**We are excited to announce that ‘500 Words’, the UK's largest children's writing competition for children aged 5-11, is open for entries!**

**Submissions close at 9pm on Friday 8 November 2024.**

*So, what is it all about and how can my child get involved?*

Children are encouraged to create an original story in 500 words or less. It can be about anything that they feel would interest the reader. As the competition is a celebration of children’s creativity, stories will not be marked on spelling, grammar or punctuation which takes the stress out of it… just let the creativity flow!

Simply type up your story at home (parents can do this for their children). Once finished and saved, you can then copy and paste the entry into the submission form found via the link at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/articles/zqc8mbk#zsfk239>

Please make sure that you visit the website to check out the entry rules!

*Now for the exciting bit…*

We all know competition means one thing… prizes, and there are some unbelievable prizes up for grabs.

Supported by Her Majesty the Queen, the grand final will take place at Buckingham Palace in February 2025 and 50 finalists will be invited, along with a parent or carer.

Each winner in both age categories will take home a bundle of books:

* Gold winning stories will receive the height of Sir Lenny Henry in books
* Silver will win the height of Her Majesty the Queen in books
* Bronze winners will the average height of a child relevant to their age category in books
* The gold winners in both categories will also win 500 books for their school library.

On top of this, each winning story will receive an original illustration from some of the best children's authors in the UK. The winning stories could take home an original illustration from Dapo Adeola, Nigel Parkinson, Lydia Monks, Momoko Abe, Rob Biddulph or Yasmeen Ismail.

Not only will they have their story bought to life, the six illustrated stories will be framed, and each child will get a 500 Words winners’ book to take home.

So, Priory pupils… have you got what it takes to get to Buckingham Palace? I think you do!

Let us know (via seesaw) if you have entered the competition for an immediate 5hp reward.

Have a great half term and get those thinking caps on!

Mrs Sowden.