

Upcoming Events

- Library Van in Pegswood - 8th of December from 15:45 to 16:45
- [Seven Stories Newcastle](#) - THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS - Interactive storytelling family sessions throughout December
- Storytime at Morpeth Library on the 8th & 15th of December from 10:30 till 11:00
- [LiZ Million Christmas Drawing Workshop](#) Cramlington Library - 20th December 10:30 till 11:30
- Cramlington Library Christmas Crafts - 23rd December 2pm

This Week in school...

In a change to the norm, I thought this week we could focus on what the staff have been doing this week! On Tuesday, we all took part in online training for the new Phonics and Reading Scheme that we have adopted across the school. Having no phone lines or internet did prove a slight challenge after storm Arwen, but we all managed to get online and take part from our homes. I am sure that you have already heard your children mention BUG CLUB PHONICS, BUG CLUB INDEPENDENT or even BUG CLUB COMPREHENSION, but what are they all and how are they helping your child? Hopefully these brief explanations will help to explain what we are doing and why...

BUG CLUB PHONICS is a way of learning to read by blending the sounds associated with the letters a child sees. From Reception until the end of Year 2, your child will do a Bug Club Phonics session every day. The reading books your child brings home (and the ones they have access to online) are designed to support them in practising and consolidating the learning they have done at school. They also enable children to experience the pleasure and pride of reading their own books. In Nursery, the children use Bug Club Phonics to help them learn about the sounds around them and begin to explore the phonemes ready for Reception.



Very often, children need to continue with phonics sessions in Key Stage 2, and that is why we use **RAPID PHONICS**. This is a collection of finely levelled fiction and non-fiction books around topics and themes that your children will love. The Rapid Reading books are available as printed books and online. These books are aimed at older children and more suited to their stage of learning whilst still helping them to master the tricky bits of reading and spelling.

BUG CLUB INDEPENDENT is an online space full of books that are tailored exactly to your child's stage of reading. The children should be able to read these books independently and answer questions about them as they are prompted throughout the text. This gives the teacher a greater understanding of your child's grasp of the text and helps them to identify the next steps. These online books provide a bit of variety for children and can be used as part of the children's weekly reading in and out of school.



Bug Club Independent



And finally, **BUG CLUB COMPREHENSION** which focuses on developing children's core comprehension skills, encouraging discussion around a stimulating array of new whole texts and interactive online books. KS2 children take part in these sessions during their English lessons and regardless of their reading stage, are able to access a wide range of age appropriate texts that they can delve deeper into with support.

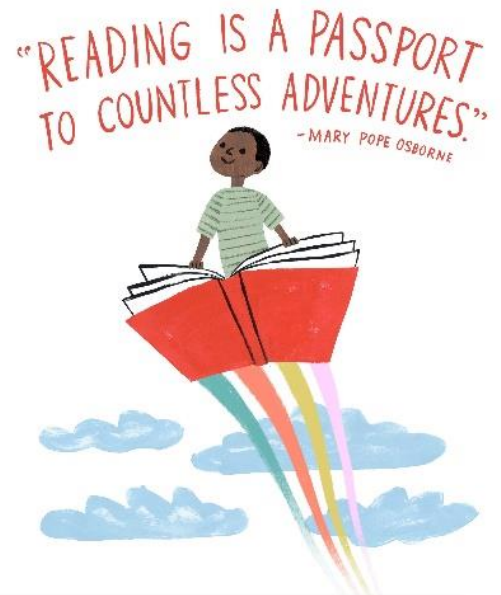
In the classroom...

This week in **Year 4** we finished reading Christophe's Story and plotted an emotions graph to show how the feelings of characters changed throughout the story. We have loved this book! The children have also been carrying out their own research on evacuees using a variety of sources.

This week **Nursery** have shared a beautiful Christmas story, 'Santa's special letter'. Santa was looking for a special letter from Little Pip the mouse who wanted to fly like Santa. Santa made him a small sleigh so he could fly and help Santa deliver all the presents. The children had sent their own letters to Santa and today the postman gave Elvin the elf a special delivery for the Nursery children: a reply to their letter they sent to Santa !



Thank you for all the wonderful competition entries. Whether you have done yours at home or in school, they all look fantastic and it is going to be very tricky to pick the winners!



Year 3 have continued the auto biography unit in English. We have read wordsmith's Little Red Riding Hood and The Wolf's autobiographies. We have also shared biography fact files for J K Rowling and Roald Dahl.

Year 5 have used their in-depth knowledge of 'Goth Girl - The Ghost of Mouse' to write some incredible extra passages for the book. Some of their arguments between characters are so good you would never know they hadn't come directly from Chris Riddell's pages. Equally as impressive, is the **Year 6** discussion writing. Following on from a fictional story about zoos and some research into zoos around the world, the children have created balanced and mature written work and I am extremely proud of them.



This week **Reception** started looking at both non-fiction and fiction texts about the Jewish festival Hanukkah and listened to our puppet friends David and Anna explain about their religion. Then things went a little crazy when a party loving dragon arrived and brought a book with him called Dragon's Love Tacos by Adam Rubin. This explains how dragons must not eat spicy salsa, which we now know the reason why! The children have loved this story and it has sparked so much imagination, language and questioning skills.



**Bug Club
Independent**

A huge well done to Cameron (Year3) who has now read 20 online reading books - fantastic!