

John Ray Times

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

16th December 2024

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



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Online learning links



[Accelerated Reader](#)



[Nessy](#)



[TTRockstars](#)



CENTURY

[Century Tech](#)

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:

16/12/2024, 06.01.25 [Week 1](#), 13.01.25 [Week 2](#), 20.01.25 [Week 3](#).

[Zones of Regulation](#)

The ZONES of Regulation



[School Attendance Difficulties](#)



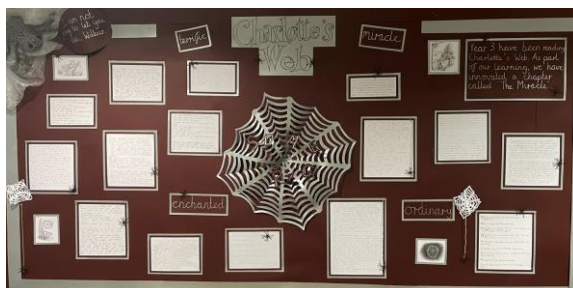
[Supporting Anxiety](#)



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 23.09.24.

End of term displays





Non Pupil Day reminder

Just a reminder that children return to school on Tuesday 7th January.

MDA vacancy

We are looking for a Midday Assistant to support our children at lunchtime. Hours are 12:00-1:30 daily. For more information, please contact the school office.

Christmas Dinner

Just a reminder that Y4 and Y6 have their Christmas dinner on 17.12.24 and Y3 and Y5 on 18.12.24. If you have not ordered a Christmas dinner for your child, please ensure you provide a packed lunch.

Active Essex

Active Essex are offering a variety of clubs over the Christmas holidays. Information can be found by clicking on the following link: [Winter holiday clubs with Essex Activate - Active Essex](#)

Spring Term After-School Clubs

Next term, our clubs will run from w/c 13th January and the last club will be during w/c 24th March.

Plea for pre-loved games

We would love to receive any donations of games such as Uno for children to play in lunchtime club. Please pass any donations to the school office.

Miss O'Sullivan's email address

Due to ongoing technical issues, Miss O'Sullivan's email address has changed to:
cosullivan1@compassps.uk

Invite to Y3 and Y5 parents

You are invited into your child's class on Thursday 19th December to look at some of the work they have completed this term. Please arrive at the main office at 2:30pm and you'll be shown to your child's classroom. Once you have read the work, you can take your child home - you don't need to wait until 3:20pm (Y3) or 3:25pm (Y5). Children will be bringing a piece of work home to share with those who cannot attend.

Tuck Shop

After Christmas, our tuck shop will only be open on Fridays. Items cost 30p.

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 \(pop-essex.org\)](#).

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.

Dance: Participation medals for Isabella 6O, Maya 4J, Darcey 4J, Victoria 4J, Mia 5K, Maddie M 3P, Emily 3C, Eive 3P, Most improved dancers: Isabella 6O, Maya 4J, Victoria 4J,
Swimming: Rex 4B 100m, Ruby 4B 50m, Akasya 4J 2nd in a gala
Football players of the match: Bailey 4J, Blake 6L, Tyler 6G, Lucas 3P, Leo 3W
Runners: Xavier 5K, 10km run, Jack 5K Santa fun run
Gymnastics: Bella 3C and Taylor 3C participation in competition.
Horse Riding: Harrison (4B) Rider of the year.



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.

3C: Daniel	4B: Finley	5B: Nora	6G: Leo
3D: Oliver	4CB: Zac	5E: Amelia	6L: Emily
3P: Maddie	4J: Nicholas	5K: Hope	6O: Freya
3W: Anthony	4T: Freya	5W:	6R: jasper

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, 6R
Wednesday	Y4, Y6
Thursday	Y5, 6O
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**. If a child is in immediate danger, you should call 999.

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



National Online Safety: Top tips for safety over the festive season

The holiday season is a time for celebration, relaxation and spending well-earned time with loved ones. While this period will hopefully be calm, it's important that parents and educators acknowledge there are still things we can do to make these weeks as safe as possible for the young people in our care.

Of course, it's not immediately obvious what can or should be done to stay safe over the festive season. This free guide offers expert advice on the steps you can take to enjoy a less fraught winter break, safeguarding any youngsters who might be present for the celebrations.

