

John Ray Times

Our Core Values: Hope, Perseverance, Trust, Courage, Respect, Responsibility

Monday 4th September 2023

Phone: 01376 324107 Email: jrcontact@compassps.uk Website: www.johnray.compassps.uk



@johnrayjuniors



@ facebook.com/johnraycompassps

For uniform orders visit: www.gooddies.co.uk

For information on Food Bank vouchers email: mkeegan@compassps.uk

For second hand uniform requests email: rcottee@compassps.uk

Breakfast club queries email: hwiltshire@compassps.uk

School dinner menus are on our website: W/C 04.09.23 [Week 1](#) 11.09.23 [Week 2](#) 18.09.23 [Week 3](#)

Zones of Regulation

The ZONES of Regulation

Blue Zone	Green Zone	Yellow Zone	Red Zone
Sad Bored Tired Shy	Happy Focused Calm Proud	Worried Frustrated Silly Excited	Overjoyed/Elated Panic Angry Terrified

School Attendance Difficulties



Supporting Anxiety



First day of the autumn term: Wednesday 6th September 2023

Children will return to school on **Wednesday 6th September** and, to help the new Y3 children settle in, we are asking children who will be in Y4, 5 and 6 to come to school an hour **later** on the first day of term. This allows the new children time to explore the school on their own. Therefore, if at all possible, could children who will be starting in Y4, Y5 and Y6 come to school between 9:35-9:45 on 6th September. Please email Miss Harrison if it is impossible for you to do this: kharrison@compassps.uk. The back gate and the front entrances will both be open for the later start.

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

You will have seen in the news that there are safety concerns around the use of RAAC in schools and that some school buildings will need to fully or partially close until additional measures can be put in place. The Trust (Compass Partnership of schools) commissioned a survey last year which found that there was no RAAC in place at JRJ and I can confirm that we have not been contacted by the Local Authority or the DfE in relation to these safety concerns.

Information for parents from the DfE can be found here: [RAAC in education settings](#)

The National Autism Peer Education Programme

[Peer Education Programme | Essex Local Offer](#)

The National Autism Peer Education Programme are offering families and carers of autistic people high-quality and easily accessible autism education, training, and support. Essex County Council in collaboration with Essex Family Forum, have been funded by Autism Central to deliver the East of England region of the programme.

Also provided are online information sessions about autism including anxiety, sensory needs, back to school support as well as fortnightly informal drop-in sessions. For more information, to book onto a group session, or request one-to-one support, visit the Autism Central website ([Find help | Autism Central](#)).

Accelerated Reader

There is a new URL for Accelerated Reader and this has been updated on our website.
The new URL is: <https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/1894491>

Essex Police online safety advice

Essex Police have launched an online safety campaign to support parents. 'Sort your Settings' aims to help parents check and make the settings for their children's online devices as safe as possible and includes simple things they can do to make their child's online devices safer.

[Sort your settings | Essex Police](#)

Knife crime resources

Essex Police have produced a leaflet for parents and carers about knife crime. The leaflet includes information about what knife crime is, what to look out for, what is meant by joint enterprise and information about how to get help if someone is worried that their child may be involved in knife crime.

[Stop knife crime | Essex Police](#)

Guitar Lessons

Guitar lessons will commence on Wednesday 13th September. Lessons will run for 13 weeks.
If your child would like to book onto have guitar lessons, please contact Marc using the email address on the flyer below.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Don't forget we would love to hear about any children who have been awarded badges or certificates for activities they do outside of school. Please email class teachers with your child's achievements.

Well done to:	Well done to:
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Stars of the Week

Each week, class teachers will choose a member of their class to be star of the week. Children who are chosen will have their name added in this section of the newsletter. **The first stars of the week will be on Friday 15th September.**

3A:	4A:	5B:	6CB:
3B:	4C:	5C:	6B:
3P:	4O:	5G:	6E:
3U:	4WY:	5T:	6R:

PE Days

Children need to come into school on PE days in their PE kit. Children will need an outdoor PE kit i.e., black tracksuit bottoms (or shorts in warmer weather), white T-shirt and a black fleece / tracksuit top. **There will be no PE lessons on Wednesday 6th September so all children should come to school in school uniform. PE lessons will start on Thursday 7th September.**

Year 3	Tuesday and Thursday
4O, 4WM, 4W	Monday and Wednesday
4CB	Tuesday and Wednesday
Year 5	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 6	Wednesday and Friday

Please remember that children must remove earrings to participate in PE lessons. Taping over earrings is not permitted.

