

John Ray Times

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

24th February 2025

Phone: 01376 324107

Email: jrcontact@compassps.uk

Website: www.johnray.compassps.uk



@johnrayjuniors



@ facebook.com/[johnraycompassps](https://www.facebook.com/johnraycompassps)

Online learning links



[Accelerated Reader](#)



[Century Tech](#)



[TTRockstars](#)



[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

School dinner menus are on our website:

24.02.25 [Week 1](#) 03.03.25 [Week 3](#) 10.03.2025 [Week 1](#)

On Tuesday 4th March, we have changed our dessert to pancakes

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

[Zones of Regulation](#)

The ZONES of Regulation

Blue Zone	Green Zone	Yellow Zone	Red Zone
Sad Bored Tired Shy	Happy Focused Calm Proud	Worried Frustrated Silly Embarrassed	Overjoyed/Excited Annoyed Angry Terrified

[School Attendance Difficulties](#)



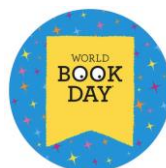
[Supporting Anxiety](#)



[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 23.09.24.

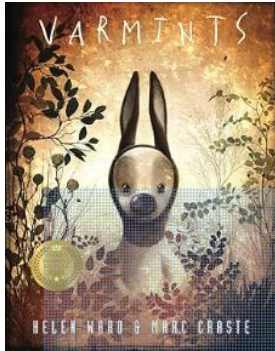
World Book Day



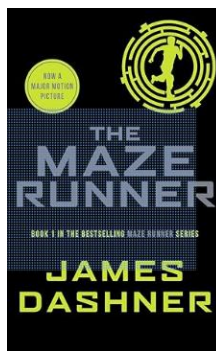
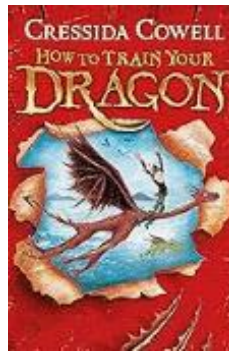
World Book Day takes place on Thursday 6th March. We would like to invite children to dress up as a book character or bring in a prop related to a book.

Class Texts

Children are starting their new class texts this week and these will then be used to create writing outcomes



Y3



Y4



Y5

Y6

[Our curriculum map can be found on our website](#)

Absence reporting

Please remember to call the school office if your child is absent from school for any reason. The number is 01376324107 option 1. It is important that we hear from you as this forms part of our safeguarding procedures.

Whilst we strive for 100% attendance, government expectations are that attendance sits above 96%.

There is a wealth of research to support the link between regular school attendance and good academic performance. Studies also show direct links between regular school attendance and future success in the workplace. Irregular attendance also affects children's ability to develop and sustain friendships in school. If a child's attendance is below 90%, which is classed as being persistently absent, attendance could be recorded as unauthorised. Parents and carers may be asked to provide evidence of medical appointments and medication where they are able to.

Our whole school attendance is currently 94.8%

Y3: 95.3%

Y4: 94.7%

Y5: 94%

Y6: 95%

There are 88 children who currently have 100% attendance.

Sports for Champions

On Monday 7th March, we will be taking part in the Sports for Champions programme which 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 before half term 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.



Safer Internet Day

In the week before half term, we used one of our assemblies to celebrate Safer Internet Day. Safer Internet Day is an annual world wide event and the theme this year was **Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.** Children were taught how to spot potential scams and what to do about them.

Resources for parents can be found on the [Safer internet day website.](#)

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;

Footballer players' of the match: Max (4J), Dominic (5W), Albie (5W), Jan (5E), Blessed (5E), Riley (4CB), Oscar (5W), Xavier (5K), Alex (5W), max (5B), Jake (6G), Max (5B), Freddie (5B), Isaac (5B), Leo (3W), Logan (4CB), Theo (4CB)

Roller Derby: Lily (4CB) 1st and 2nd place

Dancing: Akasya (4J)

Swimming: Maddie (3P) level 4, Carter (3C) level 2, Sophia (5B) stage 3
 Running: Xavier (5K) 10K London Winter run
 Brownie badges: Sophia (5B), Sophie (5B), Summer (4T), Quinn (5B), Amelia (5E), Ruby (5B).

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: William	4B:	5B: Ruby	6G: Jessica
3D: Connie	4CB:	5E: Charlie	6L: Piper
3P: Pollyanna	4J: The whole class	5K: Jack	6O: Khaleel
3W: Alexander	4T: Elisa	5W:	6R:

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, Y6
 Tuesday: Y5, 6L, 6G, 6R
 Wednesday: Y4, 5B
 Thursday: Y3, 4B, 5E, 5K, 6O
 Friday: 4J, 4CB, 4T, 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 Whatsapp

WhatsApp is one of the most popular messaging apps available and, as of 2024, has been made accessible to users as young as thirteen. With end-to-end encryption preventing even the platform itself from viewing any messages that users send on it, this app has been regularly utilised by those looking to keep their conversations private.

Unfortunately, the service poses several risks to its younger users – from misinformation and bullying to potential criminal exploitation – and it's vital that parents and educators understand these concerns and how to address them. This free guide delves into the online safety risks of WhatsApp and offers expert advice on how to safeguard any young people who use the platform.

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: jbrennan@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: jarbalestier@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 tojrcontact@compassps.uk

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

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 WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's Live Location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution; get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except... Additionally, if a child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2025>



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The National College