

John Ray Times

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

10th February 2025

Phone: 01376 324107

Email: jrcontact@compassps.uk

Website: www.johnray.compassps.uk



@johnrayjuniors



@

facebook.com/johnraycompassps

Online learning links



[Accelerated Reader](#)



[Century Tech](#)



[TT Rockstars](#)



[Nessy](#)

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

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

School dinner menus are on our website:

10.02.25 [Week 3.](#)

On Thursday 6th March, we have a special 'World Book Day' Menu. Please click [here](#)

[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.

Compass Music Event

On 6th February, we hosted a wonderful concert! Children from the four other Essex schools within our Trust came together to entertain parents and staff with their fabulous singing. The children from Cann Hall Primary, Notley Geen, John Ray Infants and Shalford Primary sang beautifully.

Young Voices

Last Monday, we took 32 children to the O2 to take part in the Young Voices event along with over 8,000 other children from schools across the UK. The children sang with enthusiasm and excitement and were a pleasure to take. Many thanks to Miss Buckley, Mrs Baker and Mrs Dowman for supporting.



Absence reporting

Please remember to call the school office if your child is absent from school for any reason. The number is 01376 324107 option 1. It is important that we hear from you as this forms part of our safeguarding procedure.

Sports for Champions:

On Monday the 7th March, we will be taking part in the Sports for Champions programme. This involves a visit from a GB athlete. The athlete will meet the children, deliver an assembly and involve the children in mini events. This is a sponsored event; the children are encouraged to collect sponsors to support the charity. Please see the video below which has been shared with children in assembly.

Sports For Champions I PRIMARY DVD

Sponsorship forms were sent home last week and will be due in on **Tuesday 4th March** in preparation for our event.

Pancake day – Tuesday 4th March 2025

On the 4th March we will be changing our desserts to pancakes. Please see the flyer below.



Wheel chair access

Please could all parents / cares be mindful of blocking paths and access areas at the start and end of the day to ensure that wheel chair users can use our site.

Children's mental health week



Last week was Children's mental health week and this year's theme was Know Yourself, Grow Yourself in partnership with Here4You, supported by The Walt Disney Company and the *Inside Out 2* characters. We looked at this theme in assembly and linked it to the work we do in our My Happy Mind lessons.

The website includes information for parents and activities for families. A poster with some top tips is also included at the bottom of the newsletter.

[Children's mental health week](#)

Tuck Shop

Just a reminder that 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.

Well done to;

Swimming: Harrison MT (4B) 25m, Frankie (3D) stage 1

Dancing: Mia (3D) rosettes in tap and jazz, Vinnie (5K) bronze and gold street dance

Gymnastics; Taylor (3C) participated in a gymnastics competition

Darcy (4J) 1st place in the Courts of Courts Carnival Princess event

Lilly (4CB) 1st and 2nd place in a roller derby

Xavier (5K) 10K Polish Charity run

Football Players' of the match: Max (4J), Teddy (4J), Henry (4J), Joe (5W), Archie (6G), Rex (4B); Leo (3W) team won in the final.

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.

3C: Ricky	4B: Lily Mae	5B: Aaron	6G: Silua
3D: Rayner	4CB: Seyi	5E: Anderson	6L: Misan
3P: Toby	4J: Molly	5K: Amelia H	6O: Isabella
3W: Finley	4T: Callie	5W: Joe	6R: Lithuli

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	3W, 3C, 6L, 6G, 5B
Tuesday	Y3, Y5, 6R
Wednesday	Y4, Y6
Thursday	5E, 5K, 6O, 3P, 3D
Friday	Y4, 5W

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](tel:08001111) at any time on [0800 1111](tel:08001111)



National Online Safety: What parents and carers need to know about fake news and scams

While misinformation and 'fake news' are well-known concerns online, it's also the case that scammers and other cyber-criminals can try to utilise this phony material to manipulate, frighten or otherwise persuade their victims into cooperating. With constantly evolving scams and such a high volume of misinformation online, it's vital that parents and educators know how to safeguard the children in their care against these kinds of tactics. Our guide breaks down the most prominent ways in which scammers attempt to use 'fake news' to their advantage, as well as how to protect youngsters from being manipulated by such techniques.

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.**

Year 3	Year 4
3C: cwaspe1@compassps.uk 3D: dcasey@compassps.uk 3P: sphillips@compassps.uk 3W: zwatson@compassps.uk	4B: aoxley@compassps.uk 4CB: hcollier-brown@compassps.uk 4J: jbreannan@compassps.uk 4T: tbeeson@compassps.uk, kbreen@compassps.uk
Year 5	Year 6
5B: hbreeze@compassps.uk 5E: cellis@compassps.uk 5K: kbrighton@compassps.uk 5W: awilson1@compassps.uk, rcottee@compassps.uk	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 – MANY OF OUR LETTERS ARE 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)

