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Dear Parents and Carers,



We would like to let you know about the national writing competition we are promoting to the children at Hazeldene again this year called 500 words.



The BBC says, '...All children, no matter what their ability. 500 Words is now one of the most successful story-writing competitions for kids in the world. Nearly half a million pupils have written a story for us; that's over 277 MILLION words! It's very simple. Entrants write an original story on any subject or theme in 500 Words or fewer and submit it online. If they win, their story will be read live on the radio by a superstar celebrity...like Julie Walters, Tom Hiddleston, Sir Kenneth Branagh, Jeremy Irons, or Sherlock himself – Benedict Cumberbatch. Each year, 10 million Radio 2 listeners hear, read and love these stories.



The submitted story must be the child's own work and may not include work from other known stories. It can include real life characters (such as Prince William, the astronaut Tim Peakes, the footballer Gareth Bale or the pop star Ellie Goulding) or characters they have created. The events must be imagined. It can take place in historical eras such as the Stone Age or during the Fire of London, present day settings such as the rainforest, the moon or set in the future. All stories must be submitted in English.



The children will need to write their story at home and submit it online (see website address below) with their parents' permission and support. If this is not possible or you would like any further support from school, please contact the office and we will be happy to help.



We have so many fantastic writers in our school and hope that lots of children will take part. More inspiration and information about the competition can be found at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles//about-500-words>



The closing date for entries online to the BBC is 7pm on Thursday 23rd February. Please do get in touch if you have any queries. Happy writing!



Yours sincerely,

Mrs Norman Mrs Sumner
Key Stage Two Leader Subject Leader for Literacy

