

John Ray Times

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

9th September 2024

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



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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: **23/09/2024 [Week 3](#), 09/09/2024 [Week 1](#), 16/09/2024 [Week 2](#)**

Zones of Regulation

The ZONES of Regulation

Blue Zone	Green Zone	Yellow Zone	Red Zone
Sad	Wiggly	Worried	Overjoyed/Elated
Bored	Focused	Frustrated	Humiliated
Tired	Calm	Silly	Angry
Sick	Proud	Excited	Terrified

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.

Welcome back

It has been wonderful to see the children back at school and working so hard. We have started the year working on a whole school project based around the book 'Journey' by Aaron Becker. Children in every year group will be producing a piece of writing based on the themes within the book. This is a joint project with John Ray Infants and work from children in all year groups will be displayed across our two schools.

Permission for children in Y5 and Y6 to walk home alone

Should you decide that your Y5 or Y6 child is mature enough to walk home alone, please refer to our agreement for allowing children to walk home alone on our [website](#) and complete the following form. Parents of children in Y6 should complete a new form even if they requested permission last academic year.

[Permission for Y5 and Y6 children to walk home alone](#)

Permission for children in Y5 and Y6 to bring in a mobile phone

We understand that if children are walking home alone that parents may want them to bring a mobile phone to school as a safety measure. We have a clear policy on phones in our school and information can be found on our [website](#). If you wish for your Y5 / Y6 child to bring phone to school, please ensure you have read the information on our website and either completed the paper request form or the online form found below. Parents of children in Y6 should complete a new form even if they requested permission last academic year.

[Request for children in Y5 and Y6 to bring in a mobile phone](#)

Meet the teacher session 10.09.24 3:30 – 4:00

Parents are invited to meet their child's class teacher and see the classroom on Tuesday 10th September after school until 4pm. Please meet your child as normal and then enter the school through the main reception or the white hall doors. **The meet the teacher session for 3C (Mrs Waspe's class) will take place on Friday 13th September.**

Road safety

We have arranged for the children in Y5 to have road safety sessions over the next two weeks. These sessions take place in school time but children should come to school with a coat appropriate for the weather and shoes that are comfortable to walk in. Sessions will take place on the following days:

Wednesday 11th September: 5B & 5E

Monday 16th September 5W & 5K

Pencil cases and water bottles

This year, each child has been given a pencil case filled with items they need therefore children should not bring in their own pencil cases or equipment to school. We also ask that children only bring in water bottles that hold less 750ml and have a securely sealed lid to avoid spillage. Some children have had work ruined after accidental spillages.

Breakfast Club

Our childcare breakfast club is open from 7:30 but bookings have now closed for this half term.

Bookings for the 2nd half of the autumn term open on Monday 16th September at 7am and close on Friday 11th October at 12pm. Bookings will not be accepted after this date. These dates are also on the dates section below. Our booking system is changing, parents will no longer be able to book using the MCAS App. Bookings will need to be made via our breakfast club form and places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. The booking form will be sent via the MCAS APP on Friday 13th September.

Parents **must** hand their child over to the breakfast club staff. Please do not attend breakfast club without a booking as your child may be turned away.

Attendance policy

Please find a link below to our recently updated attendance policy. Policies are available on our website and paper copies can be requested via the school office.

[Attendance policy summer 2024](#)

Would you like to support reading in your child's school as a parent volunteer?

12th September 9:30 to 10:45am

Via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting [here](#)

Meeting ID: 825 6953 6309 Passcode: 134038

or

12th September 1:30 to 2:45pm

St Peter's Coggeshall

Myneer Park, Coggeshall, Colchester,
Essex CO6 1YU



This session is designed to support parents with reading with their own children at home or parents who would like to become a reading volunteer in school. It will cover a simple catch-up reading protocol and confidentiality and safeguarding whilst you are in school.



Contact notleyfamilyofschools@gmail.com, for more information

The zoom link for the workshop can be found [here](#)

SEN Local Offer

Our SEN Local Offer is amended and published at the end of each academic year. It has the information on provision and processes across the school and the SENCo contact details: [John Ray Junior School - SEND Local Offer \(compassps.uk\)](#).

SEND Local Offer Newsletter

There are lots of activities and events for children with SEND on the Essex Local Offer and from the Local Offer website – sign up here to read more: [Stay up to date with the Essex Local Offer newsletter | Essex Local Offer.](#)

This includes our New POP Essex website and location: [POP Essex • SEN Stay & Play And Respite In Braintree, Essex \(pop-essex.org\)](#).

Music Lessons

We are pleased to share that Marc Fargeot who has taught guitar to our pupils for some time has kindly agreed to extend what he is able to offer our children for this year. If you are interested in your child accessing guitar/piano/singing lessons which take place during the school day, please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter and contact Marc directly at hello@braintreemusiclessons.co.uk to book & pay.

