

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## BBC's 500 Words Story Writing Competition

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are delighted to inform you that Seva School has an inspirational opportunity to take part in the BBC's 500 Words Story Writing Competition. 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** without the pressure of having to worry about spelling, punctuation and grammar.

BBC's 500 Words is the UK's largest children's story writing competition for 5–11-year-olds. The competition is open from 08:00 am Tuesday 26 September - 20:00 pm Friday 10 November.

All the stories **must**:

- **Be 500 words or less** (title is not included in the number)
- **Be typed**
- 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)

**All stories** will be judged on the following criteria:

- Characterisation
- Plot
- Originality
- Language
- Enjoyment



**Submissions are now open for the competition.** You will have to sign up on the website link given below to submit your story. Please note **all stories must be typed and submitted by an adult.**

50 finalists, along with their parents or carers, will be invited to attend a grand final next February at **Buckingham Palace!** Not only will the bronze, silver and gold winners of each age group have their stories read by celebrities, but the event will be shown on a special 500 Words programme with the The One Show, on World Book Day on 7 March 2024.

**All the finalists will receive a £20 National Book Token and their stories will be recorded and published on our website.**

**The winners in each category will receive an array of prizes.** As well as their stories being read out by celebrities, they will all receive a bundle of books.

- The 2 gold winners will receive the height of Sir Lenny Henry in books and their schools will receive 500 Books
- The 2 silver winners will receive the height of Her Majesty, Queen Camilla in books
- The 2 bronze winners will receive the average height of a 7 or 11 year old in books

Their stories will be illustrated by incredible children's illustrators, **Joelle Avelino, Axel Scheffler, Fiona Lumbers, Sue Cheung, Jamie Smart, and Steven Lenton**, framed and put into a 500 Words winners book.

As an added incentive for schools to enter, every story will be entered into a random prize draw. One lucky winner will not only receive a ticket to the final and a bundle of books but their school will be given 500 books and a Literacy Wall Art of their choice, to promote the love of story-telling.

If your child would like to take part in this fantastic opportunity, you can get all the details of what to write and how to submit their story on this link <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to email me or your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs S Satsangi

Assistant Principal

Teaching and Learning