



33 languages spoken at CJCA!

We are **proud** to have such a diverse school.

Students who come here are **resilient** in the face of new experiences.

Students are **responsible** for their learning and are encouraged to speak up if they do not understand something.

Teachers are **aspirational**, they want students to achieve their best.

We give students the support they need so that they can be **independent** learners.

Our school community is **respectful** towards all backgrounds.



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We teach students to respect school equipment

Every New to English student who arrives at Cockburn John Charles Academy will be given a bilingual dictionary and taught how to use it.

They must sign a contract with the department to return it after one year. Students are given stickers for their planners so that staff know who should be using a dictionary. If a student is found without their dictionary, they will get a negative comment in their planner for lack of equipment.

Students must look after their dictionary and take it to every lesson.

Dictionaries are a vital piece of school equipment as students are allowed to use them in final year exams if they fit the access arrangements criteria. Students, by this time, should be able to use a dictionary confidently and efficiently to ensure they have the best chance of getting the highest grades.



Types of dictionaries:

- Picture dictionary
- Bilingual dictionary
- Monolingual dictionary
- Subject specific dictionaries
- Pocket dictionary
- Thesaurus



There are many types of dictionaries which students can use. Picture dictionaries are often theme based, for example things you can find in the home, at school, in the city, in nature etc. They may be in English only, but there are bilingual versions available as well.

Bilingual dictionaries give a translation rather than a definition. If a student does not understand a word in their home language they can use an online dictionary or an English dictionary (monolingual version).

Specific dictionaries exist for certain subjects, such as science or maths. It is important that students take note of new words and add them to their vocabulary lists as they are used in class.

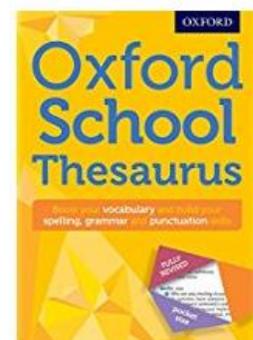
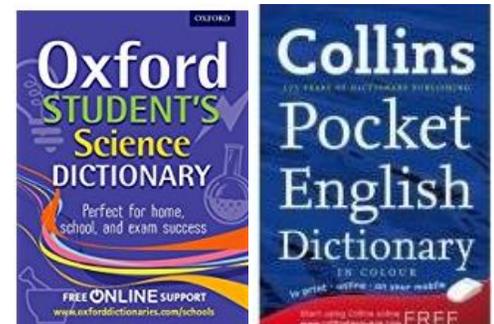
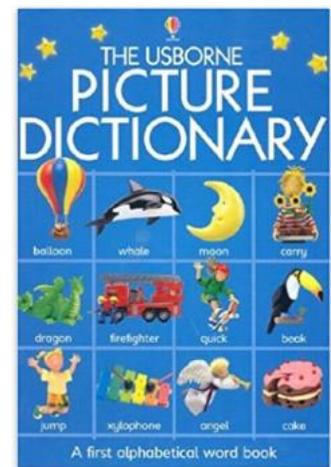
Pocket dictionaries are useful to take on holiday or when you travel as they are lightweight.

A thesaurus can be used to find synonyms (words which have the same meaning).

Beware of Google translate! It is not a good idea to translate whole sentences as meaning is often lost in translation. It can be good for individual words but be careful when using online translators. Please see our list of useful websites on page 4.

Why are dictionaries so important?

We recommend students use dictionaries because it develops their vocabulary, improves spelling and allows them to be more independent.



**A DICTIONARY IS MERELY
THE UNIVERSE ARRANGED
IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER**

ANATOLE FRANCE
PICTUREQUOTES.COM

PICTUREQUOTES.COM

Dictionary skills: How do I use it?

Bilingual dictionaries are split in half with a home language to English and an English to home language side. So, if a student knows a word in their language they can find the English translation, or on the other hand if they see a word in English that they do not know they can find its meaning in their home language.

