

John Ray Times

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

17th March 2025

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



@johnrayjuniors



@facebook.com/johnraycompassps

Online learning links

 Accelerated Reader	 Century Tech	 TTRockstars	 Nessy
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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:

31.03.2025 [Week 1](#), 17.03.25 [week 2](#), 24.03.25 [Week 3](#)

On Wednesday 2nd April, we have a special Easter Menu. Please click [here](#) to view the menu options

[Zones of Regulation](#)

The ZONES of Regulation

			
Blue Zone	Green Zone	Yellow Zone	Red Zone
Sad Bored Tired Sick	Happy Focused Calm Proud	Nervous Frustrated Shy Excited	Overjoyed/Elated Panicked 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.

Save the date- Y6 Leavers' disco

The PTA will be hosting a Y6 leavers' disco on Friday 11th July at 5pm. Detail to follow nearer the time.

Comic Relief Friday 21st March



We invite children to come to school in non uniform or sportswear on Friday 21st March in exchange for a donation. Children can hand in donations (suggested £1) during registration.

British Science Week

To celebrate British Science Week, we would like to invite children to take part in a competition to design a poster. Details are shown on a poster towards the end of the newsletter and entries must be given to Mrs Casey in 3D by 1st April.

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;

Kick Boxing: Jacob in 5W has achieved an orange stripe belt in kickboxing at his grading on Saturday.

Football: Players' of the match- Oscar 5J, Alex 5K, Noah 3D, Summer 4T, Sidney 4B, Rex 4B, Riley 4CB, Louie 3W; Captains' armband- Tyler 6G, Xavier 5K, Leo 3W

Running: Xavier 5K 10 km

Dancing: Akasya 4B and Dasiy 5W: 3 1st places and a 2nd place; Amelia 5K: 1st, 4th and 5th place, Vinnie 5K: gold award

Cubs: Max 5B Collectors badge

Brownies: Sophie 5B: sixer badge, Summer 4T, Quinn 5B, Alija 5B, Sophia, 5B

Tennis: Amelia 6L: 1st place in age 14 and under tournament

Gymnastics:

Martial Arts: Karate- Alex 5K orange belt, Judo – Daniel B 2nd place

Carnival Princess: Darcy 4B Basildon and Pitsea Princess

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: Daisy	4B: Harrison	5B:	6G: Zachary
3D: Erik	4CB: Riley	5E: Lexi	6L: Karim
3P: Zak	4J: Max	5K:	6O: Earah
3W: Hayden	4T: Owen	5W: Scarlett	6R: The whole

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 Roblox

Whilst they can be a great way for friends to socialise, online games like Roblox that allow multiplayer gameplay with strangers are always fraught with a variety of dangers that can expose children to inappropriate or harmful content. Roblox enables people to play anonymously, which

can often be something that attracts people to misuse the game and potentially put young people at risk of harm.

In addition to interacting with random strangers across the world, other factors such as in-game purchases and potential scams can also pose a financial risk. It's important that parents and educators remain aware of the risks associated with this popular title and how it can be used safely.

This free guide – also available in podcast format – offers parents and educators expert advice on what can be done to ensure that young people have a safe and enjoyable experience with Roblox.

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: wnicolls@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: 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 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 – 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

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

21.03.25 Comic Relief (*Children can wear sportswear or non-uniform in exchange for a donation*)

24.03.25 Last week for clubs

24.03.25 School council visit to the Houses of Parliament

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

11.07.25 Y6 leavers' disco

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

ROBLOX



Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGBible.



Competition: Create a British Science Week poster



Children aged 3-11 can get creative and enter the British Science Week annual, UK-wide poster competition! To enter, they simply need to create a poster which fits in with the theme of 'Change and adapt'.

Schools then select the five best creations and submit them for a chance of winning an array of prizes. The activities found in this pack marked with a paintbrush symbol could all be used as a source of inspiration to get children started!

Kit list

Paper (A4 or A3)

Creative materials such as:
pens, pencils, scissors, glue, watercolours, paint, crayons, pipe cleaners, felt, thread, wool, foil, clay, string, beads, stamps, foam, pompoms

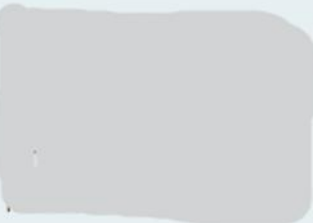
Instructions

Encourage children to think about change and adaptation – what it means to them and how it relates to science they've learnt about – to come up with ideas to include in their poster. Here are some points and questions to get you going:

- Get children to think about ways that they might have changed or adapted to new experiences and places as they've grown.
- What about change and adaptation in the world, and beyond? How do plants and animals adapt to a changing environment? Do the stars and planets in space change?
- Technology changes all the time, how is it changing our lives? Is it always for the better?

Make your poster

Once they've done their thinking, it's time for children to get creative! Posters must be A4 or A3 in size and you'll need to be able to take a photograph of each one so it can be sent to us online for judging. Children can use pop-up pictures, pull out tabs or use materials such as pencils, paints, crayons and paper to create their posters.



Next steps

Celebrate! For more details, along with the full set of poster competition rules and tips, check out our website: britishscienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/poster-competition%3F.

Entries to be sent to Mrs. Casey by 1st April.

