

Young Writers' Competition 2020 – 'The Secret'

Dear parents,

As children are now studying and staying at home for the foreseeable future the **Young Writers' Competition** is an ideal piece of work for the children to do home. It will also hopefully provide a fun yet educational distraction for them.

Some teachers have chosen to set this competition as part of the children's home learning, which is available online. However, for those children who have not been passed on the competition information, please see the details below.

The theme this year is '*The Secret*' and we invite the children to interpret this as they choose through poetry or prose.

The children are encouraged to be as imaginative as they like and take their inspiration from examples in literature – Jane Eyre, The Secret Garden, Chronicles of Narnia– or from their own experiences. We are looking for tales of any approach to 'the secret' be it about a secret place, a personal secret, trying to undercover a mystery, a secret club or a secret identity.

We already know it's going to be an exciting year for entries and we are eager to read the children's work. Therefore, we would encourage the children to challenge themselves to think outside of the box!

Here is a poem example.

I tell my secret? No indeed, not I:
Perhaps someday, who knows?
But not today; it froze, and blows, and snows,
And you're too curious: fie!
You want to hear it? well:
Only, my secret's mine, and I won't tell.

- Christina Rossetti

The deadline for entries is Friday 1st May 2020, however this may change. (Wimbledon BookFest are continuing to monitor any changes to the school framework.)

All entries must be typewritten and emailed to the school office, with the full name and class of the child who is entering the competition.

There are 2 categories – Short **Story** and **Poem**

Word Count: Maximum words: 500
Minimum words: 100

Age groups: There are three age groups
KS1 - yrs 1&2
KS2 - yrs 3&4
KS2 - yrs 5&6

There will be separate winners in each age range for short stories and poetry.

Highly Commended, Runners Up and Winners in each category will be published in the Wimbledon BookFest Anthology 2020.

The prize giving will take place with a leading author in September 2020 at the New Wimbledon Theatre and further details will be sent out to you in due course. This year the schools events programme should run from **Monday 12th to Friday 16th October 2020, depending on government guidelines** due to the extenuating circumstances.

Updates & resources

For tips on writing great stories please note that these will be made available and regularly updated at wimbledonbookfest.org

<https://www.wimbledonbookfest.org/Childrens/YoungWritersCompetition2020.aspx>

The English Team at Wimbledon Chase, wish you luck with your entries and look forward to receiving them in due course.

Kind regards,

The English Team.