Newsletter #3 **Embracing AI Without Losing the Heart of Teaching**

We stand at a remarkable crossroads in education. While teachers realise the potential of artificial intelligence as a tool to enrich learning and lighten the workload, we know that technology is only as good as the human heart that guides it.

AI is certainly a tool that can reduce workload and support teaching by enabling teachers to spend more time with their students rather than on preparation. However, Scandinavian educational philosophy reminds us that learning is relational, creative and dialogic — that is, it grows through conversation, mutual respect, hands-on activity and reflection. Nordic educational traditions are rooted in dialogue and collaboration, where teachers guide thinking rather than simply deliver information - the idea that education shapes the whole person, not just test results.

AI can assist with planning, feedback and data tasks. But it cannot replace the essential human elements:

- warmth in the classroom
- curiosity sparked by teacher-student interaction
- practical problem-solving with real materials
- play, creativity, discussion and reflection

These "salt-of-the-earth" aspects of teaching are where relationships matter most and where AI's role remains supportive — not central.

As primary educators, our goal is clear: use AI to reduce the burden of paperwork and repetitive tasks, but always keep eyes, ears and, most importantly, hearts, present in the classroom. AI should enhance learning, not replace learning. Let's ask good questions, maintain high expectations for critical thinking and nurture creativity — whether a child is holding a pencil or interacting with a digital prompt. This generation of learners deserves both the power of technology and the guidance of human teachers who listen, mentor and inspire.

With warm regard