

John Ray Times

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

Monday 9th October 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 16.10.23 [Week 1](#) 30.10.23 [Week 2](#) 09.10.23 [Week 3](#)

Zones of Regulation

The ZONES of Regulation



School Attendance Difficulties



Supporting Anxiety



My Happy Mind Parent App

To access these materials just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> and enter your name, email and authentication code emailed to you in the letter sent on 22.09.23.

Spotlight on learning

Each week we will share some of the learning that has been happening in each year group and how the children have been impressing the adults in school.

Year 3 - Children in year 3 have been working hard on their writing this week and have begun to publish their work ready for display around the school. They have been writing for a sustained period of time and have used the items on the writing toolkit. The children and adults in year 3 are exceptionally proud of the work that has been produced.

Year 4- During the PE lessons in year 4 this week, the children have been practising balances and counter-balances in gymnastics. They have worked in small groups and teams to create sequences. The children have applied their computing skills to new contexts this week during their geography lessons, using digital mapping tools to explore Antarctica. The children were surprised to find buildings there! Year 4 children have also been publishing their writing of an alternative to The Escape from Pompeii.

Year 5- Children in year 5 have (in Mr Bear's words) 'smashed' column addition and are ready to move on in their mathematics learning. The children were able to make links between their history and art lessons this week when creating clay tiles with Islamic patterns and, despite the classrooms becoming really messy, all of the adults and children are pleased with the results! PE sessions have been successful with children making links between their gymnastics learning in year 4 and the lessons this term.

Year 6- It has been the first assessment week of the year in year 6 and the staff 'couldn't have asked for more' in terms of the children's attitudes and effort this week. Once the tests were over, the children worked with their coaching pairs to look at corrections. The children have also begun to learn long division this week and are showing our Core Value of perseverance. Attitudes to learning across year 6 this week have been exemplary.

Nurture- It's Space week this week so in Nurture they have been learning about the planets and writing their own mnemonic for remembering the order of the planets away from the Sun. They have also made their own solar system and listened to 'Mars' from the Planets by Gustav Holst.

Harvest Food Bank appeal

A sad statistic! The demand for food parcels at Braintree Area Foodbank has increased by 66% from last year. As we did last year, we will be collecting donations to hand over to Braintree Foodbank. We would love to receive your donations any time before Friday 20th October.





HARVEST *Festival*

SHOPPING LIST

<u>Essential Items</u>	<u>To Maintain Our Stocks</u>
Jam	Instant Snack (Pot Noodle)
Tinned Cold Meat	Tinned Hot Meat (Stew, mince)
Packet Custard	Packet Soup
Cereal	Pasta Sauce
Sponge Puddings	Deodorant
UHT Milk	

We ask for small packs as larger packs do not fit in our boxes making it difficult for our clients to carry home. Also, we are unable (for hygiene reasons) to split large size or catering packs.

We follow the standards set by the Food Standards Agency. We can only accept donations of unopened and undamaged goods that are still well within their "use by" date (no less than six months if possible). Items which do not meet these requirements cannot be used and your donation may be wasted.

 01376 230594  info@braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk 

Registered Charity No. 1148782. Registered in England and Wales. Registered Company No. 8183618

Children in Need



We will be raising money for Children in Need on Friday 17th November. Childre can come to school wearing non school uniform (spots / stripes if possible) in return for a donation. Children who have PE on a Friday may either come in wearing sports clothes or can bring PE kit to change into.

Y6 science workshop

We are looking forward to welcoming Y6 parents to a science workshop at 2:30pm on 16.10.23. Please wait at the front of the school to enter through the white hall doors.

Y4 maths workshop

Year 4 parents are invited into a maths workshop next week in the classrooms at the start of the day. Please enter the school with your child and sign in at the classrooms. The workshop for 4CB and 4WM will take place on 17.10.23 and 4O and 4W will be on 19.10.23.

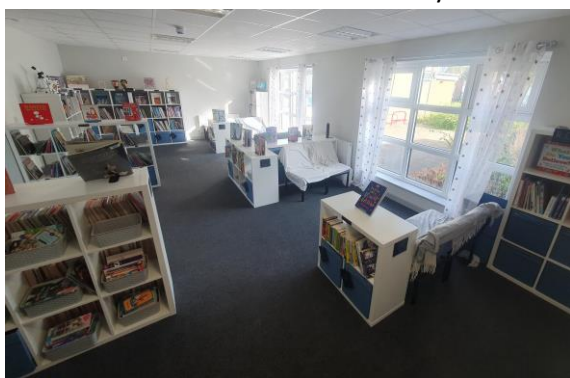
Library refurbishment

We are very excited to be able to share with you our newly refurbished library.

At John Ray Juniors, our children love to read and they enjoy being able to visit the library with their class weekly. This newly refurbished area of our school has benefitted from fresh paint and a new carpet as well as new furniture on which to store and display our wonderful selection of books. It feels like a completely different space.

Many thanks to Mr Gray, our caretaker, who has built the furniture and spent lots of time clearing out the space in order for Miss Cottee to fill it again.

