



TOP TIPS...



The most important thing we are looking for is for your story to be as creative and amazing as possible. We really love reading imaginative stories.

The best advice I can give is to write smart! Don't just start writing, plan your story first. Believe me it is a really good idea to have an idea of what is going to happen at the end before you write it. It is very easy to get stuck when writing and having a plan can help you. Read the worksheet to help you think of your story.

Make sure your story has a great start, middle and ending to it.

At the start introduce where your story begins; can you describe this? We want to be transported from where we are reading your story and land directly in it so tell us what we can see, hear, smell, taste and feel.

Bring in your main character, are they the goodie? Perhaps you want them to be the baddie? We don't mind. We do want you to describe them though. We want to close our eyes and imagine what your character looks like. Do they have a name? What are they like? Are they playful, brave, scary, scared, naughty or clever?

Now we want to read about what happens to them. For example, we don't want to read about a journey to school where not much happens. That's boring – yawn! We want something interesting to happen. It could be fun, it could be sad, but it must be interesting, imaginative and have something to do with the theme.

Lastly, we want there to be an ending. Have you learnt something, about yourself or others?

With all stories your reader will want to know how your character and, perhaps, the others, feels about things during the story. Are they sad and unhappy at the start, scared in the middle and hilariously happy at the end?

When you have finished your story, we want you to read through it and make sure you are happy with it. Perhaps let someone else read it and let them tell you what they think about it. Did they like it, did they understand what was going on, could they close their eyes and imagine that they were there? Speaking to someone is also a good way of getting ideas for your stories too.

Please also check that you have spelt everything correctly and, if you can, punctuate the story as much as you can. It's always nice to have commas and full stops to let your reader have a breather. Using paragraphs is also a good idea as is the use of capital letters, speech bubbles and so on.

Check too that you are using good adjectives to describe everything and verbs to describe what your characters are doing and adverbs to show how they are doing it.

Lastly, don't forget to give it a catchy title.

Just before I go, remember a story should be about getting what is in your imagination down onto your computer or on paper. Take your time and make sure you have written it all. Don't worry about not writing 1000 words too. Think quality over quantity.

Please make sure your parents, guardian or carer read our rules page before you submit your story too.