PE kit is black joggers / shorts and a black hoodie or sweatshirt with a white T shirt along with trainers.

We expect that children will either wear one of the black John Ray logo hoodies from our supplier or a plain black hoodie/sweatshirt and plain black joggers on the two days a week that your child has PE.

CASHBACK WHEN SHOPPING ONLINE

The Friends of JRI and JRJ have created a cash back account through **Easy Fundraising**. This is a fantastic way to raise much needed extra funds to support both schools.

The link below can be used for you to register:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/47ha4n/>

Once registered, for ease, you can download the app. Every time you shop from the app, across over 4000 online retailers, our schools earn cash back. It's free to join and includes top names like EBay, Argos, Iceland and John Lewis.

You can share this link with friends and family members too. A letter with more information can be found on our [website](#).

Safeguarding

Are you worried about a child?

As a school, we consider safeguarding to be a priority. We welcome parents and carers talking openly to us about their concerns for the safeguarding of children and families. **Remember, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.** If you have any concerns about a child, you can contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads via the school office. Please ask to speak to Karen Harrison, Rachel Cottee or Meriel Keegan and specify that you have a safeguarding concern. **Over the summer holidays emails are either not checked as regularly as usual or may not be monitored at all. Therefore, if you are worried about any child or young person you should seek advice from one of the agencies below.**

If you are worried about a child or young person, you can call the NSPCC helpline for support and advice for free on [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000). If a child is in immediate danger, you should call 999.

Children can call [Childline](tel:08001111) at any time on [0800 1111](tel:08001111)



National Online Safety: Threads

With the power and credibility of Meta (including a ready-made relationship with Instagram) behind it, plus users' increasing frustration with Twitter and – for the moment, at least – no adverts, Threads struck an unprecedented social media 'sweet spot' when it launched in July 2023. "Way beyond our expectations," was a delighted Mark Zuckerberg's early verdict.

While Threads is currently relatively basic in terms of features, some concerns have already been raised over the sheer volume of users' data the platform collects, the possibility of algorithms recommending unsuitable content and, as always, other people's spiteful behaviour. Our #WakeUpWednesday guide brings parents and carers up to speed on this notable new arrival.

The guide can be found at the bottom of the newsletter and also on the National Online safety website under guides.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

CLASS TEACHERS' EMAIL ADDRESSES

Please be aware that Miss Watson and Miss Moshtagh's email addresses will not be active until the start of term.

We understand that for many people email is a quick and efficient way of communicating and we are therefore happy to provide class teachers' email addresses. Although email is a quick and easy way for parents to communicate with staff, matters that require urgent attention should be communicated via the school office. Staff are not expected to respond to emails after 5pm, during weekends/holidays or when off work due to sickness. [A parental agreement relating to email communication with teachers](#) is available from the school office or on our website under the communication tab.

Year 3 3A- jadams@compassps.uk 3B- bball@compassps.uk 3P- sphillips@compassps.uk 3U- ktoomey-underhill@compassps.uk	Year 4 4W- zwilson@compassps.uk 4CB - hcollier-brown@compassps.uk 4O - solney@compassps.uk 4WM- awilson1@compassps.uk or nmoshtagh-kahnamoi@compassps.uk
Year 5 5B- hbreeze@compassps.uk 5C - dcasey@compassps.uk 5G- ngibson@compassps.uk 5A- abear@compassps.uk	Year 6 6B- jbird@compassps.uk 6E- cellis@compassps.uk 6R – rroberts@compassps.uk

Please contact class teacher in the first instance to resolve any issues. Should you feel you need to escalate the issue, please contact:

Miss Cottee (Assistant Head) if your child is in Y5 or Y6 – rcottee@compassps.uk

Mrs Breen (Assistant Head) if your child is in Y3 or Y4 – kbreen@compassps.uk

RECENT LETTERS – ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE

All communication will be sent through Bromcom. Please ensure that you have given us a current email address. Issues with Bromcom communication should be emailed to jrcontact@compassps.uk

Dates for the academic year 2023-2024 (new dates added in red)

Please find below the list of dates for next academic year. Term dates 2023-4 are on our [website](#).

