

# John Ray Times

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

19<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Phone:** 01376 324107 **Email:** [jrcontact@compassps.uk](mailto:jrcontact@compassps.uk) **Website:** [www.johnray.compassps.uk](http://www.johnray.compassps.uk)



@johnrayjuniors



@

facebook.com/johnraycompassps

## Online learning links

 <a href="#">Accelerated Reader</a>	 <a href="#">Century Tech</a>	 <a href="#">TT Rockstars</a>	 <a href="#">Nessy</a>
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For uniform orders visit: [Absolute Embroidery](#), or visit the shop at Panfield Lane




For information on Food Bank vouchers email: [mkeegan@compassps.uk](mailto:mkeegan@compassps.uk)

For second hand uniform requests email: [rcottee@compassps.uk](mailto:rcottee@compassps.uk)

Breakfast club queries email: [hwiltshire@compassps.uk](mailto:hwiltshire@compassps.uk)

School dinner menus are on our website:

**02.06.25 week 1, 19.05.25 Week 2 16.06.25 Week 3**

<p><b>Zones of Regulation</b> The ZONES of Regulation</p> 	<p><b>School Attendance Difficulties</b></p> 	<p><b>Supporting Anxiety</b></p> 
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### 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.

### Y6 SATs

Children in Y6 completed their SATs last week in English and maths. The children approached the week with maturity and focus and gave their best effort. The children have every reason to feel proud of themselves, just as we do. As a reminder, the writing element of English is assessed through ongoing teacher assessment, which continues until mid-June. Parents will receive their child's full SATs results in July.

### Y4 Multiplication check

After half term, children in Y4 will take part in the multiplication check. The check takes place over a 3 week period and its purpose is to determine whether your child can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics. At our school, children learn and practise their multiplication tables in a number of ways including using TT Rockstars. The check takes place on a screen and consists of 25 times table questions with 6 seconds to answer each question.

On average, the check takes around 5 minutes to complete.

A parent information leaflet providing information on the multiplication check can be found here:

[Information for parents MTC](#)

### **Hats and sun cream**

Now that we are having some sunnier weather, please ensure children have a named hat in school and have sun cream applied before coming to school. All children should also have a named water bottle in school.

### **Sports Day: 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

We are looking forward to seeing you at our Sports Day on Thursday. **All children should come to school wearing their PE kit.** Please check the letter sent home on 2<sup>nd</sup> May for further details including timings. A copy of the letter can also be found on the [website](#).

**Please could Year 3 come to school in their PE kits on Thursday and Friday this week.**

### **Mersea residential meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> May 5pm**

A meeting will be held in the school hall on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 5pm to provide more information regarding the Y6 residential. Please enter using the white hall doors facing on to Notley Road. Y6 children are welcome to attend.

### **Half term**

Just a reminder that we break up for May half term on Friday. Children return to school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

### **Girls' football match against Bocking**

Last week, the girls played their 3<sup>rd</sup> match together against Bocking Primary school. It was a closely fought match ending in a 3 all draw. The girls played with team spirit and resilience. Well done girls!



### **Boys' football match against White Court**

This week, the boys played their match against White Court Primary school. It was a competitive match with the final score being 2-5 to White Court, with our two goals coming from Xavier. The boys showed great teamwork and development. Well done to the whole team!



### **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 24 June at Tiptree Community Hall, North East
- Thursday 26 June at Zinc Arts Centre Ongar, West

### **One Plans**

One Plan meeting dates for children on the SEN register have changed to the following:

17.06.25 all classes.

18.06.25 3C & 5W only.

19.06.25 All classes except 3C & 5W.

To book your child's One Plan, please use your MCAS App and select 'parent's evening'.

If you need help to book, please contact the school office.

### **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.

Football players of the match: Tyler 6G, Jasper 6R, Victor 6R, Joe 5W, Freddie 5W, Ayan 6R, Younes 6O, Oliver 3D, Jacob 5W, Jenson 6G, Theo 5E

Swimming: Elana 3C- level 3

Gymnastics: Bella-Rose 3C, Taylor 3C

Rugby: Charlie 6L – most improved player

Tennis: Jack 5K- 2<sup>nd</sup> in a tournament

Roller skating: Lilly 4CB 1<sup>st</sup> place and 2<sup>nd</sup> place

Running: Xavier 5K,- 5 mile charity run

Cubs: Scarlett 5B – became a seconder

Dancers: Maja 4J, Victoria 4J, Amelia 5K, Mia 5K

### 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: Fletcher, Nathan	4B: Rex	5B: Aiden	6G: The whole class
3D: The whole class	4CB: Ronnie	5E: Theo	6L: The whole class
3P: Billie-Rae	4J: Orion	5K: Simon	6O: The whole class
3W: The whole class	4T: Ashton	5W: Jacob	6R: The whole class

### 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 Minecraft

With its limitless opportunities for building, exploring and collaborating, Minecraft remains a global gaming phenomenon. Its broad appeal lies in how open-ended it is – but this also means it's not without risk. From chatting with strangers on public servers to the grief of having a beloved creation destroyed, young players can face challenges if left unsupervised. Minecraft can also become a time sink for enthusiastic players, with late nights spent crafting and constructing, potentially impacting school and social lives.

The guides helps parents and educators understand how to keep young gamers safe – from choosing age-appropriate game modes to setting boundaries around screen time and spending.

