

John Ray Times

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

6th November 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 20.11.2023 [Week 1](#) 06.11.23 [Week 2](#) 13.11.23 [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 – the children have come back after half term super settled and enthusiastic about their learning. Miss Ball said that they are particularly 'buzzing' about their history. They are focussing on using interesting vocabulary in writing and using the formal written method for subtraction in maths. The presentation in their books is showing good progress since September.

Year 4- In year 4 they have spent time this week fully immersing themselves in their new text-The Ice Palace. Teachers have used drama activities including freeze frames to help the children to get into character and write in role. The new computing unit of work has totally enthused the children. They will be recording and editing to produce their own podcasts.

Year 5- Year 5 children have also been immersing themselves in their new text-Amina's voice. Lots of drama activities have taken place including freeze frames and role play to help the children live the experience. In RE, the children have been talking about different forms of expression and how we express ourselves through our environments. Children drew a room from home and talked about how it was an expression of who lives there.

Year 6- Year 6 have had a really strong start to their science topic which is electricity. They showed excellent prior knowledge and vocabulary remembering and referring back to the learning that took place in year 4.

The children are excited to begin writing newspaper articles and there have been more drama activities in year 6 to immerse the children into their new text- The Outsiders.

Nurture- Nurture children have been focussing on social and emotional development. They have taken part in activities which focus on building positive and appropriate relationships.

6R PE days

Please be aware that from this week, 6R will have PE on Wednesday and Thursday.

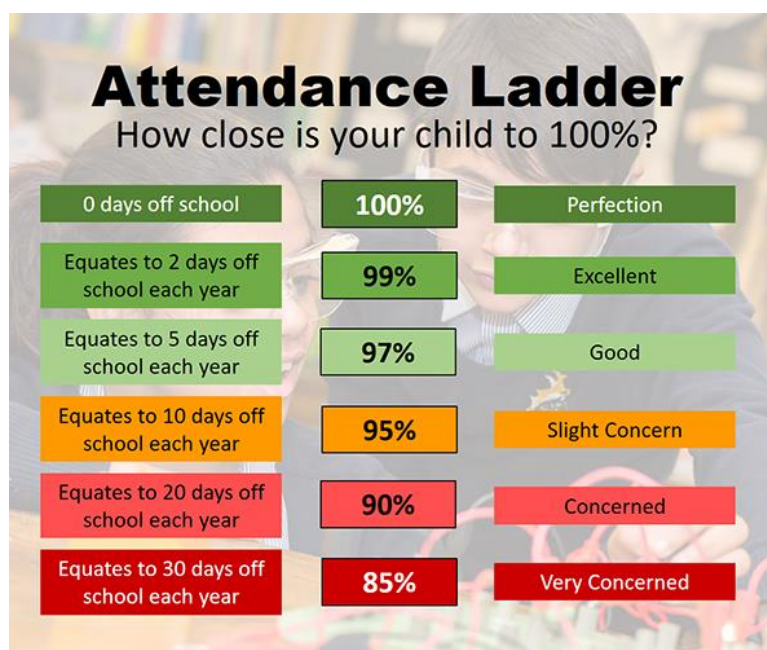
Attendance- Every day counts

Research tells us that good attendance is key to success both educationally and beyond. For this reason, we aim for 100% attendance. Whilst the pandemic and periods of school closure in recent years have impacted on school attendance, it is now imperative that we work together to re-establish good habits and ensure our children attend school all day every day unless they are too ill to do so.

We know that attending school regularly gives your child not just the best start to their school life, but also creates the foundations and habits that are needed as children move into the world beyond school. Learning is a progressive activity; each day's lesson builds upon the learning of the previous day.

Attending school every day means:

- Learning new skills
- Making Friends
- Building lasting relationships
- Having fun
- Developing confidence



As a school, we currently have 61 children with attendance rates **below 90%**.

We also have 199 children with 100% attendance!

Our average attendance is currently 95.7%

Y3 96.3%

Y4 96%

Y5 95.4%

Y6 95%

Parents are able to view their child's attendance on the Bromcom dashboard using the attendance tab. Children whose attendance drops below 90% are classed as persistent absentees. A child who has only 90% attendance misses the equivalent of half a day of learning a week or 19 school days a year. We already monitor attendance and will send information letters to parents if attendance starts to become a concern before arranging a meeting to create a plan to improve attendance. To alert parents prior to implementing these procedures, senior leaders may phone parents to inform them of their child's falling attendance and support with strategies that might help.

Children in Need



We will be raising money for Children in Need on Friday 17th November. Children 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.

On Monday 13th November we have 2 employees from Greggs Witham at the front gate selling Pudsey merchandise. They will have Pudsey ears (head bands) for £2.50 and Pudsey badges for £1.00. Please could you come with the correct change.

