



West Acton Primary School, Noel Road, Acton. W3 0JL

admin@west-acton.ealing.sch.uk www.westactonprimaryschool.org Tel: - 020 8992 3144

Head Teacher: Miss K Kondo

28th October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: BBC 500 Words Writing Competition

We are delighted to let you know that our school is taking part in this year's **BBC 500 Words Writing Competition** – the UK's biggest children's writing contest! The children were introduced to the challenge in assembly and excitement is already building. Following on from the success of the Summer Writing Challenge, we know there are many brilliant storytellers among our pupils and we cannot wait to see their creativity come to life.

This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to let their imagination run free, have their voice heard and perhaps even see their story celebrated nationally.

To take part, your child needs to write an **original story of no more than 500 words**. It can be about absolutely anything – funny, magical, mysterious, realistic, or completely out of this world – as long as it's their own work. You are welcome to help with typing and checking spelling or punctuation, but the ideas and writing should be theirs. Please note that **entries must be typed** before submission.

There are two ways to send in entries:

- You can email your child's typed story directly to me at admin@west-acton.ealing.sch.uk by 5.00pm on Wednesday 5th November and I will submit their entry.
- Submit your child's entry online yourself <https://www.bbc.co.uk/500wordscompetition/login> by 9.00pm on Friday 7th November

You don't need to be a writer to support your child — your encouragement is what matters most. Talk together about "what if" ideas to spark inspiration, help them think about characters, settings and adventures, and encourage them to draft and improve their story. Listening to them read their story aloud can help them refine it and if they need a hand with typing, that's absolutely fine too. Here is guidance for parents: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z89v9ty>





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Start with ideas: Encourage your child to jot down thoughts before worrying about spelling or neatness.

Plan together: Talk about characters, settings, and what happens — “what if...” questions really help.

Draft and improve: The first version doesn't need to be perfect — good stories are rewritten!

Read it aloud: Hearing their story helps spot where it could be clearer or more exciting.

Check and submit: Keep it under 500 words, check spelling and punctuation, and make sure it's typed before sending.

Taking part in 500 Words builds confidence, imagination and self-expression. It's a chance for every child to enjoy writing for pleasure, and possibly see their work recognised across the country. Most importantly, it's a fun and rewarding experience.

For full details, examples of past stories read aloud by famous voices, and lots of helpful writing tips, please visit the official BBC 500 Words website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words> and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/topics/c25y4yjxw0kt>

We can't wait to celebrate the stories our children create. Thank you for your support in helping to make this an inspiring writing adventure for all.

Yours faithfully,
Karen Kondo
Head Teacher

