



# Birches First School

**Believe, Grow, Succeed ...**

...to be the best 'me' I can be.



Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents,

This week in our English lessons, Year 2, 3 and 4 have been working their socks off in constructing their very own stories for the UK's largest story writing competition: 500 words run by the BBC.

The atmosphere and excitement in this week's English lessons has been truly amazing to watch and the staff are blown away with the writing that has been produced. This year, for the competition the prizes are the following:

50 finalists, along with their parents or carers, will be invited to attend a grand final next February at Buckingham Palace! Not only will the bronze, silver and gold winners of each age group have their stories read by celebrities, but the event will be shown on a special 500 Words programme with the The One Show, on World Book Day on 7 March 2024.

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 Her Majesty, 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.

Every story will be entered into a random prize draw. One lucky winner will not only receive a ticket to the final and a bundle of books but their school will be given 500 books and a literacy wall art – of their choice, to promote the love of story-telling. We are not biased at all but how beautiful will that look in Birches!

The English homework over half term will be for the children to submit their stories via the following link:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/500wordscompetition/submissions-fe/index.html#/profile>

The children will be coming home with their creative stories in their homework book. We wish all the luck to our wonderful little writers at Birches. All the staff are so proud of the stories you have produced and most of all they should be proud of themselves too. They are all winners in our eyes.

Kind regards,

Mrs Kandola  
English Lead