Learning Conferences

Learning conferences for children who are not on the SEN register will be held on 14th and 16th November. Appointments are available to book via the MCAS app but if you are having difficulty booking an appointment, please contact the school office.

Supporting your neurodiverse child

Neurodiversity - Essex Family Forum

Essex Family Forum, SEND the Right Message (STRM) Support Services and MyOTAS (My Own Time And Space) Charity are proud to have written and produced a pack which is full of useful information for families with a neurodiverse child.

Families from across Essex, Southend and Thurrock told us they are desperate for guidance and often don't know where to start to find the information they need. We presented this feedback to the Joint Commissioning Board in Essex, who commission services across Education, Health, Social Care and they were fully supportive of the project, recognising how useful this information would be.

This pack includes information about the diagnosis process, how to get support for your child at school, health and wellbeing and much more. We shared our own experiences, hints and tips as well as those of parents, carers and young people from across Essex, Southend and Thurrock. There are also signposts to useful books, blogs and online resources which are all tried and tested resources that the team have used and found helpful.

The pack is available to [download](#) or you can request a hard copy using this link. Professionals wishing to purchase a copy can also do so by following the link.

Adverse weather plans

As we approach winter, Mrs Christian and I have started to make plans in the event of adverse weather conditions. **Every effort** will be made to keep both schools open in severe weather. However, we may be forced to close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances. Those circumstances could be that it is not safe for staff or pupils to be onsite or that we have insufficient staff to open. We recognise that it is important that our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. Therefore, we will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice.

The decision to open or close will always be made jointly between John Ray Infants and John Ray Juniors. Should there be a heavy fall of snow, we will opt for a **10:00am** start to allow us to clear the footpaths in our schools. Once the decision is made to open, we will remain open until the usual time.

Breakfast and after school clubs will **not** run.

How will we let you know if the school is closed or will open at 10:00am?

In addition to an email and / or text message, information will be posted on:

- the schools' websites;
- each schools' social media pages.

You can also visit the emergency school closures section of the Essex County Council website.

[Emergency school closures | Essex County Council](#)

Poppy Appeal

Poppies are available to buy in school along with the following items below as well as the traditional poppy with a pin.

Children are asked to bring the correct donations suggested below to school in a named envelope. The children can purchase the items from the school hall during breaktime. We do have a limited supply so initially children will only be able to buy one item on a first come first served basis.

Suggested donations are as follows:

Snap bands £1.50

Wrist bands £1

Reflectors 50p

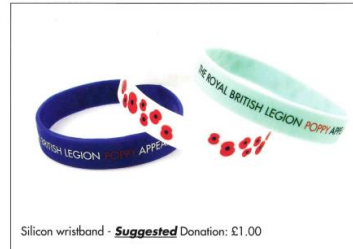
Zip pulls 50p



Zip pull - **Suggested** Donation: 50p



Reflector - **Suggested** Donation: 50p



Silicon wristband - **Suggested** Donation: £1.00



Snap band - **Suggested** Donation: £1.50



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:

Phoebe 3U who completed stage 1 in swimming



These children who have been awarded new karate belts:

Harriet (4CB) green belt

Megan (6B) orange belt

Scarlet (4W) orange belt

Antoni (5C) green belt

Isaac (5A) green belt

Winnie (6B) green belt

Sophia (4W) gymnastic award

Well done to:

Ruby in 3U who has made her Brownie promise.



Jenson (4WM), George (6R), Tae (6E) Player of the match in football

Jack (4CB) stage 3 swimming, Noah (3P) stage 4 swimming

Oscar (6R) 3rd in go-karting

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: Matas	4CB: Rita	5A: Sapphirah	6B: Olivia
3B: Sidney	4O: Tyler	5B: Ollie	6E: Kras
3P: Roxy	4W: Aiden	5C: Jake and Jeanne	6R: Finlay
3U: Ella	4WM: Marcus	5G: Finley	

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, 4W	Monday and Wednesday
4WM	Wednesday and Friday
4CB	Tuesday and Wednesday
Year 5	Tuesday and Thursday
6B	Wednesday and Friday
6E	Monday and Wednesday
6R	Wednesday and Thursday

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: X

Around 35 million X users are under 18 so it's essential that parents and carers stay up to date with the changes made to Twitter since its reinvention as X – and the online safety hazards these alterations might pose, including exposure to explicit content and unpleasant behaviour. This week's guide suggests some steps that can help children avoid common pitfalls – both new *and* old – on X

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.