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
06.09.23 Start of term for children	04.01.24 Start of term for children	15.04.24 Start of term for children
11.09.23 After school clubs start	08.01.24 After school clubs start	22.04.24 After school clubs start
12.09.23 Secondary school applications open (Y6 only)	15.01.23 Reading workshop for 4CB and 4W parents 2:30pm	23.04.24 Year 6 maths workshop for parents 3.30pm
21.09.23 Year 3 times tables parent workshop 8.30am	16.01.23 Reading workshop for 4CB and 4W parents 2:30pm	25.04.24 & 30.04.24 One Plan meetings for children on SEN register
25.09.23 Year 6 Mersea residential meeting 5pm	17.01.24 Year 6 reading workshop for parents 8.35am	13.05.24 SATS week (Y6 only)
27.09.23 Open afternoon drop in for current parents from 2:30 – 4pm	25.01.24 & 30.01.24 One Plan meetings for children on SEN register	20.05.24 Year 6 Mersea residential meeting 5pm
28.09.23 Individual photos (children who have PE on this day should come into school in school uniform and bring PE kits in a separate bag)	5.02.24 Children's mental health week	21.05.24 Year 3 plants workshop for parents 3.30pm
28.09.23 & 03.10.23 One Plan meetings for children on SEN register	5.2.24 5G and 5B Maths workshop for parents 2.30pm	23.05.24 Sports day and parent picnic (parents invited from 11:45)
3.10.23 5G and 5B Reading Café for parents 8.45am	6.2.24 5A and 5C Maths workshop for parents 2.30pm	27.05.24 Half term
4.10.23 5A and 5C Reading Café for parents 8.45am	08.02.24 In class photos (All children should come to school in school uniform and bring PE kits in a separate bag if it is a PE day)	03.06.24 Non-pupil day
14.10.23 Open morning 9.30-11.30am	13.02.24 Safer Internet Day	03.06.24 Multiplication check starts for 3 weeks (Y4 only)
16.10.23 Year 6 science workshop for parents 2.30pm	19.02.24 Half term	04.06.24 Children return to school
17.10.23 Maths workshop for parents of 4CB and 4WM 8:45am	26.02.24 Children return to school	06.06.24 Reserve Sports day in case of poor weather
		12.06.24-14.06.24 Mersea residential (Y6 only)

<p>19.10.23 Maths workshop for parents of 4O and 4W 8:45am</p> <p>23.10.23 Half Term week</p> <p>30.10.23 Non-pupil day</p> <p>31.10.23 Children return to school</p> <p>31.10.23 Secondary school applications close (Y6 only)</p> <p>14.11.23 Learning conferences (3:45-7pm) for children not on SEN register</p> <p>16.11.23 Learning conferences (3:45-5:30pm) for children not on SEN register</p> <p>17.11.23 Children in Need (non-uniform: children can wear spots / stripes in return for a donation)</p> <p>21.11.23 Last week for clubs</p> <p>08.12.23 Non-pupil day</p> <p>12.12.23 Christmas dinner day for years 4 and 6</p> <p>13.12.23 Christmas dinner day for years 3 and 5</p> <p>15.12.23 Year 3 writing workshop for parents 2.30pm</p> <p>15.12.23 Y3 and Y4 to walk to St Michael's church for Christmas service. (This is a pupil and staff only service & will take place during the school day - children should come to school in trainers / suitable shoes for walking)</p> <p>20.12.23 Last day of term</p>	<p>07.03.24 World book day (Dress as a book character or bring in a prop from a book)</p> <p>11.03.24 Science week</p> <p>15.03.24 Sports Relief (Children can wear sportswear or non-uniform in exchange for a donation)</p> <p>18.03.24 Last week for clubs</p> <p>19.03.24 Learning conferences (3:45-7pm) for children not on SEN register</p> <p>21.03.24 Learning conferences (3:45-5:30pm) for children not on SEN register</p> <p>28.03.24 Y5 and Y6 to walk to St Michael's church for Easter service. (This is a pupil and staff only service & will take place during the school day- children should come to school in trainers / suitable shoes for walking)</p> <p>28.03.24 Last day of term</p>	<p>17.6.24 5G and 5B Science workshop for parents 3.30pm</p> <p>17.06.23 Y4 history workshop from 3:30pm</p> <p>18.6.24 5A and 5C Science workshop for parents 3.30pm</p> <p>27.06.24 Class photos (children who have PE on this day should come into school in school uniform and bring PE kits in a separate bag)</p> <p>01.07.24 Last week for clubs</p> <p>10.07.24 Annual reports sent out</p> <p>11.07.24 Children to spend time with their new teacher</p> <p>11.07.24 Open afternoon drop in for current parents from 2:30 – 4pm</p> <p>16.07.24 Y6 production to parents 1:30 and 4:30pm</p> <p>23.07.24 Last day of term</p>
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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

