

The summer holidays are here!

The final school bell has rung and the summer holidays are here. Whatever your family has planned this summer, there will be lots of new opportunities for your child to learn.

It's really important for young minds to stay active during the summer holidays. That's where reading comes in. Reading with your child gives you a chance to relax and spend time together and is a great way for your child to learn new words and spark their imaginations.

Summer reading tips

Here are our top tips for an enjoyable summer of reading:

- **Make time to read:** reading with your child for as little as 10 minutes a day can boost how well they do at school. Why not start with a bedtime story?
- **Holiday destinations:** whether you're going to the zoo, the coast, or jetting off abroad, reading guide books, maps and brochures with your child will help get them excited for your trip – and also build their vocabularies and knowledge about the world around them.
- **Go outside:** make the most of the warm weather and head outside! Mix it up by reading together in the garden, the park or even the beach.
- **Find the perfect read:** your child is more likely to enjoy reading if they get to choose what they read. Join your local library for free and help your child explore the wonderful world of books, comics and magazines about everything from animals and sports to cooking and wizards.
- **Real life examples:** make links to real life when you are reading. If there's a picture of a dog, talk about a dog that you both know.
- **Get the whole family involved:** get grandparents, older siblings, aunts and uncles involved with too. Reading with different people can be fun for your child and helps them to understand how reading is valued in their lives.
- **Leave your child wanting more:** stop reading at an exciting point in the story – maybe at the end of a chapter or even in the middle of a sentence. Your child will be bursting with excitement the next day to pick up where you left off.

Visit [wordsforlife.org.uk](https://www.wordsforlife.org.uk) for more summer reading inspiration!