

ST ANDREW'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Carer

29 January 2016

English homework for Years 1-6 Short Story Writing Competition '500 words' on BBC Radio 2

We are inviting all children in Years 1-6 to take part in this exciting competition launched recently on BBC Radio 2. As part of their English homework for the next 2 weeks, each child is asked to enter the competition by writing a short story of their choice, no longer than 500 words. Children must write a fictional short story (no more than 500 words in length) which must be submitted to school but can also be entered into the competition via the BBC website. Please also email a copy of the homework if possible to the class teacher who will select a winner for each class. If you wish your child to enter the competition but are unable to access email at home, please give a paper copy to the class teacher and we shall endeavour to send the competition entry from school.

The BBC ask that you provide your name, gender, region and age. Only stories with 500 words or under will be read and entered. On the BBC Radio 2 website there are many more details and ideas that will help your children get going – <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1>. There are also some good examples of previous stories that will inspire you.

A team of teachers and librarians will mark the entries before the Reading Agency draws up a shortlist of 50 finalists. The writers of the top 50 stories will be invited to attend a broadcast of The Chris Evans Breakfast Show that will be broadcast live from St James's Palace, and 6 winners, chosen by the team of author judges, will have their stories read out by a famous narrator. Our own Mrs Barnes will be one of the judges of the competition this year – though not for the North West. She says, "Our children are great writers and have fabulous imaginations to write great stories. Good luck to everybody!"

The winner of the BBC competition will receive a "gold prize" of Chris Evans' height in books, plus 500 books for their school. The silver prize winner will get co-presenter Alex Jones' height in books, and the bronze prize winner will get their own height in books. The St Andrew's class winners will receive a book token and their work will be published on the school website.

Please return all entries to school before Wednesday 10 February.

Further details, including rules and conditions, can be found on the following website:
<https://500words.external.bbc.co.uk/>

Happy writing!
Teachers of St Andrew's CE Primary School



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