


# John Ray Times

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

27<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Phone: 01376 324107 Email: [jrcontact@compassps.uk](mailto:jrcontact@compassps.uk) Website: [www.johnray.compassps.uk](http://www.johnray.compassps.uk)

 @johnrayjuniors  @ facebook.com/johnraycompassps

For uniform orders visit: [www.gooddies.co.uk](http://www.gooddies.co.uk)

For information on Food Bank vouchers email: [mkeegan@compassps.uk](mailto:mkeegan@compassps.uk)

For second hand uniform requests email: [rcottee@compassps.uk](mailto:rcottee@compassps.uk)

Breakfast club queries email: [hwiltshire@compassps.uk](mailto:hwiltshire@compassps.uk)

School dinner menus are on our website: W/C 11.12.23 [Week 1](#) 27.11.23 [Week 2](#) 04.12.23 [Week 3](#)

## Zones of Regulation

The ZONES of Regulation

			
Blue Zone	Green Zone	Yellow Zone	Red Zone
Sad	Happy	Worried	Overjoyed/Excited
Bored	Focused	Frustrated	Rambling
Tired	Calm	Silly	Angry
Sick	Proud	Excited	Terrible

## 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.**

Y3 – In history, children are retaining lots of information and are showing interest in seeing how Britain changed through pre-history and the impact on life today. Punctuation for speech is going well and all children are being successful at identifying speech and using inverted commas.

Y4 – In maths, children are securing their 9 times tables and are keen to show their progress on TTRockstars. They are interested in science and learning about circuits and how this relates to real life scenarios.

Y5 - Children are enjoying learning about space and were fascinated by the Wonderdome visit last Friday. Lots of retrieval tasks have helped to secure learning. Children are using tier 2/3 words across all lessons, often unprompted, showing that their vocabulary choices are really improving.

Y6 – Children have completed their My Happy Mind lessons this half term they are thinking about what makes them special and what they need to use to be successful. The children are recalling their learning and demonstrating lots of their previous learning through answering true and false questions.

### **John Ray Ambassadors**

On Friday, 7 of our Y6 children gave presentations in assembly to the rest of the school. The children then voted for who they wanted to be the Head Ambassadors. Nancie W, Nancie C, AJ, Maddisen F, Winnie D, Matilde R and Amelia B did an amazing job and displayed great courage to present to over 450 people. After voting, AJ and Maddisen will be the head ambassadors and with the other children being deputies. We are also delighted to have some fantastic prefects: Jack F, Malachi N, Neve F and Trinity L. Well done all of you!

### **Worry Workshop**

John Ray Junior and John Ray Infant School are working together with the Mental Health Support Team to provide parents and carers with a workshop to support children at home with their worries.

The workshop is on the 29<sup>th</sup> November at 1.30pm at John Ray Infant School. A leaflet was sent home on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

Please speak to Mrs Ramsay or Miss Gribbin for more information.

### **Braintree Schools' Cross Country**

The Braintree schools' cross country event will be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January.

If your child is interested in taking part in the trials for this event please can they bring a spare pair of trainers and wear their PE kit to school on the following days:

**Year 3 Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

**Year 4 Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

**Year 5 Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

**Year 6 Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

### **Christmas dinner**

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

Year 4 & 6 – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Year 3 & 5 – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> December**. Payment is made by topping up your MCAS dinner account.

### PTA Christmas raffle

Please contact the school office if you need additional books of raffle tickets. The Christmas draw will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

### PTA Christmas Jumper Amnesty



This year, the PTA are holding an amnesty to give everyone a chance to donate any old, clean, wearable Christmas jumpers to a good cause! Please bring any jumpers you wish to donate into school or nursery next week, and the following week we will hold a sale.

All jumpers in the sale will be sold for only £1 so why not take this chance to clear out all the jumpers the kids have grown out of, and pop along the following week for a bargain.

Details of the sale to follow, so keep your eyes peeled!

### PTA Christmas gift shop

We have news about this year's gift shops for the children! Every year we ask for donations for the gift shop in exchange for a non-uniform day, and then we hold the gift shops during the school day and ask the children to bring along £1 to buy a gift for someone special. We wrap the gift, pop a label on and then send it home.

This year's non-uniform day is **Friday 1st December**, and as usual we have suggested a gift category per school year to help try and make sure there is a variety of gifts to choose from, these can be found on the poster below. We are grateful for any and all types of donation though.



Gift shops this year are on the following dates.

6th December - Infant gift shop

7th December - Junior gift shop

This is a favourite for a lot of the children, and is actually a lot of fun for us too. If you want to come along and help with the wrapping then please email [pta.secretary.friendsofjohnray@gmail.com](mailto:pta.secretary.friendsofjohnray@gmail.com) or send us a message. They usually run until lunchtime on each 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.

<p>Well done to:            Owen (3A) had a grading and now has his orange belt in Karate.            Rex in 3B has achieved stage 3 in swimming and green belt in karate.            Caitlin in 5G has won a gold medal in karate and a silver in a solo fight.            Kelsie (4WM) came third in her gymnastics grading.</p>	<p>Well done to:            Max in 3P who has been awarded a new belt (orange with green stripe) in karate.            Sidney in 3B who was man of the match in football.            Jake in 5G and Jasper in 5B who have been awarded a stage 7 in swimming.            Akasya in 3P has won 3 medals in swimming- a bronze in back stroke, 1<sup>st</sup> in breast stroke and 4<sup>th</sup> place in front crawl.            AJ in 6B has been awarded the captain's armband in football.</p>
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Teddy (3U) is part of a Futsal academy and has been asked if he would join them for a football tournament next year in Salou, Spain.  
 Sydnee in 5B has achieved her code breaker brownie badge.  
 Ruby in 3B has achieved her stage 2 swimming badge.  
 Vinnie in 6E- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in go-karting.

