



Friday 25th September 2026

BBC 500 Words Creative Writing Competition 2026/27

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to let you know that the **BBC 500 Words Competition** is returning for 2026/27, and we would love to see as many of our KS2 children as possible take part.

The BBC's 500 Words competition is the UK's largest creative writing competition for children aged 5 to 11 years. It encourages children to let their imaginations run wild and write a story they would love to read. Entries can be up to 500 words long, and the judges focus on creativity, originality and storytelling, rather than spelling, punctuation or grammar.

This is a fantastic opportunity for children to:

- Develop their creativity and imagination.
- Build confidence as writers.
- Share their ideas with a national audience.
- Experience the excitement of entering a prestigious writing competition.
- Celebrate the joy of storytelling.

Children can write about anything they choose. Whether they dream up magical worlds, exciting adventures, mysterious creatures or humorous tales, the most important thing is that the story is their own original idea. Stories should be written independently and must be no more than 500 words.

The competition is expected to open for entries on **29 September 2026**, with submissions closing at **9pm on 6 November 2026**.

We encourage families to support their child by discussing ideas, reading together and celebrating their writing. While adults can help with typing or submitting entries, the story itself should be the child's own work.

The BBC provides a range of resources and guidance for young writers, and further information can be found here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

Over the coming weeks, we will be promoting the competition in school and sharing ideas to inspire our young authors. We hope many of our pupils will embrace this exciting challenge and discover the pleasure of becoming storytellers.



Prizes

Bronze, silver and gold winners will receive a framed illustration of their story, publication in a special *500 Words* winners' book and a National Book Token voucher. Gold-winning schools will also receive 500 books for their library, and every school that submits at least one entry will be entered into a prize draw to win additional books and a literacy wall art installation.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards
Miss Brenwald
English Lead

Rules

Here at 500 Words, we have always wanted children to have fun writing stories, to be as creative as they can be and to make us laugh, cry or just be blown away by what we are reading. Children are encouraged to write a story they would love to read themselves. Over the years there have been thousands of incredible stories submitted.

There are very few rules for 500 Words but a few points to remember when writing a story.

All 500 Words stories must:

- Be 500 words or fewer (title is not included in the number)
- Be written by an individual and not a group
- Be a child's own original idea
- Be prose, not 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)
- Be created, written or developed by AI
- Contain unsuitable material, such as; graphic violence, bad language and offensive content. They must be suitable for a primary aged audience.

In every 500 Words competition, all stories are judged anonymously on the following criteria:

- Characterisation
- Plot
- Originality
- Language
- Enjoyment

Join Live lesson on 30th Sept 11am in reading slot