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. **Please note: Miss O'Sullivan now has a new email address.**

<p style="text-align: center;">Year 3</p> 3C: cwaspe1@compassps.uk 3D: dcasey@compassps.uk 3P: sphillips@compassps.uk 3W: zwatson@compassps.uk	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 4</p> 4B: jbird@compassps.uk 4CB: hcollier-brown@compassps.uk 4J: jbrennan@compassps.uk 4T: tbeeson@compassps.uk, kbreen@compassps.uk
<p style="text-align: center;">Year 5</p> 5B: hbreeze@compassps.uk 5E: cellis@compassps.uk 5K: kbrighton@compassps.uk 5W: awilson1@compassps.uk, rcottee@compassps.uk	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 6</p> 6G: ngibson@compassps.uk 6L: jlarbalestier@compassps.uk 6O: cosullivan1@compassps.uk 6R: rroberts@compassps.uk

Please contact class teachers in the first instance to resolve any issues. Should you feel you need to escalate the issue, please contact:

Miss Coffee (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)

15.10.24 SEND Pentathlon Expression of interest (invited children only)

21.10.24 Flu Immunisations (all year groups) – consent required

12.11.24 Letter from UKHSA and ECC: Circulation of measles

19.11.24 Adverse weather plan

27.11.24 Alec Hunter Taster Sessions for Year 5 Pupils (Y5 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
<p>17.12.24 Christmas dinner day for years 4 and 6 (Y3 & Y5 to bring packed lunch)</p> <p>18.12.24 Christmas dinner day for years 3 and 5 (Y4 & Y6 to bring packed lunch)</p> <p>19.12.24 Christmas Service at school</p> <p>19.12.24 Y3 parents invited into class for children to share their writing.</p> <p>19.12.24 Y5 parents invited into class for children to share their work.</p> <p>20.12.24 Last day of term</p>	<p>07.01.25 Start of term for children</p> <p>13.01.25 After school clubs start</p> <p>21.01.25 & 22.01.25 One Plan meetings for children on SEN register</p> <p>5.02.25 Children's mental health week</p> <p>6.02.25 In class individual 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>11.02.25 Safer Internet Day</p> <p>17.02.25 Half term</p> <p>24.02.25 Children return to school</p> <p>06.03.25 World book day <i>(Dress as a book character or bring in a prop from a book)</i></p> <p>21.03.25 Comic Relief <i>(Children can wear sportswear or non-uniform in exchange for a donation)</i></p> <p>24.03.25 Last week for clubs</p> <p>11.03.25 Learning conferences <i>(3:45-6:30pm) for children not on SEN register</i></p> <p>12.03.25 Learning conferences <i>(3:45-5:30pm) for children not on SEN register</i></p> <p>3.04.25 Easter service at school</p> <p>04.04.25 Last day of term</p>	<p>22.04.25 Start of term for children</p> <p>28.04.25 After school clubs start</p> <p>12.05.25 SATS week <i>(Y6 only)</i></p> <p>13.05.25 & 14.05.25 One Plan meetings for children on SEN register</p> <p>20.05.25 Year 6 Mersea residential meeting 5pm</p> <p>22.05.25 Sports day and parent picnic <i>(parents invited from 11:45)</i></p> <p>26.05.25 Half term</p> <p>02.06.25 <u>Multiplication check</u> starts for 3 weeks <i>(Y4 only)</i></p> <p>02.06.25 Children return to school</p> <p>05.06.25 Reserve Sports day in case of poor weather</p> <p>11.06.25-13.06.25 Mersea residential <i>(Y6 only)</i></p> <p>25.06.25 Class photos <i>(children who have PE on this day should come into school in school uniform and bring PE kits in a separate bag)</i></p> <p>27.06.25 Summer fete <i>(Please note change of date)</i></p> <p>07.07.25 Last week for clubs</p> <p>08.07.25 Children to spend time with their new teacher</p> <p>10.07.25 Annual reports sent out</p> <p>15.07.24 Y6 production to parents 1:45 and 4:30pm 6L and 6G</p> <p>16.07.25 Open afternoon drop in for current parents <i>from 3:30pm – 4.30pm</i></p> <p>17.07.25 Y6 production to parents 1:45 and 4:30pm 6O and 6R</p> <p>18.07.25 Last day of term</p>

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON.

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or epinephrine. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>



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2ND & 3RD JAN

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- October 2024 Camp Player



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23rd December - Dunmow | Great Dunmow Leisure Centre
23rd December - Epping | Epping Rugby Club

POST XMAS

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2nd-3rd January - Epping | Epping Rugby Club

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