The children have been so eager to start visiting the library again and have been very complimentary about the changes they've seen.



Football trials for year 5 and 6

On the 16th October 15:20-16:20 MRFA will be hosting our football trials for both our girl's and boy's football teams this year. We have decided that there will be one girls' team and one boys' team for this season. Please bring a PE kit or appropriate football kit. Please complete this form to confirm your attendance.

[Football trials response](#)

Braintree Music Lessons Showcase



On Friday evening, the guitarists from John Ray Juniors took part in Braintree Music Lessons' Showcase at Stock Street Barns. We are so proud of them for their hard work and practice leading up to the concert. We will share their performance on video to the rest of the school in Celebration Assembly on Monday. What fantastic ambassadors they all are for our school. Thanks to Miss Watts for the photos.

Non-Pupil Day

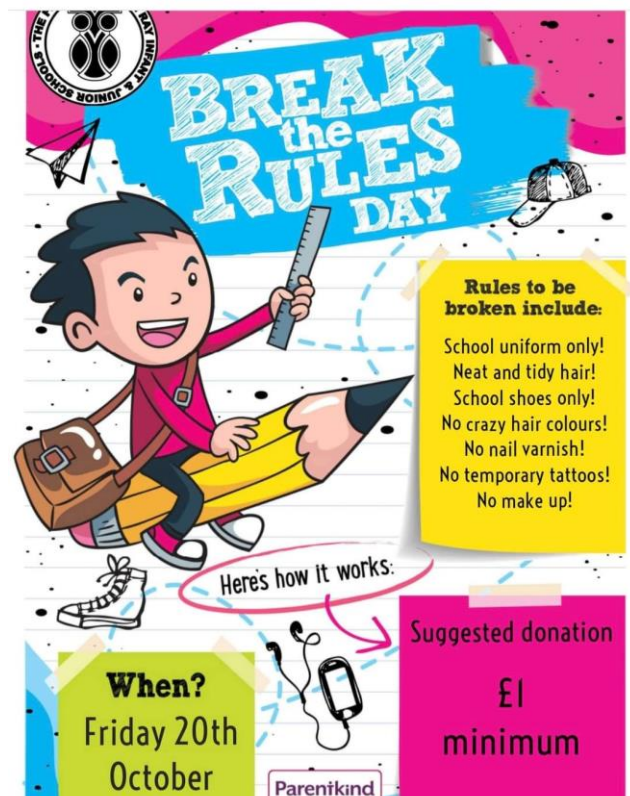
Please remember that Monday 30th October is a non-pupil day. Children return to school on Tuesday 31st October.

SEND Roadshow

Are you the parent/carer or family member of a child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)? Do you have questions about accessing support in your area or questions about SEND support available in Essex through Health, Education and Social Care? Would you like to link up with other parents in your area? If you do, please come along and see us at the Roadshow. There will be representatives from Essex Family Forum, SENDIASS, health, social care as well as representatives from the education teams, SEND Navigation Leads and local support groups. The roadshow is a drop-in event with no need to book.

Mid Essex: Witham Public Hall, Witham on Wednesday 18th October from 9:00am to 12:30pm

PTA
Break the rules day



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:

Akasya in 3P has taken part in several swimming races for Braintree and Bocking swimming club achieving 4th place in 25m freestyle, 3rd place in 25m backstroke and 1st place in 25m breaststroke.

Finn in 6R who achieved his 10m swimming badge this week.

Henry in 3P shared his medal for taking part in a rugby tournament.

Maddisen in 6R shared her medals for solo and duo acrobatics.

Victoria in 3P shared her sash for being awarded dancer of the week.

Jake in 5C was player of the match in football.

Vinnie in 5B played in his rugby match this weekend and won.

Amir in 4O was man of the match for his football team.

Oscar in 4WM who played in his first football match at the weekend.



Well done to:



Ella in 3U who has been busy reading books at the library and at home.

Ayan in 5B was player of the match in football.

Owen in 3A was player of the match as goalie.

AJ in 6B had the captain's armband for his football team this week.

Pippa in 5G shared her trophy for winning a quiz about riddles.

Xavier in 4CB shared his medal and trophy for Hockey player of the year.

Jaxon in 4CB took part in a rugby tournament.

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.

3A: Elisa	4CB: ---	5A: Ava	6B: Kyle
3B: Lilly-Mae	4O: Amir	5B: Bartek	6E: Isaac
3P: Henley	4W: Nora	5C: Ronnie	6R: Ella
3U: Ella	4WM: Daisy	5G: Jake	

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.

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.

If you are worried about a child or young person, you can call the NSPCC helpline for support and advice for free on **0800 800 5000**. If a child is in immediate danger, you should call 999.

Children can call [Childline](#) at any time on **0800 1111**



National Online Safety: Among Us

Created in 2018 by a small indie studio that (at the time) had only four employees, Among Us has become one of the gaming world's biggest breakout hits of recent years. In 2020, for example, it was the world's most-downloaded mobile game. Its simplicity helped Among Us to resonate with younger players in particular: the game's second largest audience slice is the 13–18 age bracket.