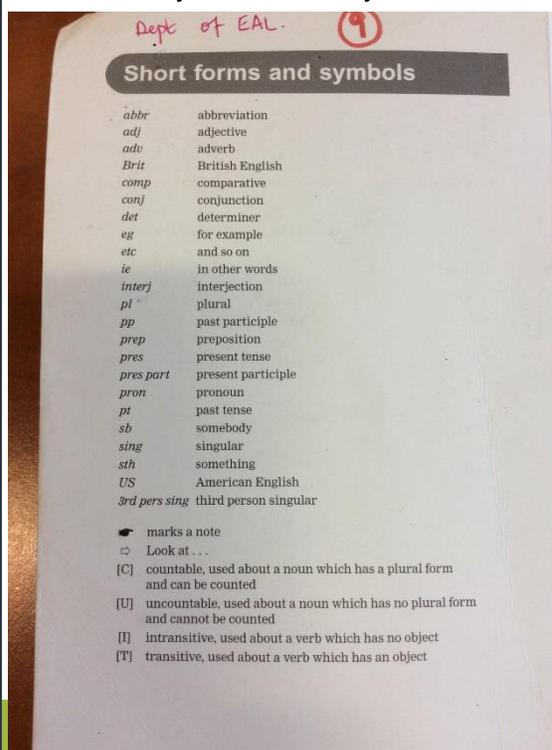
A dictionary can also help with classification of words into nouns, verbs and adjectives etc. Also, in languages where gender differentiation is used it can tell you if a word is masculine or feminine. However, English does not have this system. Most dictionaries will offer plural forms of nouns. Verbs will be in their infinitive form.

Some dictionaries offer verb conjugation tables, lists of numbers or common phrases. The most important thing to know to be able to use a dictionary well is the alphabet. A dictionary will be in alphabetical order, knowing how to alphabetise words quickly will speed up finding their meaning.

There are many activities you can do to improve vocabulary using a dictionary. For example one challenge could be to find 10 synonyms (words which have the same meaning), then find 10 antonyms (words which mean the opposite). Your child could look for a certain type of word and write a text, e.g. write a story using 15 adjectives which mean 'good'. They could correct misspelt words and put words in alphabetical order.

When your child is reading, encourage them to have their dictionary nearby to look up new words. An even better idea could be to write a list of new words and have a spelling test or make flash cards with definitions.

Children who have a wider vocabulary will be able to access more areas of the curriculum and will also develop their speaking and writing skills. These are skills which they will take away from school and continue to use in everyday life.



Here is an example of a page which is very common in a lot of dictionaries. There will usually be a section which explains short forms and symbols. It can be useful to know whether a word is a noun (naming word), verb (doing word) or an adjective (describing word).

If you have any questions, please contact the EAL department. We hope this advice is helpful and that your child is using their dictionary as much as possible!



Useful websites

Spanish:

<https://www.linguee.es/>

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-spanish/>

French:

<https://www.linguee.fr/>

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-french/>

Italian: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-italian/>

German: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-german/>

Portuguese: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-portuguese/>

Bengali: <http://www.english-banqla.com/>

Tigrinya: <https://www.geezexperience.com/?dr=0>

This Month's Q&A

Q: Where can I buy uniform?

A: You can buy the school jumper, tie and PE Kit from reception.

Q: What time does school finish?

A: School finishes at 14:45, but EAL pupils have after school classes on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday which finish at 15:45.

Q: How can my child pay for lunch at school?

A: We use a fingerprint system. Students load money onto their account using the machines at school, or parents can pay online using the login information sent by post.





Student of the month:

Mariyama Sillah 7ZRO, for successfully completing her orientation course and settling in to lessons.



Upcoming Events:

Special Thursdays (every Thursday after school in 1B5)

- **21st May - World Day for Cultural Diversity**
- **25th May – Africa Day**
- **1st June – Gipsy, Roma and Traveller Month begins**
- **17th June – Refugee Week begins**
- **20th June – World Refugee Day**
- **21st June – World Music Day**

Global calendar web link: <https://2ltveh1u7ez73dyhh92b3shy-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/2018-19-global-wallplanner.pdf>

(Copy and paste link into a new browser window)