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:

Players' of the match (football): Khaleel 6O, Albie 6O, Xavier 5K, Oscar 5W, Jan 5E, Sidney 4B, Max 4J
Captains' arm band (football): Jake 6L

Completing stage 1 swimming & 5m and 7m badge: Lilly 4CB
Karate: Seyi 4CB -white stripe & red stripe, Alex O 5K -yellow stripe, Jasper 5O- purple stripe
Carnival 1st place representing Braintree, as the Braintree and Bocking carnival princess: Darcey 4J

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. Our first stars of the week will be awarded on Friday.

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.

We are noticing more children coming to school on PE days in wear that is not PE uniform. Please ensure that children have a plain white T-shirt and black shorts or tracksuit bottoms. We may ask children to change into any spare PE that we have in school if they do not come to school dressed appropriately.

Monday	Y3, 6L, 6G
Tuesday	Y3, Y5
Wednesday	Y4, Y6
Thursday	Y5, 6O, 6R
Friday	Y4

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 [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000). If a child is in immediate danger, you should call 999.

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



National Online Safety: What parents and carers need to know about lego fortnite

Fortnite is a game well-known for its popularity with younger players, as well as its many different modes and expansions intended to keep the experience fresh for long-time fans. One such addition has been LEGO Fortnite – a kind of “survival mode” where players take control of LEGO characters, craft tools, and build structures in a manner similar to the toy set of the same name.

While the content of LEGO Fortnite has been rated as suitable for children of 7 and older in the UK, it – like any online game – carries inherent safety concerns. For this reason, parents and educators should consider keeping themselves apprised of any potential dangers posed to children who enjoy this title. The guide offers plenty of insight into the most prominent risks associated with this title, and lets you know how to ensure children can safely enjoy their time with this expansion.

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 style="text-align: center;">Year 3</p> <p>3C: cwaspe1@compassps.uk 3D: dcasey@compassps.uk 3P: sphillips@compassps.uk 3W: zwatson@compassps.uk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 4</p> <p>4B: jbird@compassps.uk 4CB: hcollier-brown@compassps.uk 4J: jbrennan@compassps.uk 4T: tbeeson@compassps.uk, kbreen@compassps.uk</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Year 5</p> <p>5B: hbreeze@compassps.uk 5E: cellis@compassps.uk 5K: kbrighton@compassps.uk 5W: awilson@compassps.uk,rcottee@compassps.uk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 6</p> <p>6G: ngibson@compassps.uk 6L: jlarbalestier@compassps.uk 6O: cosullivan@compassps.uk 6R: rroberts@compassps.uk</p>

Please contact class teachers 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 INCLUDING NEWSLETTERS – 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:tojrcontact@compassps.uk)
09.09.24 Y6 Ambassador applications (Y6 only)

Dates for the academic year 2024-2025 (new dates in red)

[Please see the website for the term dates](#)