While the 7+ age rating, emphasis on teamwork and cartoonish, colourful graphics all suit a young fan-base, however, the game does carry more serious risks than betrayal by a team-mate or an untimely on-screen demise – with in-game purchases and possible contact from strangers on our #WakeUpWednesday guide's list of hazards that trusted adults should bear in mind.

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

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.

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

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 tojrcontact@compassps.uk

12.09.23 CYO lunchtime club (Y3 only)

22.09.23 My Happy Mind Parent information

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
12.09.23 Secondary school applications open (Y6 only)	04.01.24 Start of term for children	15.04.24 Start of term for children
16.10.23 Year 6 science workshop for parents 2.30pm	08.01.24 After school clubs start	22.04.24 After school clubs start
17.10.23 Maths workshop for parents of 4CB and 4WM 8:45am	15.01.23 Reading workshop for 4CB and 4W parents 2:30pm	23.04.24 Year 6 maths workshop for parents 3.30pm
19.10.23 Maths workshop for parents of 4O and 4W 8:45am	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
20.10.23 PTA event – Break the rules day (details to follow)	17.01.24 Year 6 reading workshop for parents 8.35am	25.04.24 West Stow trip for Y4 (approx cost £20.50)
23.10.23 Half Term week	22.01.24 - 8.45am - 9.30am - Pastoral Support Morning	29.04.24 - 8.45am - 9.30am - Pastoral Support Morning
30.10.23 Non-pupil day	25.01.24 & 30.01.24 One Plan meetings for children on SEN register	13.05.24 SATS week (Y6 only)
31.10.23 Children return to school	5.02.24 Children's mental health week	20.05.24 Year 6 Mersea residential meeting 5pm
31.10.23 Secondary school applications close (Y6 only)	5.2.24 5G and 5B Maths workshop for parents 2.30pm	21.05.24 Year 3 plants workshop for parents 3.30pm
4.11.23 Open morning 9.30-11.30am	6.2.24 5A and 5C Maths workshop for parents 2.30pm	23.05.24 Sports day and parent picnic (parents invited from 11:45)
(PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)		27.05.24 Half term

14.11.23 Learning conferences (3:45-7pm) for children not on SEN register	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
16.11.23 Learning conferences (3:45-5:30pm) for children not on SEN register	13.02.24 Safer Internet Day	03.06.24 Multiplication check starts for 3 weeks (Y4 only)
17.11.23 Children in Need (non-uniform: children can wear spots / stripes in return for a donation)	19.02.24 Half term	04.06.24 Children return to school
17.11.23 Y5 Wonderdome visit (This takes place in school)	26.02.24 Children return to school	06.06.24 Reserve Sports day in case of poor weather
20.11.23 - 8.45am - 9.30am - Pastoral Support Morning	07.03.24 World book day (Dress as a book character or bring in a prop from a book)	12.06.24-14.06.24 Mersea residential (Y6 only)
21.11.23 Last week for clubs	11.03.24 Science week	17.6.24 5G and 5B Science workshop for parents 3.30pm
01.12.23 Non uniform day in exchange for a gift for the PTA gift shop	11.03.24 - 8.45am - 9.30am - Pastoral Support Morning	17.06.23 Y4 history workshop from 3:30pm
07.12.23 PTA gift shop	15.03.24 Sports Relief (Children can wear sportswear or non-uniform in exchange for a donation)	18.6.24 5A and 5C Science workshop for parents 3.30pm
08.12.23 Non-pupil day	18.03.24 Last week for clubs	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)
12.12.23 Christmas dinner day for years 4 and 6	19.03.24 Learning conferences (3:45-7pm) for children not on SEN register	01.07.24 - 8.45am - 9.30am - Pastoral Support Morning
13.12.23 Christmas dinner day for years 3 and 5	21.03.24 Learning conferences (3:45-5:30pm) for children not on SEN register	01.07.24 Last week for clubs
15.12.23 Year 3 writing workshop for parents 2.30pm	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)	10.07.24 Annual reports sent out
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)	28.03.24 Last day of term	11.07.24 Children to spend time with their new teacher
20.12.23 Last day of term		11.07.24 Open afternoon drop in for current parents from 2:30 – 4pm
		16.07.24 Y6 production to parents 1:30 and 4:30pm
		23.07.24 Last day of term

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.

AGE RESTRICTION
7
PEGI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as The Traitors, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Uzay Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including iDn and TechRadar.



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[@national_online_safety](https://tiktok.com/@national_online_safety)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 04.10.2023

Tiddlywinks

Baby & Toddler Group



St Michaels Church House
Tuesdays: 1.15pm-2.45pm
(School term time only)

Story, Songs, Refreshments, Craft and lots of Toys!

All Pre School Children Welcome



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“

Ethan absolutely loved the football camp, all the coaches were super friendly, encouraging and all round nice people. I will definitely be booking the summer camp."

- 2023 5* Google Review

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