

20 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

BBC 500 Words Story Writing Competition

The **BBC 500 Words Story Writing Competition** has been organised again. It is the UK's most successful children's writing competition and it has now opened for submissions and will run till Friday 10 November. This year, the two age categories will be **5-7 year-olds** and **8-11 year-olds**.

Children of all abilities are encouraged to use their creativity and imagination to **write a story they would love to read**.

It is a very exciting opportunity for the children to express themselves through writing and share their - sometimes hidden - talents. We encourage the children in our school to participate in this creative writing event.

All the stories **must**:

- **Be 500 words or less** (title is not included in the number)
- Be written by an individual and not a group
- Be a child's own original idea
- Be story-like, not a rap or poem

Stories **must not**:

- Give any personal details of the child, including their name
- Recount an historical event (but they can use a real person or historical character as a source of inspiration)

All stories will be judged on the following criteria:

- Characterisation
- Plot
- Originality
- Language
- Enjoyment

Visit the website to find out more about the competition and how to enter:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/about-500-words/zctk7v4>

Set pen to paper and write away!

Good luck to our young writers!

Karolina Kruszko and Christina Buja – Writing Leads