- 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)
- 06.01.25 HappyDays School Photography Subscriptions (All) - deadline to sign up 20.01.25
- 06.01.25 National Child Measurement Programme (Y6 only)
- 08.01.25 Hemisphere pupil survey (Y5 and Y6 only)
- 09.01.25 Support Sessions for Families (All)
- 14.01.25 Teaching arrangements for 4B (4B only)
- 22.01.25 KEGS Open Day Events (Y5 boys only)
- 27.01.25 Y5 day trip- letter to express interest
- 29.01.25 Leavers Hoodies (Y6 only)

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

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

Spring Term 2025

- 11.02.25 Safer Internet Day
- 17.02.25 Half term
- 24.02.25 Children return to school
- 06.03.25 World book day (Dress as a book character or bring in a prop from a book)
- 07.03.25 Sports for Champions day (everyone to come dressed in PE kit)
- 21.03.25 Comic Relief (Children can wear sportswear or non-uniform in exchange for a donation)

24.03.25 Last week for clubs
11.03.25 Learning conferences (3:45-6.30pm) for children not on SEN register
12.03.25 Learning conferences (3:45-5:30pm) for children not on SEN register
3.04.25 Easter service at school
04.04.25 Last day of term

Summer Term 2025

22.04.25 Start of term for children
28.04.25 After school clubs start
12.05.25 SATS week (Y6 only)
13.05.25 & 14.05.25 One Plan meetings for children on SEN register
20.05.25 Year 6 Mersea residential meeting 5pm
22.05.25 Sports day and parent picnic (parents invited from 11:45)

26.05.25 Half term

02.06.25 Multiplication check starts for 3 weeks (Y4 only)
02.06.25 Children return to school
05.06.25 Reserve Sports day in case of poor weather
11.06.25-13.06.25 Mersea residential (Y6 only)
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)
27.06.25 Summer fete (Please note change of date)

07.07.25 Last week for clubs
08.07.25 Children to spend time with their new teacher
10.07.25 Annual reports sent out
15.07.24 Y6 production to parents 1:45 and 4:30pm 6L and 6G

16.07.25 Open afternoon drop in for current parents from 3:30pm – 4.30pm
17.07.25 Y6 production to parents 1:45 and 4:30pm 6O and 6R
18.07.25 Last day of term

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams>

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#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

TIPS FOR FAMILIES

Place2Be's

CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK

1 Encourage journalling

Just like Riley, encourage your older children and young people to express their emotions and thoughts through journalling. It can be less confronting than speaking out loud and is a helpful way to process what is going on.

2 Make space for reflection

When children and young people reflect on their different emotions, it can help them better understand themselves and what they need.

Go for a walk, drive, or try some mindful colouring or baking together.

3 Be visual

Use imagery, such as emojis or flashcards to help children and young people recognise and label their feelings.

4 Practice mindfulness

Try mindful activities, and quiet family time, to enjoy being in the present moment. This can help children and young people be aware of their thoughts and emotions and learn a useful new coping technique.

5 Communicate

Feedback is crucial for helping us see our blind spots and gain greater insight. Children and young people are no different. Creating safe and supportive ways to share your own experience with your child can help them understand themselves and their impact on the world around them.



If you're a parent or teacher, you'll find loads of useful advice to help you support the brilliant young people in your lives – from FAQs to downloadable packs. [Here4You.co.uk](https://www.place2be.co.uk/here4you)



ACL

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Are you looking for ways to help your teen navigate the challenges of adolescence? Our free online courses are designed to provide parents and carers with the tools and knowledge to support their teens effectively.

From managing emotions to building resilience, our sessions offer valuable insights to help your teen thrive.

Sign up via our website [ACLESSEX.COM](https://www.aclessex.com) and search by course title or code

The Teenage Brain	(CODE: DOL2C45Y24)	11/02/2025
Understanding Teens	(CODE: DOL4C46Y24)	27/02/2025
Understanding Teenage Anxiety	(CODE: DOL4C47Y24)	27/03/2025

**COMMUNITY &
FAMILY LEARNING**
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CMXSC.CO.UK | ACTIVE CAMPS



JOIN OUR TEAM EVERY SCHOOL HOLIDAY FOR OUR **ACTIVE CAMPS!**

OFFERING YOUR CHILD A SAFE SPACE TO LEARN, SOCIALISE, STAY ACTIVE, FORM FRIENDSHIPS, DEVELOP INTERESTS AND BUILD CONFIDENCE.

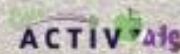
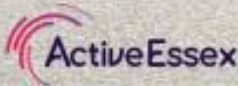
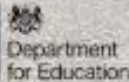
Come and join our team every school holiday for lots of fun, sports and much more! **PLUS** exciting new activities & theme days we cant wait to share with you.

Book now by visiting www.cmxsc.co.uk

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Everything you need to know!



