



# Malorees Junior School

An ambitious, THRIVING school where every child can become a confident, caring, lifelong learner.

[maloreesschools.com](http://maloreesschools.com)

[malorees.j2webby.com](http://malorees.j2webby.com)

## Learning Library - English

### *Dictionaries and Thesauruses*

Every great reader and writer needs at least one good dictionary, and great investigators know to use as many sources as possible. You may already have print dictionaries and thesauruses at home, but here are some of our favourite online sources, which all give British English spellings:

[Wordsmyth UK](#)

[Collins \(needs free registration\)](#)

[Macmillan \(aimed at all ages\)](#)

### *Reading*

We know that, even when our school is open, **allowing and encouraging daily reading** is the best way that families can help their children to learn. It's even more important while school is closed. That is why we are suggesting that children spend time every school day **both** reading independently **and** carrying out reading lesson tasks set by their teacher. All reading should be recorded every day in children's **Reading Journals**, which are also full of activities to help children reflect on their reading. Children without a Reading Journal at home should use a notebook.

Our approach to teaching reading is based on **Destination Reader**, where children practice using different reading strategies to improve the depth of their understanding of texts. We use 'sentence stems' (suggested sentence openers) to prompt children to think about different aspects of what they are reading. You can find a list of these sentence stems, and the learning behaviours we aim to encourage [here](#).

The **British Council** has a [special site for children who are new to English](#) or could do with some extra help. They also have [advice for families](#) on home learning.

The [Book Trust](#) also have a range of advice and resources to help families support home reading.

When you run out of books for your child to read at home, you may have to get creative to find new things for them to read. Remember that Amazon and other booksellers sell reasonably priced good quality secondhand books, as well as new copies. You might want to support our local bookstore, [Queen's Park Books](#), who have been supportive of Malorees in the past. They have had to close their store but are hoping to run a delivery service. Maybe a relative would like to reward your young learner for all their hard work....?

**Love Reading For Schools** have lists of great books for children, based on their approximate reading age. We have shared these in our Learning Library.

The [Internet Archive](#) (free registration) is a US-based but worldwide non-profit (i.e. free) portal for hundreds of [online libraries](#), such as the [Open Library](#) which has 30,000 children's books available to

download for free as PDF files. Note that most of their other content has been written for adults, so children should not be browsing these sites alone.

Brent Council has closed all of its libraries, but they are still offering free access to their [E-library resources](#) to all Brent residents who have registered with a local library. These include both online books and audio books and newspapers.

New resources for free online books are becoming available all the time. We will update this list as often as we can.

There is much more to reading than just books. **First News** is a weekly newspaper for children. While the school is closed, we will try to share the PDF edition in our Learning Library.

## *Writing*

Creative writers get inspiration from many different places. We often use pictures to help us practice stories, description, and other writing skills, and [pobble365](#) is a great place to start, with new pictures every day and plenty of activities too. The [Literacy Shed](#) is also packed full of ideas for children of all ages.

We all need help sometimes with English grammar and punctuation. [Grammar Explained](#) (LGfL login) is a set of short videos designed especially for primary school children and their families, to explain how English works.

Writing in all forms is a critical way for children to organise their thinking, and reflect on and consolidate their learning. That's why daily writing should be another key element of home learning. As well as writing for learning tasks, we want children to use a **Learning Diary** every day to record and think about what they've learned. It can be digital, or a notebook, or both (teachers will sometimes ask for online posts so that they can check on learning progress).

Maybe now's the time to improve your touch-typing skills? It's sure to help with your home learning. [BBC Dance Mat Typing](#) is a fun way to practice – of course there are many other free typing tutors around.

## *Spelling*

The National Curriculum for English includes lists of spellings which children are expected to learn during [Years 3 and 4](#), and during [Years 5 and 6](#). You can find these on the Learning Library menu, together with the [spelling strategies](#) which we teach, using a scheme called 'No Nonsense Spelling'. Your child will be given a list of spellings to practice each week, and tasks to help them, and most classes will have a spelling test each Friday, which parents can help with.

As well as these resources for English, don't forget to check our [Learning Library General List](#), with great resources from other websites such as LGfL, Espresso, Twinkl and the BBC.

New resources are becoming available every day. We will update this list as often as we can.

Malorees Junior School accepts no responsibility for external websites. Please check any content you want your children to use in advance, to ensure that it is appropriate for child's age. Many of these sites will feature advertising. For online safety advice you can trust click on [this link from ThinkUKnow](#).