

Colmers Farm Primary School

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25th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are pleased to let you know that this year's BBC 500 Words competition is now open for entries and we would love your child to take part.

The competition gives children a mission to write a story that is 500 words or less (title is not included in the number). It has to be a child's own original idea and be written as prose, not rap or a poem.

Stories must not give any personal details of the child, including their name, recount any historical event, or be created, written or developed by AI.

There are two age categories – 5 to 7 and 8 to 11 year olds – and spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked. It's all about writers' brilliant creativity! All stories are judged on the characterisation, plot, originality, language and enjoyment.

The panel of celebrity judges includes Sir Lenny Henry, Malorie Blackman, Francesca Simon, Charlie Higson and Frank Cottrell-Boyce.

There are prizes to be won - each winner will take home a bundle of books and the gold winners will also win 500 books for their school library.

50 finalists will be invited to a star-studded grand final at Windsor Castle in February 2026. Each winner will also see their story be read aloud by a superstar celebrity as part of a special 500 Words programme with The One Show in early March.

All winning stories will be illustrated by children's illustrators and published in a special 500 Words winners' book produced by Oxford University Press.

Entries should be written inside the 500 Words booklet that your child has brought home with this letter. You can then submit it online via the BBC website: www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words no later than the deadline of 9pm on **Friday, November 7th**.

Alternatively, if you do not have access to the website, you can return the completed booklet to the school office no later than **Thursday, November 6th**.

You can read more about the competition, including the full details and rules, on the BBC website: www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words



2022-2025



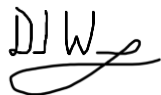
Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



SCHOOL
MEMBER

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DJW' with a stylized flourish underneath.

Mr Williams
Senior Headteacher