

13 February 2019

Dear Parents

As you may know BBC Radio 2's 500 Words competition is currently open. It is the UK's most successful short story-writing competition for children between the ages of 5 and 13.

It was launched back in 2011, after Chris Evans had an idea to get all children excited about reading and writing. In 2018 134,790 children entered the competition, and since it launched, the competition has received over 800,000 short stories.

Stories are judged anonymously, without regard to grammar, punctuation or spelling. The competition culminates in a broadcast extravaganza of live music and sensational story-telling every summer, at a special venue. Past venues have included The Globe and The Tower of London. 2018 saw a magnificent extravaganza come live from Hampton Court Palace. From the 134,790 entries - that's 67.5 million words, the 6 winning wordsmiths were announced on-air by celebrity narrators.

As part of our creative writing work in Years 3 and 4, the children have been discussing, planning, writing and editing their own 500 words story. These stories are now complete and the children should feel very proud of their hard work! The children have the option to type up their story as part of their holiday 'homework' allowing you to enter them into the competition, if you wish to do so. To do this simply visit the BBC words page <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1>

If you would like to enter your child's story into the competition please make sure that you do this by the deadline which is **7pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March.**

Good luck!

Mrs Allen  
Head of English