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Headteacher: Mr Tim Beavan



11<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians

The BBC writing competition 500 Words is back and we would love the children from Wessex Primary School to take part.

There are two age categories: 5-7- and 8-11-year-olds. All the children need to do is write a story they would love to read themselves in 500 Words or less.

Children of all abilities can enter as **spelling, punctuation and grammar** are not marked – it is all about creativity!

50 finalists will be invited to go to the grand final at Buckingham Palace in February next year, where the bronze, silver and gold winners in each category will have their stories read out by celebrities.

There are lots of prizes to be won including books for the school library and not only that, but the winning stories will also receive an original illustration from **Dapo Adeola, Nigel Parkinson, Lydia Monks, Momoko Abe, Rob Biddulph or Yasmeen Ismail**, all notable figures in the world of children's literature and illustrations.

There are just a few rules:

- Children can only submit one story.
- 500 words or less (the title is not included in the number).
- The story must be written by an individual child and not a group or class.
- Be the child's own original idea.
- Be a story and NOT rap or a poem.

Stories must **NOT**:

- Give any personal details, 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.

Please send your child's entry into school, marked for the attention of Mrs Newman by Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Kind Regards

Mrs Newman  
Writing Lead & Cherry Class Teacher

