



Thursday 7th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am excited to be writing to you about our first Arts Trophy competition of the year.

For our Autumn 1 trophy, we would love to enter the nationwide 500 Words story competition that is run annually.

This year, Lenny Henry has been added to the judging panel as well as the competition continuing to receive the backing of Queen Camilla.

Today I have spoken to the children about how to enter the competition. We will be asking those who would like to enter to write a phenomenal and engaging story at home (typed) and to email their wonderful work in to the school office **by Thursday 5th October**. The class teaching team will be judging the entries from each year group and sending their two chosen finalists and their stories to our whole school Grand Final on **Friday 13th October**. Here we will choose our two school winners however....

.....we will also be submitting all the entries we receive to the national competition where they will choose an age 5-7 winner and an 8-11 winner. Your child could be in with a chance of winning the following:



'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 HRM 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.'*

So, what are the rules?

- The story must not contain the child's name or any information which identifies the child
- The story must be written by one person, not as a collaboration
- Eligible entrants must be at least five years old and no older than 11 by Friday 10th November
- The story must be an original work of fiction
- There's a 500 word limit (title is not included in the word count) but no rules on theme



What makes a great 500 word story?

All stories will be judged on the following criteria:

- Characterisation
- Plot
- Originality
- Language
- Enjoyment

You can find out all the information you need here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/about-500-words-collection/zj9b8p3>

We absolutely cannot wait for you to get writing and share your wonderful adventures with us.

Good luck!

Mrs Saunders