Venue - Maltings Academy Spinks Lane, Witham CM8 1EP



**Time 9.00am - 3.30pm
Early Drop Off 8.30am - Late Pick Up 4.30pm**



Age - For all school aged children from Year R - Year 7



**Sports - Football, Basketball, Tag Rugby, Gymnastics, Cricket
PLUS much more**



**Price - Normal Day £27.50
Early Drop Off £3 - Late Pick Up £5**



SCAN ME



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A CO-EDUCATIONAL INDEPENDENT THROUGH SCHOOL



George Fisher Netball & Sports Camp

Netball and Sports Camp open to Year 5 - Year 9

Wednesday 19th February & Thursday 20th February

9:30am - 3:30pm • £40 per day

Attendees would need to bring their own lunch, snacks, water bottles. **NO NUTS ALLOWED**

You can choose **either**:

Netball Camp or Sports Camp on each day.

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✉ admissions@gosfieldschool.org.uk

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External students,
please register here



CHILDCARE FOR AS LITTLE AS **£3.75** PER HOUR



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FEBRUARY 2025 HOLIDAY COURSE

EA SPORTS FC THEMED

➤ 18th Feb - 20th Feb



Ofsted



COLCHESTER

19th & 20th February



DUNMOW

18th, 19th & 20th February

Join our EA Sports FC themed Holiday Course this February 2025!



Football fun at a safe, secure outdoor venue



Tournaments, challenges & games



State of the art facilities & equipment



FA/UEFA qualified & ex-pro coaches

USE CODE **SIB25** WHEN SIGNING UP WITH A SIBLING FOR 25% OFF

**OFSTED APPROVED & TRUSTED BY
PARENT/CARERS FOR 11 YEARS**

*Drop off between 8:30am - 9:30am
until 3pm - 3:30pm*



“

Both my boys absolutely love M.R.F.A. The coaches and facilities are fantastic. They've both come such a long way since starting and their teams are really seeing the difference."

- 2024 5* Google Review



BOOK HERE



**BOOK
EARLY**

****The first 30 bookings at each course will receive a FREE day at the same venue for February**

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 www.mrfa.co.uk



FANTASTIC FEBRUARY CAMP



17th FEB - 21st FEB

Notley Green Primary School
Blickling Rd, Great Notley, Braintree CM77 7ZJ

17th FEB MONDAY	FOOTBALL & GYMNASTICS DAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⚡ Football Tournaments ⚡ Ronaldo's Skill School ⚡ Jumps and Routines ⚡ Balance and Rolls
18th FEB TUESDAY	NINJA WARRIOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⚡ Obstacle Courses ⚡ Timed Challenges ⚡ Camouflage ⚡ Ninja Tag
19th FEB WEDNESDAY	OLYMPICS DAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⚡ Running Races ⚡ Long Jump ⚡ Throwing Challenges ⚡ Tennis
20th FEB THURSDAY	SKILLS DAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⚡ Soft Archery ⚡ Accuracy Games ⚡ Mega Bowling ⚡ Multi Sports
21st FEB FRIDAY	SPORTS DAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⚡ Basketball ⚡ Football ⚡ Benchball ⚡ Handball

Welcome to our Fantastic February Camp Schedule!
Each day you can expect a number of different themed sports, games & activities!

TO BOOK:
Visit www.superstarsport.co.uk, click "Book Now"
There is a 4.5% platform fee on every booking



SCAN HERE





FEBRUARY HALF-TERM CAMP



Notley Green Primary School
Blickling Rd, Braintree CM77 7ZJ

NINJA
WARRIOR

FOOTBALL

MEDALS
AND
PRIZES

GYMNASTICS

INFLATABLES

AND MUCH
MORE....

Monday 17th Feb - Friday 21st Feb

FULL DAY:

£27 per day

£120 for the week

Year 1 - 7 children

9AM-3PM

HALF DAY:

£16 per day

£75 for the week

Reception children

9AM-12:45PM

HALF DAY

FULL DAY

To Book:

Visit www.superstarsport.co.uk & click
'Book Now'. For more information call
us on 01992 766 707

There is a 4.5% platform fee on every booking.



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



**OFSTED APPROVED & TRUSTED BY
PARENT/CARERS FOR 11 YEARS**

*Drop off between 8:30am - 9:30am
until 3pm - 3:30pm*



“

Both my boys absolutely love M.R.F.A. The coaches and facilities are fantastic. They've both come such a long way since starting and their teams are really seeing the difference."

- 2024 5* Google Review



BOOK HERE



We accept childcare vouchers and the government gateway portal. Make the most of your money

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CHILDCARE FOR AS LITTLE AS **£3.75** PER HOUR



Rated 5 Star on Google!

FEBRUARY 2025 HOLIDAY COURSE

EA SPORTS FC THEMED

➤➤ 17th Feb - 20th Feb



Ofsted



CHELMSFORD

17th, 18th, 19th & 20th February



EPPING

17th, 18th, 19th & 20th February

Join our EA Sports FC themed Holiday Course this February 2025!



Football fun at a safe, secure outdoor venue



Tournaments, challenges & games



State of the art facilities & equipment



FA/UEFA qualified & ex-pro coaches

USE CODE **SIB25** WHEN SIGNING UP WITH A SIBLING FOR 25% OFF