

John Ray Times

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

13th November 2023

Phone: 01376 324107 Email: jcontact@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 – Year 3 have been learning about including everyone in PSHE and about not being a bystander. Children are now using different retrieval techniques in reading lessons to answer questions. Children's understanding of the purposes of bones is developing.

Year 4 – The teachers and children are really excited about the children's writing outcomes. There is great progress so far in all classes in writing and the children are keen to write. In science, children are recalling prior learning about electricity and circuits. They are also excited about making mittens in DT.

Year 5 - Writing is a real positive across all classes and children are very eager to write, often coming in asking when they will be writing that day! Children are very keen about science and are learning lots of facts and information about space. The children are also asking lots of questions.

Year 6 – The children are using TinkerCAD for computing and enjoying making their designs. Some children have said they using their codes at home. In PSHE, children are linking class discussions to what they talk about in assembly, including discussions about everyone being welcome, especially on the playground.

Learning Conferences

Learning conferences for children who are not on the SEN register Take place tomorrow and Thursday 16th November. Online booking has now closed so please contact the school office if you need to make or change your appointment.

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.

Pudsey's visit

Pudsey visited our breakfast club today! The children were excited to see him, and he shared some croissants with the children. Our breakfast club is supported by the Gregg's Foundation who provide us with additional funding for resources and games and provide the school with free bread from Greggs. This means we can reduce the cost of our breakfast club.



Breakfast club runs from 7.30am each day, if you would like more information, you can contact our school office.

Remembrance

This morning, we took three of our Y6 children to lay the school remembrance wreath at the Black Notley war memorial.

We spent time reading the names on the memorial and thinking of the sacrifice made.

We know that many of our children also took part in Remembrance parades and services in their communities this weekend.

Anti-bullying week 2023



The theme for this year's anti-bullying week is 'Make a noise about bullying'. Today in assembly, we looked at the definition of bullying and what children could do if they felt they were a victim of bullying and this includes talking to a trusted adult. In our school, we regularly talk about trusted adults in school and acknowledge that different children have different trusted adults.

Christmas dinner

Christmas dinner this year will take place on the dates below.

Year 4 & 6 – Tuesday 12th December 2023

Year 3 & 5 – Wednesday 13th December 2023

Dinner options will be served to children at the table by our staff. Children have the option of either a roast turkey or Quorn fillet. Dessert will be served to children by Mrs Childs and her Christmas trolley.

On their Christmas dinner day, children are welcome to come into school wearing their school uniform along with a Christmas jumper and / or Christmas accessories.

You must book your child a Christmas dinner using this [form](#) by **midnight on Sunday 3rd December**. Payment is made by topping up your MCAS dinner account.

PTA Christmas raffle

Please look out for the PTA Christmas raffle tickets that will be sent home shortly. Each child will receive 2 books of tickets with the Christmas draw taking place on 6th December. Please contact the school office if you need additional books.

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: Quinn (4W) White and yellow sash in kung fu. Amelia (6B) silver award in gymnastics Owen (3A) player of the match in football Antoni (5C) and Maksymillian (5G) Silver award in cubs Oliver and his dog (5B) 2 nd place in a dog show	Well done to: Ruby (4W), Sophie (4W), Quinn (4W), Alicja (4W) Summer (4O) who have all been awarded brownie badges. All the cubs, brownies and guides who took part in Remembrance services on Sunday.
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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.

3A: Freya	4CB:	5A: Max	6B: Alfie
3B: Harrison	4O: favour	5B: Elizabeth	6E: Toby B
3P: Sofia	4W: Joshua	5C: Layla	6R: Emily
3U: Dennie	4WM: Izma	5G: Mya	

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](tel:08008005000). 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: Microtransactions

Seventy-six billion dollars! That's the value some experts have assigned to this year's global online microtransaction market – those additional in-app and in-game purchases which offer young players a temptingly quick way to enhance their digital experience for real-world money.

With concerns over the impact of allowing these paid-for upgrades to be available to children, some countries have already either banned microtransactions or subjected them to stringent legislation. This week's guide outlines the most significant risks.

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 [to jrcontact@compassps.uk](mailto:jrcontact@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 (yr6)
- 09.11.23 Christmas dinner day (All)
- 13.11.23 Letter to 4WM
- 13.11.23 Letter to 4O

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) for children not on SEN register	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) for children not on SEN register	08.01.24 After school clubs start	22.04.24 After school clubs start
17.11.23 Children in Need (non-uniform: children can wear spots / stripes in return for a donation)	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
30.11.23 PTA Pre-loved Christmas jumper sale	25.01.24 & 30.01.24 One Plan meetings for children on SEN register	13.05.24 SATS week (Y6 only)
01.12.23 Non uniform day in exchange for a gift for the PTA gift shop	5.02.24 Children's mental health week	20.05.24 Year 6 Mersea residential meeting 5pm
03.12.23 Deadline for ordering a Christmas dinner- all children wishing to enjoy a Christmas dinner must book	5.2.24 5G and 5B Maths workshop for parents 2.30pm	21.05.24 Year 3 plants workshop for parents 3.30pm
07.12.23 PTA gift shop	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)
06.12.23 Yr 6 Charter Hall to see Peter and the wolf.	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)	27.05.24 Half term
08.12.23 Non-pupil day	13.02.24 Safer Internet Day	03.06.24 Non-pupil day
12.12.23 Christmas dinner day for years 4 and 6	19.02.24 Half term	03.06.24 Multiplication check starts for 3 weeks (Y4 only)
13.12.23 Christmas dinner day for years 3 and 5	26.02.24 Children return to school	04.06.24 Children return to school
15.12.23 Year 3 writing workshop for parents 2.30pm	07.03.24 World book day (Dress as a book character or bring in a prop from a book)	06.06.24 Reserve Sports day in case of poor weather
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)	11.03.24 Science week	12.06.24-14.06.24 Mersea residential (Y6 only)
20.12.23 Last day of term	11.03.24 - 8.45am - 9.30am - Pastoral Support Morning	17.6.24 5G and 5B Science workshop for parents 3.30pm
	15.03.24 Sports Relief (Children can wear sportswear or non-uniform in exchange for a donation)	17.06.23 Y4 history workshop from 3:30pm
	18.03.24 Last week for clubs	18.6.24 5A and 5C Science workshop for parents 3.30pm
	19.03.24 Learning conferences (3:45-7pm) for children not on SEN register	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>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>01.07.24 - 8.45am - 9.30am - Pastoral Support Morning</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 <i>from 2:30 – 4pm</i></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 MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life; children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

(GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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Code Club

Braintree Library
Wednesdays, 3.30-4.30pm

- Do you have a favourite computer game?
- Would you like to learn how to make your own computer games?
- Learn how to make cool games, animations and websites!



Suitable for ages 9-13

For further information contact
Essex Libraries on 0345 603 7628
or visit libraries.essex.gov.uk/events

