



St Elphege's Catholic Schools

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Executive Head Teacher: Mr M Jones

Head Teacher: Mr L Hawkes

Deputy Head Teachers: Mrs R Duffy & Mrs N Hawkes

Friday, 17 October 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you may be aware, St Elphege's has been running termly reading challenges for the last three academic years. These reading challenges have proved to be very popular among our pupils, with hundreds taking part in each challenge in all their various formats. We would like to take this opportunity to **thank you for your support** in this; it has been great to see the profile of reading being raised in our community so effectively over this time.

This term, however, we will be having a **temporary pause on our reading challenges**. In line with our priority objective of raising the standard of writing across the school, we will be running the **Autumn 500 Words Story Competition**. You may have recently seen that the BBC is also currently running 500 words story competition until the Friday 7th November for **5-7 (Years 1-3) and 8-11 (Years 4-6)** year olds; our competition will follow the same rules and **our winners' entries will be submitted to the BBC** (you can look up these rules online and all pupils will be informed of them).

We have launched our competition to pupils on **Friday 17th October**. If your child would like to enter our school competition, then stories need to be uploaded to a new infant and junior Google Classroom before **Monday 3rd November at 3:20pm** (please note: this is a **hard deadline** as it will allow us time to select our winners and then make submissions to the BBC on their behalf). Before our winners are submitted to the BBC, permission will be gained from the relevant parents and guardians.

Years 1, 2 & 3 - use the code below to join the Y1, 2 & 3 Writing Challenge Google Classroom.

fy7c3yio

Years 4, 5 & 6 - use the code below to join the Y4, 5 & 6 Writing Challenge Google Classroom.

wtqexkm2

We look forward to reading the submissions.

Mr Jones (KS2 Lead, KS2 English Coordinator) & Miss Dall (Assistant Head, English Coordinator)