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

10.10.23 WonderDome (Y5 only)

10.10.23 Leavers Hoodies (Y6 only)

10.10.23 Flu Consent for Vaccine (All)

10.10.23 Bikeability confirmed groups and dates for children whose forms are received

17.10.23 Peter and the wolf – Charter Hall, Colchester (Y6 only)

02.11.23 Adverse Weather

02.11.23 Head Ambassador (Y6)

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
14.11.23 Learning conferences (3:45-7pm) <i>for children not on SEN register</i>	04.01.24 Start of term for children	15.04.24 Start of term for children
16.11.23 Learning conferences (3:45-5:30pm) <i>for children not on SEN register</i>	08.01.24 After school clubs start	22.04.24 After school clubs start
17.11.23 Children in Need (<i>non-uniform: children can wear spots / stripes in return for a donation</i>)	15.01.23 Reading workshop for 4CB and 4W parents 2:30pm	23.04.24 Year 6 maths workshop for parents 3.30pm
17.11.23 Y5 Wonderdome visit (This takes place in school)	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
20.11.23 - 8.45am - 9.30am - Pastoral Support Morning	17.01.24 Year 6 reading workshop for parents 8.35am	25.04.24 West Stow trip for Y4 (approx cost £20.50)
20.11.23 Last week for clubs	22.01.24 - 8.45am - 9.30am - Pastoral Support Morning	29.04.24 - 8.45am - 9.30am - Pastoral Support Morning
01.12.23 Non uniform day in exchange for a gift for the PTA gift shop	25.01.24 & 30.01.24 One Plan meetings for children on SEN register	13.05.24 SATS week (Y6 only)
07.12.23 PTA gift shop		20.05.24 Year 6 Mersea residential meeting 5pm

06.12.23 Yr 6 Charter Hall to see Peter and the wolf.	5.02.24 Children's mental health week	21.05.24 Year 3 plants workshop for parents 3.30pm
08.12.23 Non-pupil day	5.2.24 5G and 5B Maths workshop for parents 2.30pm	23.05.24 Sports day and parent picnic (<i>parents invited from 11:45</i>)
12.12.23 Christmas dinner day for years 4 and 6	6.2.24 5A and 5C Maths workshop for parents 2.30pm	27.05.24 Half term
13.12.23 Christmas dinner day for years 3 and 5	08.02.24 In class photos (<i>All children should come to school in school uniform and bring PE kits in a separate bag if it is a PE day</i>)	03.06.24 Non-pupil day
15.12.23 Year 3 writing workshop for parents 2.30pm	13.02.24 Safer Internet Day	03.06.24 <u>Multiplication check</u> starts for 3 weeks (<i>Y4 only</i>)
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)	19.02.24 Half term	04.06.24 Children return to school
	26.02.24 Children return to school	06.06.24 Reserve Sports day in case of poor weather
	07.03.24 World book day (<i>Dress as a book character or bring in a prop from a book</i>)	12.06.24-14.06.24 Mersea residential (<i>Y6 only</i>)
20.12.23 Last day of term	11.03.24 Science week	17.6.24 5G and 5B Science workshop for parents 3.30pm
	11.03.24 - 8.45am - 9.30am - Pastoral Support Morning	17.06.23 Y4 history workshop from 3:30pm
	15.03.24 Sports Relief (<i>Children can wear sportswear or non-uniform in exchange for a donation</i>)	18.6.24 5A and 5C Science workshop for parents 3.30pm
	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)
	19.03.24 Learning conferences (<i>3:45-7pm</i>) for children not on SEN register	01.07.24 - 8.45am - 9.30am - Pastoral Support Morning
	21.03.24 Learning conferences (<i>3:45-5:30pm</i>) for children not on SEN register	01.07.24 Last week for clubs
	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
	28.03.24 Last day of term	11.07.24 Children to spend time with their new teacher
		11.07.24 Open afternoon drop in for current parents <i>from 2:30 – 4pm</i>
		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



AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Elon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform – not all which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 530 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who promote denial and hatred.

LIMITED REPORTING FEATURES

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as controlling who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being revoked for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 18+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new 'For You' page also shows content from accounts that a user doesn't already follow – meaning that almost anything could end up on a child's feed.

VERIFICATION FOR SALE

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification: certifying someone as authentic by placing a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall; this caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way to distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat fake account seeking to exploit other users.

BLUE TICK SALE

Advice for Parents & Carers

PROTECT PRIVACY

Unsavory characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account – either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Emphasise that, if your child encounters someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid interacting with that account.

ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow: this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account if, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions.

BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing – so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

Meet Our Expert

Loyal Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site CORBON and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



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[/NationalOnlineSafety](https://facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety)

[@nationalonlinesafety](https://instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety)

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

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