









Build a 'reading for pleasure' culture



School name:	 Lent Rise County Combined School	School type:	 Community Primary (4-11 years)
Region:	 Buckinghamshire	Ofsted rating:	 Outstanding (July 2010)
Area type:	 Town	Pupil premium %:	 6.9%
Number of pupils:	 414	EAL %:	 14.7%

Why Bug Club? Lent Rise is a popular school in an area recognised by the DfE as one of deprivation. Typically, pupils have low levels of pre-schooling and many enter the school at age 4 with below average attainment. **Jill Watson, Head Teacher** at the school, introduced Bug Club to help children develop a passion for reading, to drive up standards, and in particular, to develop stronger home-school learning links.

Key points to take away

- **Programme flexibility** means teachers can use the resources within whole class, group and one-to-one sessions.
- Home access encourages many children to **log on and read more** than the recommended once a week.
- Overwhelmingly **positive parent and pupil feedback**.
- After five months the school saw a noticeable **improvement in its EYFS e-profile scores** over previous years.

Background

Jill Watson, Head Teacher at Lent Rise, started using Bug Club in school in September 2010. She began by using Bug Club's online reading world with the school's 60 Early Years pupils, then extended its use to the whole of Key Stage 1.

Preparing Early Years pupils for their journey towards becoming fully-fledged readers is a key priority at the school. "Parents are given guidance on supporting reading prior to the children starting school," explains Jill. "All pupils begin home readers on entry to school and are taught phonics and reading skills daily through a variety of approaches."

Jill realised that Bug Club could help her Early Years pupils develop a passion for reading as well as improve reading standards across the school. "Our vision for Bug Club

was to use it to develop homeschool learning links and parental confidence alongside our own learning platform. We also wanted to use Bug Club's eBooks and printed books to enhance our existing reading resources," says Jill.



How Bug Club is used at Lent Rise

Bug Club's online reading world and teaching resources are used in a variety of ways:

- Teachers and pupils regularly use the interactive whiteboard activities within whole class, group and one-to-one sessions.
- Pupils access their personalised online reading world at school, working one-to-one with a Teaching Assistant which helps each child's reading development and enables the TA to continually assess their reading.
- Pupils have 'self choice sessions' with Bug Club where they choose what they'd like to read. "In these sessions, the children show their interest and enjoyment in reading and often share the books they're reading with their friends," says Jill.

- Pupils access Bug Club at home. "We encourage them to log on to their personalised online reading world at least once a week, to complement their home reading," explains Jill, "but we find many children log on more than this!"

“I would recommend it to any primary school!”

(Jill Watson, Head Teacher)

What pupils say

Pupils at Lent Rise are unanimous in their praise for Bug Club:

- "I like Bug Club because it is fun." Madison, age 4.
- "I like Bug Club because I like playing the games." Fin, age 5.
- "It will help me learn to write too." Stanley, age 5.
- "I like looking at the books." Brian, age 6.
- "I get lots of points!" Charlie, age 4.

"We use the Bug Club printed books as well as the eBooks," says Jill. "The children enjoy finding their past and future reading books in their online reading world. They really look forward to accessing or receiving particular books that they have enjoyed together using a different medium. They enjoy discussing in school which books they have read before and which ones they enjoyed the most."



What the parents say

Parents are just as positive about Bug Club and the impact it is having on their children's reading. "They have generally found the site easy to use and they are happy and confident to use it," explains Jill. "Parents have liked the way we have provided a link to the site from our learning platform and that the individual usernames and passwords have been adapted to match existing pupil usernames and passwords. Many parents have asked if they can share the programme's website address with friends and family," she adds.

Mrs A, parent of five-year-old Alfie says: "This is the breakthrough I have been after for Alfie. I couldn't make reading fun – I tried, but it was just not getting him into it enough to want to learn more, but this computer reading is fab! Alfie cannot get enough of it. He actually wants to read the next book so he can answer the questions and get the applause! Just brilliant! I'm so happy!"

And Mrs W, parent of five-year-old Boris says: "One thing to praise is the variety of books available and the way they provide my husband and me with ideas for fun and educational activities to do at home. For instance, Boris has really enjoyed several of the factual books which instruct you on making something. *Be a Cress Barber* was a definite favourite, for example, and we did go on to make the cress heads, with Boris reading out the instructions he needed to follow from the online book. Boris certainly does think reading is fun – he can't get enough of it."

What teachers say

Jill and her colleagues are similarly positive about Bug Club and the impact it is having in school and on their teaching. "The teaching tools are easy to use, particularly the class monitoring page where you can check which books the children have been reading, alongside the date that they last logged on," explains Jill. "This page also shows quite clearly which children are due to run out of books so that you can allocate them before they run out." The staff also find the pupil interface very user-friendly, commenting that the bugs theme and a mixture of different topics ensure it appeals to both boys and girls.

The outcome – thumbs up for Bug Club

By February 2011, five months after they started to use Bug Club, the school's comparative Early Years Foundation Stage e-profile scores for reading and letters and sounds showed a noticeable improvement compared to previous years. Jill is full of praise for Bug Club and the results it is delivering at Lent Rise. "The children are keen to read the Bug Club eBooks and play the educational games linked to them. Teachers have found the resources very helpful for whole class and group teaching as well as one-to-one work and at this stage it appears that pupils are progressing at a faster rate with their phonic decoding and sight recognition."

Find out more

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