



## Dear parents at Backatorpsskolan!

I want you to read this letter, because it is precisely about **READING**. One of the school's most important goals. By becoming a good reader, you gain access to new worlds, wonderful adventures and exciting places, people and cultures. A good reading ability also affects learning in all subjects.

Today we know through research that the ability to read has a positive effect on the brain. Memory, interpretation and understanding complex and abstract images is significantly improved.

When a child starts school, they have a vocabulary of about 6000 words. After high school, students who read continuously have increased their vocabulary to 50-70,000 words. Students who do not read have acquired between 15-17,000 words. To get by in adulthood, you need at least 50,000. It can be good to know that approximately 9 out of 10 words we learn come from written text.

In school, we practice reading all the time, but that time is not sufficient. Children also need to read in their spare time in order to develop as much as possible.

Reading is a fresh commodity. It needs to be trained and maintained all the time. School and home need to work together to give students the best conditions. At home you need to listen and talk about the reading homework (or other homework). Sometimes let your children listen while you read. Being a good role model as an adult, when it comes to reading, has proven to be very important. The day a child identifies as "a reader", research shows that those students will continue to read even during the holidays.

A wonderful summer holiday with a lot of free time awaits soon. The students really deserve it. But, that doesn't mean that reading should rest. No, now is the time to read! Research and studies show that as many as 45% of young readers lose much of their reading ability during the summer.

To minimize this "summer vacation loss", you should get some tips and tools to become your child's best reading coach. The reading can consist of physical copies (books), digital platforms or audio.

## TIPS and TOOLS

Be good role models by reading yourself and making sure that there is access to fun and interesting literature.

If you speak another language at home, read in that language! Languages make your children richer and there are only advantages to hearing, reading and speaking more languages.

Create routines around reading time and talk about the content of the books.

Listen to audiobooks together, for example on the beach, at breakfast or in the car.





Challenge your children by setting reading goals. It can be the number of pages or books to read. Reward good performance. The reward can be that you read aloud to the children, or something fun you do together.

Help your child find good books. The school has a fantastic library where you are welcome to borrow books over the summer holidays.

Finally, I would like to remind you that reading is a democratic right. A right which is about:

navigating the world, acquiring the necessary knowledge and information  
and feeling the joy and pleasure of reading

Best wishes on your reading journey!

**Helena Lindqvist, special education teacher at Backatorpsskolan**

