

John Ray Times

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

22nd April 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](#)

For uniform orders visit: [Absolute Embroidery](#), or visit the shop at Panfield Lane

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:

21.04.25 week 1, 28.04.25 Week 2 05.05.25 Week 3

On Wednesday 23rd April, we have a special St George Day menu. Please click [here](#) to view the menu

On Thursday 8th May 2025, we have a special VE Day 80th Anniversary. Please click [here](#) to view the menu

[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.

Boys' football team

Congratulations to the boys' football team for their first game and win of the season. The boys took part in a competitive match against Notley Green with the final score being 7-6. The whole team worked well together and displayed excellent sporting behaviours. A brilliant way to start the league.



OFSTED report publication

Parents and carers should have received a copy of the Ofsted report following our inspection that took place on 4th and 5th March. A copy is available on our [website](#) but if you wish to receive a paper copy please contact the school office.

Y5 visit to Colchester Zoo

The children in Y5 enjoyed a trip to the zoo today to build on their geography learning about South America. The children took part in a workshop that was a useful introduction to their new science topic of habitats.



Attendance

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 current attendance is 94.9% which is slightly above the national average.

Y3: 95.5%

Y4: 94.8%

Y5: 94.5%

Y6: 95%

72 children have 100% attendance.

Special menus: St George's Day Menu (23rd April) and VE Day 80th Anniversary (8th May)

ST. GEORGE'S DAY

MAINS
Roast Chicken or Quorn Roast
Roast Potatoes

SIDES
Mini Yorkshire Pudding
Carrots and Peas
Gravy

DESSERT
Victoria Sponge Traybake

*Menus may be subject to change

VE-DAY-80
1945-2025
80TH ANNIVERSARY

SANDWICHES
Ham
Chicken Mayonnaise
Tuna
Cream Cheese and Cucumber

SIDES
Mini Quorn Sausage Roll
Potato Wedges and Crudités

DESSERT
Victoria Sponge

*Menus may be subject to change

8TH MAY 2025

Chartwells
So much more than just a school food

School meal taster session - Friday 25th April 3:20pm

School Meals Taster Session

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Chartwells Compass Team will be holding an exciting School Meal Taster Session on The 25th of April..

Food will be served in the school dining room from 3:20pm to 4.00pm

We would love to welcome you to sample our Delicious Food from our New Spring and Summer Menu.

We will be serving a selection of Dishes for you to try.

Fresh Bread.
&
Dessert of the Day.

You will have the opportunity to ask questions to our operations managers and executive chef regarding the menu.

We welcome any feedback you may wish to pass onto us.
Look forward to seeing you there!

Chartwells
So much more than just a school food

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

Summer term SEN road show dates:

Tuesday 17 June at POP Essex Braintree, Mid

- Thursday 19 June at Greensward Academy, Hockley, South
- Tuesday 24 June at Tiptree Community Hall, North East
- Thursday 26 June at Zinc Arts Centre Ongar, West

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.

Our next celebration assembly will be on Monday 28th April.

Fabi in 5W was just assessed at a grading in karate and has achieved his yellow belt.
Well done Fabi! Well done Amelia K in 6L who won a Under 16 tennis tournament in Chelmsford.
Well done Owen in 4T who has completed his stage 4 swimming.



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: Isaac | 4B: Rex | 5B: Scarlett | 6G: - |
| 3D: Musa | 4CB: Amelia | 5E: Summer | 6L: Blake |
| 3P: Michael and Aqib | 4J: - | 5K: - | 6O: Kevin |
| 3W: Evelyn | 4T: - | 5W: Alexis | 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](#) at any time on [0800 1111](tel:08001111).



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

Instagram remains a go-to app for teens, with its endless stream of photos, videos, and 'Stories' keeping young users constantly connected. From influencer content to live broadcasts, the platform is packed with evolving features that can feel fun and engaging – but can also raise some serious concerns around screen time, online pressures and exposure to inappropriate content.

We've created this free guide – also available in podcast format – offering parents and educators up-to-date knowledge on the risks and safety tips for this latest version of Instagram.

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: wnicolls@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 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 [to jrcontact@compassps.uk](mailto:to_jrcontact@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)
22.04.25 Ofsted report publication

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

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

Class photos have changed from 25th June to 2nd of July

Summer Term 2025

22.04.25 Start of term for children
25.04.25 School meal taster session for parents 3:20-4:00pm in the hall
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. All children to wear PE kit please

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)
27.06.25 Summer fete (Please note change of date)

02.07.25 Class photos (children who have PE on this day should come into school in school uniform and bring PE kits in a separate bag)
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

follow

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The livestream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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





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