

PARKSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Thursday 1st October 2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

BBC - 500 Word Story Writing Competition

We are very pleased to announce that our children will have the opportunity to take part in the BBC 500 Words Story Writing Competition this year. The competition is open to children aged 5-11 years old and is a fantastic opportunity for children to use their imagination and creativity to write their own original story.

Children are invited to write a story of no more than 500 words on a topic of their choice. The story can be about anything they wish and we would encourage children to be as creative as possible when developing their ideas, characters and plots. There are two age categories: 5-7 years and 8-11 years.

Stories will be judged on originality, plot, characterisation, language and enjoyment. Children do not need to worry about reaching exactly 500 words; their story can be shorter, but it must not go over the 500-word limit.

It is important that the story is the child's own work and ideas. Parents and carers are welcome to support children by discussing their ideas and helping them to type or scribe their story where needed. However, the story itself must not be written or developed by an adult or using AI.

The competition is now open and entries must be submitted by 9pm on Friday 6th November 2026. Entries will be submitted online by an adult and further information about how to submit your child's story can be found on the BBC website.

We would really encourage all children to get involved, particularly those who enjoy reading, writing and creating their own stories. Most importantly, we want the children to have fun, be creative and enjoy the opportunity to become an author!

For further information about the competition and the full entry requirements, please visit the BBC 500 Words website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words>

We are looking forward to reading all of the wonderful and creative stories our children produce!

Thank you,

Miss Batley

English Coordinator