Autumn Term 2024	Spring Term 2025	Summer Term 2025
10.09.24 Meet the teacher drop in for current parents from 3:30pm – 4.00pm	07.01.25 Start of term for children	22.04.25 Start of term for children
11.09.24 5B & 5E road safety walks (in school time)	13.01.25 After school clubs start	28.04.25 After school clubs start
12.09.24 Secondary school applications open (Y6 only)	21.01.25 & 22.01.25 One Plan meetings for children on SEN register	12.05.25 SATS week (Y6 only)
13.09.24 Meet the teacher drop in for 3C only from 3:30pm – 4.00pm	5.02.25 Children's mental health week	13.05.25 & 14.05.25 One Plan meetings for children on SEN register
16.09.24 5W & 5K road safety walks (in school time)	6.02.25 In class individual photos (All children should come to school in school uniform and bring PE kits in a separate bag if it is a PE day)	20.05.25 Year 6 Mersea residential meeting 5pm
16.09.24 After school clubs start	11.02.25 Safer Internet Day	22.05.25 Sports day and parent picnic (parents invited from 11:45)
16.09.2024 Breakfast club bookings open at 7am. Please book using the form sent on the 13.09.2024	17.02.25 Half term	26.05.25 Half term
23.09.24 Phonics and reading workshop for invited parents 9:30am	24.02.25 Children return to school	02.06.25 Multiplication check starts for 3 weeks (Y4 only)
23.09.24 Year 6 Mersea residential meeting 5pm	06.03.25 World book day (Dress as a book character or bring in a prop from a book)	02.06.25 Children return to school
27.09.24 Individual photos (children who have PE on this day should come into school in school uniform and bring PE kits in a separate bag)	21.03.25 Comic Relief (Children can wear sportswear or non-uniform in exchange for a donation)	05.06.25 Reserve Sports day in case of poor weather
01.10.24 & 02.10.24 One Plan meetings for children on SEN register 3.30pm-5.30pm	24.03.25 Last week for clubs	11.06.25-13.06.25 Mersea residential (Y6 only)
11.09.2024 - Breakfast club bookings close at 12pm	11.03.25 Learning conferences (3:45-6.30pm) for children not on SEN register	25.06.25 Class photos (children who have PE on this day should come into school in school uniform and bring PE kits in a separate bag)
24.10.24 4T / 4B visit to Colchester Castle	12.03.25 Learning conferences (3:45-5:30pm) for children not on SEN register	07.07.25 Last week for clubs
25.10.24 4CB / 4J visit to Colchester Castle	3.04.25 Easter service at school	08.07.25 Children to spend time with their new teacher
28.10.24 Half Term week	04.04.25 Last day of term	10.07.25 Annual reports sent out
31.10.24 Secondary school applications close (Y6 only)		16.07.25 Open afternoon drop in for current parents from 3:30pm – 4.30pm
04.11.24 Children return to school		17.07.25 Y6 production to parents 1:30 and 4:30pm
05.11.23 Learning conferences (3:45-6.30pm) for children not on SEN register		18.07.25 Last day of term
06.11.23 Learning conferences (3:45-5:30pm) for children not on SEN register		
15.11.24 Children in Need (non-uniform: children can wear spots / stripes in return for a donation)		
25.11.24 Last week for clubs		
17.12.24 Christmas dinner day for years 4 and 6		
18.12.24 Christmas dinner day for years 3 and 5		
19.12.24 Christmas Service at school		
20.12.24 Last day of term		



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about LEGO FORTNITE

Epic Games have recently introduced three new game modes to Fortnite: Rocket Racing, Fortnite Festival and, finally, Lego Fortnite: a survival game using official Lego characters. There are lots of great mechanics that encourage creativity in children, but – as with any online game – it's important to stay aware of the potential risks.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MONETISATION

Lego Fortnite utilises a similar online item shop to the main Fortnite game. When this title was released, the makers introduced thousands of Lego versions of the original game's character skins. While these character skins have remained the same price, this piece of downloadable content effectively doubled the cosmetics available, creating even more opportunities to spend real money on these in-game accessories.

ONLINE PLAY

Just like Fortnite itself, Lego Fortnite can be played online against other people. Players can invite anyone to play with them, so there's always a chance of strangers (including much older ones) ending up on a child's server. Thankfully, Epic Games has implemented a solid reporting system, as well as tools to kick other players from the game.

FEAR FACTOR

There is no explicit violence in Lego Fortnite, but there is a lot of combat. While the battles in Lego Fortnite remain very cartoonish and child-friendly, a lot of the action unfolds inside dark caves, with spiders, skeletons or scary-looking monsters. The game can get a little spooky at times, which could potentially scare younger players.

COMPLEX GAMEPLAY

Lego Fortnite is a survival game, though it's not as simple as something like Minecraft. There are lots of different crafting stations and loads of items to use or combine (including various rarities to seek out and harvest). The gathering and crafting elements of the game can get quite complicated and confusing, which could be a source of frustration for some younger players.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEGO IS FRIENDLY

Much like real Lego, this game is incredibly inviting. It's friendly, fun and accessible; a younger player could still enjoy this title even if they'd never played Fortnite before. With sanitised violence, it's a far more family-friendly gaming experience all round – worth bearing in mind if you're concerned about children and young people being exposed to violent or frightening content.

PLAY TOGETHER

Parents could take some time to have fun playing the game with their child. Besides helping with some of the more complicated tasks, playing with family members also reduces the need for younger players to find strangers to enjoy the game with. Playing Lego Fortnite with a child also lets parents control the length of gaming sessions. Instead of "switch it off", parents can now say "let's play some more later!"

SET LITTLE CHALLENGES

As we've noted, the game is a lot more difficult than it may seem, which could be frustrating or upsetting for some younger players. While the game does a good job of setting realistic targets for players, it can still feel overwhelming. If parents suggest smaller challenges – such as building a house – children can flex their creativity, express themselves with their builds and feel a real sense of accomplishment.

MONITOR SPENDING

As with the main version of Fortnite, it's worth parents staying aware of how much a child is spending on V-Bucks, the in-game currency. It can be a temptation for young players to buy character skins in Lego form, as a way of expressing themselves and making their characters look cool and unique. As these digital skins tend to cost between £5 and £15, outlay can add up very quickly if it's not tracked and limited.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality, augmented reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



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Steve for u9s - 07985274211
Kris for u10s - 07873357933
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