Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update/forewarn you about a couple of things related to English this term. The first is that this week, the children have listened to an assembly about the BBC’s 500 words competition. This is an annual nationwide competition. Children are invited to write a story of NO MORE than 500 words, on any topic, submitted online (as typing makes the word count easier). The closing date is 7pm on Thursday 22nd February. More details can be found at http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1. There are also lots of inspirational ideas on this website. Parents can sign up for a submitter’s account and submit stories on behalf of their children. Alternatively, send me a typed version of the story and I will do it for you. To give me time to do so, please send to me by 7pm on Tuesday 20th Feb. If you do submit a story, please let me know – I’d love to read them. Good luck.

This is the 21st year there’s been a World Book Day, and on 1st March 2018 children of all ages will come together to appreciate reading. Very loudly and very happily.

The main aim of World Book Day in the UK and Ireland is to encourage children to explore the pleasures of books and reading by providing them with the opportunity to have a book of their own. As part of our drive to foster a love of reading in our children, we will be celebrating in style!

On the day itself, children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character. Children are not required to buy a costume - simple, home-made costumes are often much better and children have more fun creating them. There are plenty of ideas on the world book day website: www.worldbookday.com as well as this linked site: http://www.bookaid.org/support-us/world-book-day/world-book-day-dress-up. The dressing up will not have a competitive element - it’s just about having as much fun as possible and celebrating as a school community. If your child would prefer, they can come dressed in their comfiest clothing, eg. pyjames, onesies, etc., ready to curl up with a good book. Think ‘Ready for a bedtime story’.

The whole day will be dedicated to reading–related fun. The aim is to generate enthusiasm and motivate children to try new texts and authors. This year’s World Book Day also has another focus - the ‘Share a story’ campaign (#ShareAStory) highlights the importance of spending just 10 minutes a day reading and sharing stories with an adult at home. I have included an information sheet alongside this letter. There are also a range of high-quality audiobooks available until 25 March at www.worldbookday.com/world-of-stories.

In addition, every child at Dormansland Primary School will receive a £1 book token to spend. They can take their voucher to a local bookseller or supermarket and can use it to pick one of TEN (exclusive, new and completely free) books. Or, if they’d rather, they can use it to get £1 off any book or audio book costing over £2.99 at a participating bookshop or book club (terms and conditions apply). Vouchers are valid from Monday 26th February- Sunday 25th March. Details of the books available can be found on the World Book Day website. I will tell the children about them after half term in assembly.

Finally, I’ve had an idea for a ‘booky’ display. Please could you send me pictures of children’s bookshelves from home? I’m calling this project/photos ‘shelfies’. We will share them and create a display as a talking point. Please send them to jcarter@dormansland.surrey.sch.uk by March 1st.

Miss Carter, English Co-ordinator