Dear Parents

Yesterday in Key Stage 2 assembly, I told the children about the BBC 500 word competition, which is happening again this Spring. I asked the children what they liked about writing (having observed on visits to the classrooms that there is quite a lot of enthusiasm for writing at Dormansland), and they told me it was the idea of creating a world themselves and being able to express themselves that appealed the most. During assembly, amongst other things, we listened to the age 5-9 winning story from 2018 – ‘The Poo Fairy’, which made us all laugh.

500 words 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 Friday 8th March. More details can be found at http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1.

500 Words is open to any child who is aged between 5 and 13 years old on 14th June 2019, and is a full time resident of the UK. The competition celebrates imagination and creativity – not spelling and grammar! – so all children of all abilities are invited to enter.

Your story can be about ANYTHING you want – space-ships, grannies, insects, microwaves. The list is endless! Stories are judged anonymously, without regard to grammar, punctuation or spelling. The competition culminates in a broadcast extravaganza of live music and sensational story-telling every summer, at a special venue. 2018 saw a magnificent extravaganza come live from Hampton Court Palace. For 2019, the venue is the Tower of London. From the 134,790 entries – that’s 67.5 million words, the 6 winning wordsmiths were announced on-air.

500 Words are also delighted to welcome back real-life royalty to the competition: Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall, who returns as the Honorary Judge.

There are some fantastic prizes on offer – see the website for details.

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 Monday 4th March. If you do submit a story, please let me know – I’d love to read them. Good luck.

Miss Carter