



St Dunstan's Catholic School

Drayton Road, King's Heath, Birmingham, B14 7LP



As we Grow With God, We Learn From Each Other

8th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to let you know that BBC 500 Words, the UK's biggest creative writing competition for children, is now open for entries. The competition is open to all children aged 5–11 years and is a fantastic opportunity for young writers to use their imagination, develop their creativity and share a story they would love to read.

We would love to see as many children as possible from our school take part. One of the wonderful things about BBC 500 Words is that spelling, punctuation and grammar are not the focus. Instead, the judges are looking for creativity, originality, characterisation, plot and enjoyment. It is a chance for every child to let their imagination shine and enjoy writing for pleasure.

There are some fantastic prizes available, including:

- Beautifully illustrated versions of winning stories.
- A special winners' book.
- National Book Token vouchers.
- The opportunity for stories to be celebrated as part of this national competition.

Stories must be:

- 500 words or fewer (the title is not included in the word count).
- The child's own original idea.
- Written individually.
- Written as a story.

Entries should be submitted directly from home by parents/carers using the BBC 500 Words website. Children do not need to bring their entries into school, as all submissions are made online.

Please submit entries using the following link:

BBC 500 Words Competition

The competition closes on Friday 6 November at 9.00 pm.



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We hope many of our children will take advantage of this exciting opportunity. Whether your child loves writing regularly or simply has a wonderful story idea waiting to be told, BBC 500 Words is a fantastic chance to be creative and share their imagination with a wider audience.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Miss Darby
English Lead