



# Saint Thomas More R.C. Primary School

Senior Leadership Team  
Headteacher: Mrs Joanne Butterworth  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Anna Quigg



Dear Parents,

I would like to invite the children to take part in a very exciting writing competition held by the BBC. The BBC have been running this competition for a number of years and it is a fantastic opportunity for children to 'try out' their writing skills and write creatively!

The competition asks for children to write a short story of no more than 500 words. There is lots of information about how to do this on the 500 words website.

**500 Words 2025/26 will be open for entries from 8am on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September to 9pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November.**

There are two age categories: 5-7 and 8-11 year-olds and spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked - as has always been the case for 500 Words, it's all about our writers' brilliant creativity! There are prizes to be won - each winner will take home a bundle of books and the gold winners will also win 500 books for their school library.

50 finalists will be invited to a star-studded grand final in February 2026, which will once again be supported by Her Majesty The Queen. If that's not enough, each winner will also see their story be read aloud by a superstar celebrity on TV, which will be shown as part of a special 500 Words programme with The One Show.

The official panel of celebrity judges are Sir Lenny Henry, Malorie Blackman, Francesca Simon, Charlie Higson and Frank Cottrell-Boyce.

The children will be spoken to about this exciting competition during assembly and they will also be taking part in the BBC online lesson for the competition on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 11am.

Here are some rules!

All 500 Words stories must:

- Be 500 words or less (title is not included in the number)
- Be written by an individual and not a group
- Be a child's own original idea
- Be prose, not rap or poem

**We Love, We Learn, We Live with Christ**

---

Evesham Road, Alkington, Middleton, Manchester, M24 1PY.  
Tel: 0161 643 7132, Email: [Office@stthomasmorerc.rochdale.sch.uk](mailto:Office@stthomasmorerc.rochdale.sch.uk)



# Saint Thomas More R.C. Primary School

Senior Leadership Team  
Headteacher: Mrs Joanne Butterworth  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Anna Quigg

Stories must not:

- Give any personal details of the child, including their name
- Recount an historical event (but they can use a real person or historical character as a source of inspiration)
- Be created, written or developed by AI

In every 500 Words competition, all stories are judged on the following criteria:

- Characterisation
- Plot
- Originality
- Language
- Enjoyment

Once the competition goes live children (with the help of an adult) will be able to **enter their stories via the 500 words website.**

If your child chooses to enter the competition I would love to read their stories too and if you give permission, share them in school. Please email them to me at: [ccraven@stthomasmorerc.rochdale.sch.uk](mailto:ccraven@stthomasmorerc.rochdale.sch.uk)

Happy writing! I cannot wait to read your stories and see if a St Thomas More pupil can become a 500 word finalist!

Mrs Craven – Whole School English Lead



Scan the QR code to  
go to the website

**We Love, We Learn, We Live with Christ**

Evesham Road, Alkington, Middleton, Manchester, M24 1PY.  
Tel: 0161 643 7132, Email: [Office@stthomasmorerc.rochdale.sch.uk](mailto:Office@stthomasmorerc.rochdale.sch.uk)