. With its vast array of fiction genres and characters (including many that children would recognise from TV or film) and the wide variety of non-fiction topics, Bug Club ticked this box very well.

At the time the school was also exploring the use of technology in classroom learning – with particular regard to how it could help children with EAL. The eBook platform in Bug Club was therefore very welcome. The school loves the fact that pupils can access these reading books at any time from any place on a computer, laptop or tablet. Most importantly, the online format enables children to read without the explicit help of their parents – which is extremely helpful with EAL families.

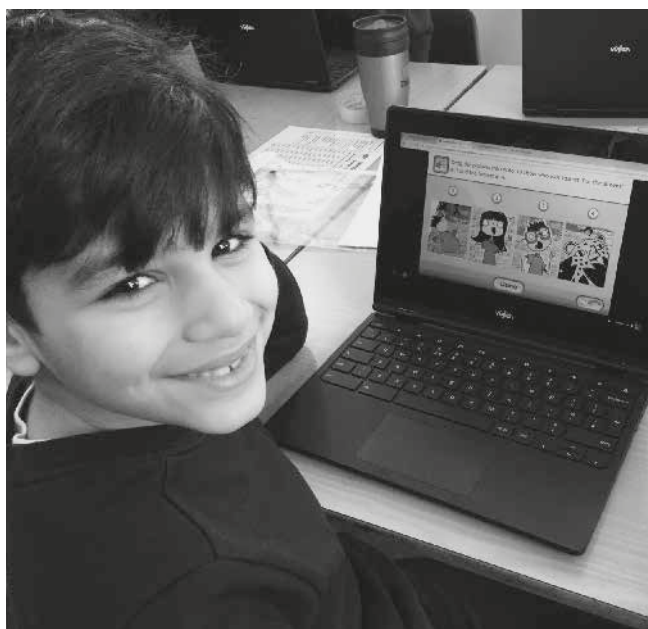
“The children love Bug Club and are excited when it is their Bug Club day in Guided Reading.”

A cornerstone of reading provision

Pupils in Years 2 – 5 at Greet Primary use Bug Club online for their weekly reading homework, while the eBooks form part of each child's Guided Reading rotation. The school has also been making use of the book-band levelled *Progress & Assess* reading assessments that form part of the Bug Club subscription. This helps them to track progress and maintain evidence for reading outcomes. Pupil Premium children are further encouraged to attend Greet's breakfast club, where they are given the opportunity to read on iPads before school starts.

The results have been overwhelmingly positive. The children love Bug Club and are excited when it is their Bug Club day in Guided Reading. The 'read to me' function is particularly useful for struggling readers – while the embedded quiz questions in the eBooks challenge pupils with suitable questions and provide instantaneous feedback.

The school has also seen the impact on its results. The number of children reading at age-related expectations in Year 5 jumped from 25% in 2015–16 to 66% in 2016–17 after the introduction of Bug Club. Although in Year 2, results remained static, the school believes that without Bug Club the results would have significantly decreased for this cohort. Most impressively, 30% of pupils made above average progress in the 2016–17 period, compared to 15% nationally (using GL assessment data), despite only having the programme fully up and running from January 2017.



“ They are becoming more confident to listen to a story and attempt to answer questions. ”



Some great success stories

For children whose parents perhaps don't read with them very often at home, the online format of Bug Club has been very useful because these children can access it independently. The school has seen EAL pupils become more confident and engaged with independent texts.

“In spite of their lack of confidence and experience of the language and the world, they are becoming more confident to listen to a story and attempt to answer questions. It also gets them to start to think about how to answer questions and familiarises them with different question types,” says Matthew Haydon, Assistant Headteacher (Y2, Y3).

One success story that stands out is a child in Year 2 who was underachieving and whose work was very messy. Staff found it difficult to find positives in his work, until they discovered that he was reading a wide range of books on Bug Club at home. The praise he received for this and the positive results in his reading tests has not only improved his confidence but also his attitude to learning in other areas.

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