Dear Parents

We are very excited about the range of books that we can offer in our home reading scheme. Many of our books now come from Bug Club which offers a range of books both fiction and non-fiction focussing on many different characters. Some are well-known such as Angelina Ballerina and Alphablocks, whilst others will not be known from popular television but re-appear in various books throughout the scheme.

Bug Club books allow the children to decode phonetically at the correct level therefore providing opportunity to consolidate learned sounds. This said however, we have retained many books, both fiction and non-fiction from other reading schemes which allow for a good breadth and variety of reading alongside Bug Club.

Early reading should also include learning the non-decodable sight vocabulary for each level of their phonics as well as the common exception words relevant to their year group. This will ensure that they are able to read many words with a good level of confidence. Your children will learn these words during phonics sessions and may bring them home to practise on a laminated bookmark. They will also bring home a few different common exception words each week in their homework to practise reading and eventually spelling. The children all have Bug Club logins and passwords and are allocated books online which they can read to you or themselves. The online app also has the facility for the children to be read to. There are comprehension style questions which the children can then answer to earn coins to buy online goodies for their Bug Club characters. We can monitor usage and progress at school and add books as we feel their learning is secure and we move them up the reading bands. Reading encompasses so much more than simply learning how to decode words and great emphasis is placed on understanding and comprehension of the text. We do not automatically move children up the book bands just because they are fluently decoding the words. We assess comprehension skills in many different ways before moving the children on.

We teach phonics using a mixture of the Letters and Sounds scheme as well as our Bug Club Scheme. These daily sessions are rigorous and ensure that the children have many opportunities to blend learned sounds into words and segment words into learned sounds.

We have attached the link for Bug Club and have provided your child with a login and password.

Yours sincerely