Noah in 4W achieved 2 first places in a karate competition.  
 Kelsey in 4WM has achieved grade 1 in gymnastics.  
 Theo in 4O was trainer of the week and parents' player of the week in football.  
 Nancie in 6B was player of the match in football and fitness player.

### 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: Ralph	4CB: William	5A: Sarah	6B: Leo
3B: Roman	4O: Keira	5B: Taylor	6E: Tatiana
3P: Victoria	4W: Jazlyn	5C: Emily	6R:
3U: Isla	4WM: Isabella	5G: Harry	

### 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: Roblox**

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA were playing it. As a 'sandbox' title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.

On the one hand, Roblox encourages creativity and teaches game design. On the other, however, it's dogged by reports of inappropriate content and online predators. The platform aims to provide a child-friendly environment, but with the majority of Roblox players being under 13, the worries of parents and carers are easily understandable.

At John Ray Juniors, we have had reports of children being exposed to inappropriate content while playing Roblox so we would encourage parents to ensure children have appropriate restrictions on their devices and check what children are exposed to regularly.

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

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://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.

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

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](mailto:rcottee@compassps.uk)

**Mrs Breen (Assistant Head) if your child is in Y3 or Y4 –** [kbreen@compassps.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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 (yr6)
- 09.11.23 Christmas dinner day (All)
- 09.11.23 Worry Workshop at JRIS (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
30.11.23 PTA Pre-loved Christmas jumper sale	04.01.24 Start of term for children	15.04.24 Start of term for children
01.12.23 Non uniform day in exchange for a gift for the PTA gift shop	08.01.24 After school clubs start	22.04.24 After school clubs start
03.12.23 Deadline for ordering a Christmas dinner- all children wishing to enjoy a Christmas dinner must book	15.01.23 Reading workshop for 4CB and 4W parents 2:30pm	23.04.24 Year 6 maths workshop for parents 3.30pm
07.12.23 PTA gift shop	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
06.12.23 Yr 6 Charter Hall to see Peter and the wolf.	17.01.24 Year 6 reading workshop for parents 8.35am	25.04.24 West Stow trip for Y4 (approx cost £20.50)
	22.01.24 - 8.45am - 9.30am - Pastoral Support Morning	29.04.24 - 8.45am - 9.30am - Pastoral Support Morning

<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 &amp; 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>25.01.24 &amp; 30.01.24 One Plan meetings for children on SEN register</p> <p>5.02.24 Children's mental health week</p> <p>5.2.24 5G and 5B Maths workshop for parents 2.30pm</p> <p>6.2.24 5A and 5C Maths workshop for parents 2.30pm</p> <p>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>)</p> <p>13.02.24 Safer Internet Day</p> <p>19.02.24 Half term</p> <p>26.02.24 Children return to school</p> <p>07.03.24 World book day (<i>Dress as a book character or bring in a prop from a book</i>)</p> <p>11.03.24 Science week</p> <p>11.03.24 - 8.45am - 9.30am - Pastoral Support Morning</p> <p>15.03.24 Sports Relief (<i>Children can wear sportswear or non-uniform in exchange for a donation</i>)</p> <p>18.03.24 Last week for clubs</p> <p>19.03.24 Learning conferences (<i>3:45-7pm</i>) <i>for children not on SEN register</i></p> <p>21.03.24 Learning conferences (<i>3:45-5:30pm</i>) <i>for children not on SEN register</i></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 &amp; 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>13.05.24 SATS week (<i>Y6 only</i>)</p> <p>20.05.24 Year 6 Mersea residential meeting 5pm</p> <p>21.05.24 Year 3 plants workshop for parents 3.30pm</p> <p>23.05.24 Sports day and parent picnic (<i>parents invited from 11:45</i>)</p> <p>27.05.24 Half term</p> <p>03.06.24 Non-pupil day</p> <p>03.06.24 <u>Multiplication check</u> starts for 3 weeks (<i>Y4 only</i>)</p> <p>04.06.24 Children return to school</p> <p>06.06.24 Reserve Sports day in case of poor weather</p> <p>12.06.24-14.06.24 Mersea residential (<i>Y6 only</i>)</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 - 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

# ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a 'sandbox' title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including a group chat facility). This could expose children to risks such as scammers, online predators, harassment, griefers and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others – such as general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.

#### PUBLIC SERVERS

Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.

#### ONLINE DATERS

These are also called 'ODers' and are quite common in Roblox. An ODer is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this usually doesn't deter ODers. Some player-built Roblox game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.

#### IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is actually free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some hidden costs. Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game, for example, using real money. People can also buy extra Robux (the in-game currency) to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and some private or VIP servers also have a cost.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

#### SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply the appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

#### DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.

#### PRIVATE SERVERS

If your child has genuine friends who they play Roblox online with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some players could invite other people – who might not necessarily be child friendly – into the private server. If your child is a Roblox fan, it's important to talk with them regularly about who they are playing the game with.

#### MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.

#### DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's OK to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with others safely in the digital world.

### Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.wired.com/2020/07/2033943/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-playing-online-games-for-the-first-time/>  
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>

[@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety)

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

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

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