THREADS

It's a scary season and it's here!
AGE RESTRICTION
12+
However, Threads' reliance on an Instagram login effectively makes it 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Threads is currently the number one trending social media app. Developed by Meta, the company behind Instagram and Facebook, Threads is a clear rival of Twitter (now known as X) in that it's a text-based conversation platform which allows posts of up to 500 characters, with the option to include links, photos and short videos. Threads is connected to a user's existing Instagram account, which lets people get started on this new app straight away: their followers and favourite creators will be imported from Instagram to their freshly created Threads account.

DIFFERING OPINIONS

Meta claim they will encourage friendly, positive engagements but haven't specified how they plan to moderate this. As we have already seen on the likes of Twitter, Facebook and so forth, any app where users can talk freely about topics meaningful to them also contains the possibility of offence being caused or hatred being spread.

ENDLESS SCROLLING

Threads doesn't currently have the facility to search for content - only for other users. Someone's feed, therefore, is made up of either threads from people they follow or content that Meta's algorithms have recommended. This could result in users absent-mindedly scrolling for long periods of time through nothing of particular interest, simply in search of that feeling of connectedness.

ACCOUNT DELETION IS COMPLEX

As Threads is linked to a user's Instagram account, it's comparatively tricky for someone to completely remove their Threads profile without automatically deleting their Instagram as well. Most 'insta' users, having spent considerable time building up a bank of posts and followers, will absolutely not want to lose them and could therefore feel pressured into keeping their Threads account active.

OPEN NETWORKING PROTOCOLS

Reportedly, Meta's plan is for Threads to be compatible with ActivityPub, which will allow users to connect and share content more easily across different apps. If your Threads account is set to 'public', therefore, your posts would be accessible from other linked apps. What's more, people using these compatible apps would be able to interact with Threads users without needing an account.

DATA COLLECTION

In Threads' privacy policy, Meta states that certain data about users will be collected and linked to that person's identity, including details relating to (among other things) health and fitness, financial information, browsing history, usage data, purchases, location and contacts. This can paint a very detailed picture of a person's life, and Meta does not explain why it needs all this information.

POTENTIAL FOR EXCESSIVE TRACKING

Its tracking of every interaction, engagement and activity gives the impression of Threads being a sophisticated data-collection tool. There are no adverts on the platform right now, but - given the sheer volume of information being gathered and Meta's history of selling data for advertising purposes - it may not be long before ads start appearing on young people's Threads feeds.

Advice for Parents & Carers

READ THE SMALL PRINT

Privacy policies for apps are usually long and probably the last thing young people read (if at all) when signing up for a trending new platform. However, we'd advise parents and carers to take time to look through Threads' policy and see if they agree with their child's data being collected. Think critically about why Meta needs all that personal information, where it goes and what's done with it.

HIDE THE LIKES COUNT

Research has shown that young users often feel anxiety over how many likes they receive for their social media posts - and question whether this reflects their real-world popularity. Through the settings menu, Threads allows users to hide the likes count on their (and others') posts. While your child's posts won't display an exact number of likes, they'll still be able to see who *did* like their post.

FILTER OUT OFFENSIVE WORDS

Like Instagram, Threads has an option to hide replies that contain offensive words, phrases or emojis. These are predetermined by Meta, but you can also customise the list with terms that you deem offensive or which you don't want your child to read. Usefully, there's a crossover between the two apps, so words that you select to screen out on Instagram will also be hidden on Threads.

GO PRIVATE, AND STAY ALERT

Even if your child's Instagram account is already set to private, they'll need to select this option again in Threads (it's one of the first things the app asks at sign up). You can also edit who can mention them in a comment. Try to keep a regular eye on your child's account: as Threads' popularity and number of features increases, so will opportunities for potentially harmful content to slip through the net.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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