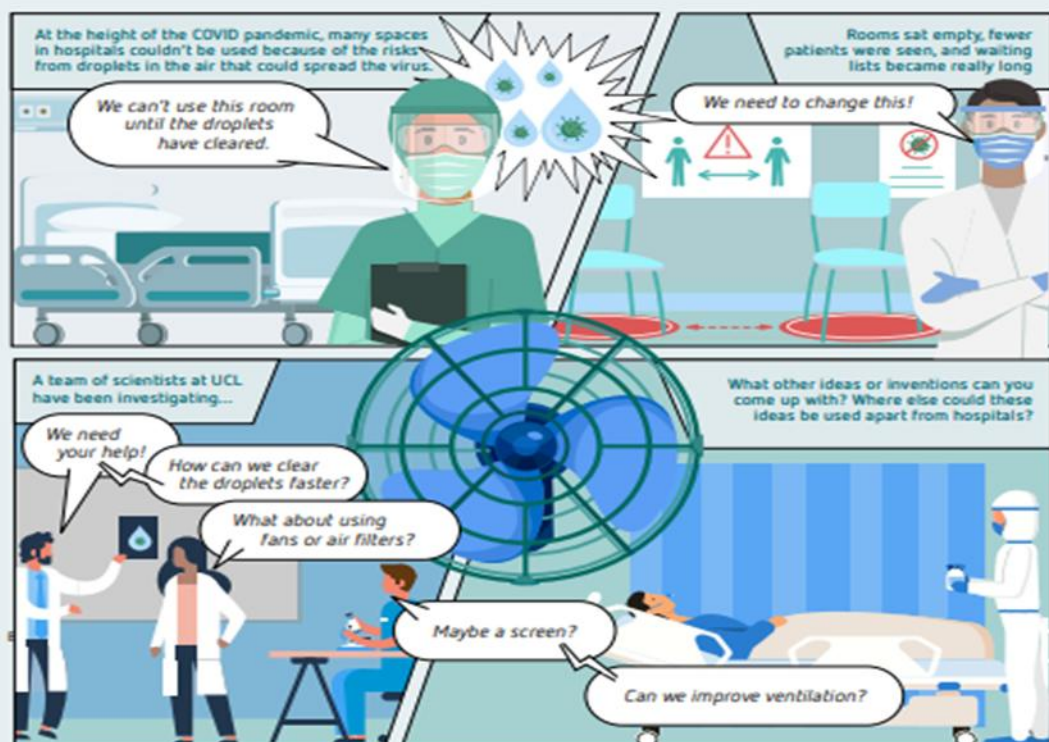


Older primary children (aged 8-11) may like to enter our special **competition** category this year - see **page 32** for more details.

Competition: The scientists from UCL need your help!

Older primary pupils (aged 8-11) might like to enter our special competition category this year and share their ideas with a team of top scientists at University College London (UCL)! Can they help by coming up with a new invention to improve the health of the air in our buildings?

Schools then select five of the best entries across the competition categories and submit them for a chance of winning an array of prizes! See the next page for instructions.





**BRITISH
SCIENCE
WEEK
2025**

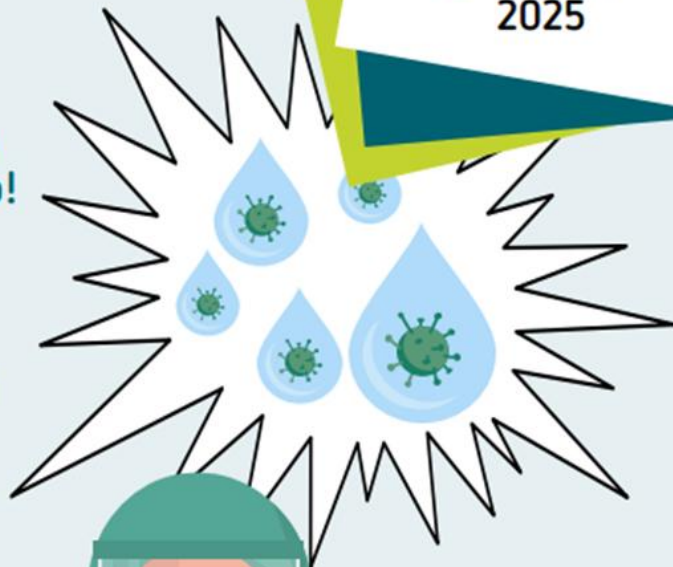
Competition: The scientists from UCL need your help!

i Instructions

Choose an indoor public space where you often spend time – this could be an area where you learn, or a place you visit regularly like a library, café or cinema. Do you think the air in this space is healthy and clean? Why? Come up with an idea or invention to change the air in your chosen space, making it healthier to breathe. How will it work? Could it be used in other public places too?

You might come up with a brand-new idea, or you might like to think about a new way of using something that already exists. The researchers at UCL have considered lots of different ideas for improving air quality and preventing the spread of viruses in hospitals. For example, you could think about face masks, curtains and screens, ventilation, fans or air filters.

You may like to do some research into how viruses spread to give you some ideas. Have a think about the science behind your idea. How will it work? How will it be made and used?



Make your poster

Think about how you present your idea to make sure it is clear and easy to understand. You could create a diagram or set of instructions, or you might like to develop an eye-catching poster! Will you include pictures, graphs or other illustrations?

Entries must be A4 or A3 in size and you'll need to be able to take a photograph of your work so it can be sent to us online for judging.

Entries sent to Mrs Casey by 1st April to be submitted to the competition.

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