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://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.**

<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>
3C: <a href="mailto:cwaspe1@compassps.uk">cwaspe1@compassps.uk</a> 3D: <a href="mailto:dcasey@compassps.uk">dcasey@compassps.uk</a> 3P: <a href="mailto:sphillips@compassps.uk">sphillips@compassps.uk</a> 3W: <a href="mailto:zwatson@compassps.uk">zwatson@compassps.uk</a>	4B: <a href="mailto:wnicholls@compassps.uk">wnicholls@compassps.uk</a> 4CB: <a href="mailto:hcollier-brown@compassps.uk">hcollier-brown@compassps.uk</a> 4J: <a href="mailto:jbrennan@compassps.uk">jbrennan@compassps.uk</a> 4T: <a href="mailto:tbeeson@compassps.uk">tbeeson@compassps.uk</a> , <a href="mailto:kbreen@compassps.uk">kbreen@compassps.uk</a>
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>
5B: <a href="mailto:hbreeze@compassps.uk">hbreeze@compassps.uk</a> 5E: <a href="mailto:cellis@compassps.uk">cellis@compassps.uk</a> 5K: <a href="mailto:kbrighton@compassps.uk">kbrighton@compassps.uk</a> 5W: <a href="mailto:awilson1@compassps.uk">awilson1@compassps.uk</a> , <a href="mailto:rcottee@compassps.uk">rcottee@compassps.uk</a>	6G: <a href="mailto:ngibson@compassps.uk">ngibson@compassps.uk</a> 6L: <a href="mailto:jarbalestier@compassps.uk">jarbalestier@compassps.uk</a> 6O: <a href="mailto:cosullivan1@compassps.uk">cosullivan1@compassps.uk</a> 6R: <a href="mailto:rroberts@compassps.uk">rroberts@compassps.uk</a>

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](mailto:rcottee@compassps.uk)

**Mrs Breen (Assistant Head) if your child is in Y3 or Y4** – [kbreen@compassps.uk](mailto: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](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)  
22.04.25 Ofsted report publication  
02.05.25 Sports Day

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

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

**Class photos have changed from 25<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> of July**

**One Plan meetings have changed from 13.05.25 & 14.05.25 to 17.06.25 all classes & 19.06.25 All Classes except 3C & 5K. 18.06.25 3C & 5K only.**

#### **Summer Term 2025**

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)  
17.06.25 - One Plan meetings for children on SEN register – All classes  
18.06.25 - One Plan meetings for children on SEN register – 3C & 5K only  
19.06.25 - One Plan meetings for children on SEN register – All classes except 3C & 5W  
27.06.25 Summer fete (Please note change of date)  
02.07.25 Mrs Baker's singing club to Notley Family of Schools music event at White Court during school time-just for children, no audience.  
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

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

### GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

### ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

### PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

### ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

### HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

### TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

### RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

### PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



SWIM  
BIKE  
RUN

Local

GET INVOLVED,  
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## BIKE AND RUN EVENTS 2025

The minimum  
distance to cycle  
and run is 1km.

In partnership with British Triathlon

### When?

Saturday 5th April 9:30am - 11am  
Saturday 3rd May 9:30am - 11am  
Saturday 7th June 9:30am - 11am  
Saturday 5th July 9:30am - 11am  
Saturday 2nd Aug 9:30am - 11am

### Who?

For families and suitable for age 6+ who want to participate in non-competitive cycling and running.

### Equipment?

Participants only need to bring their own bikes for the family session. Adults only session can use our spin bikes. Participants need to wear suitable footwear.

### Where?

At Braintree Sport and Health Club  
Panfield Lane, Braintree, Essex  
CM71FF

Attend two sessions before 5<sup>th</sup> July to be entered into the prize draw, the lucky winner will receive an amazing goodie bag packed with fitness treats worth over £100, plus a £50 Halfords voucher!



Braintree  
District Council

fusion

## Super Star Sport – May Half-Term Holiday Camps

Looking for something fun and active for the kids this May half-term?

Super Star Sport are running their popular **Holiday Camps from Tuesday 27th to Friday 30th May**, packed with exciting activities like Ninja Warrior challenges, Olympic Sports Day, water games, and more!

It's the perfect way to keep children **fit, healthy, active and smiling** over the break.

👉 **Book your child's place here:** <https://super-star-sport-uk-2.classforkids.io/camp/291>

A promotional poster for Super Star Sport's May Half-Term Camp. The top section features a group of children playing soccer on a grassy field, with a female coach in a purple jacket smiling in a circular inset. The 'SUPER STAR SPORT' logo is in the top left. A large purple banner across the middle contains the text 'MAY HALF-TERM CAMP' in white and yellow. Below this, the venue 'Notley Green Primary School' is listed with its address. The dates 'Tue 27th May - Fri 29th May' are prominently displayed. Pricing for full and half days is provided, along with age groups and times. A QR code labeled 'SCAN HERE' is in the bottom right, and booking information is at the bottom left. The background is decorated with various sports-related icons like soccer balls, tennis rackets, and a goal.

**SUPER STAR SPORT**

**MAY HALF-TERM CAMP**

**Notley Green Primary School**  
Venue: Notley Green Primary School,  
Blickling Rd, Braintree, CM77 7ZJ

**Tue 27<sup>th</sup> May - Fri 29<sup>th</sup> May**

<b>FULL DAY:</b> £27 per day £98 for the week Year 1 - 7 9AM - 3PM	<b>HALF DAY:</b> £16 per day Reception
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**SCAN HERE**

**To Book:**  
Visit [www.superstarsport.co.uk](http://www.superstarsport.co.uk) 'Book Now'  
For more information call 01992 766 707

# MAY CAMP ITINERARY 2025 | WEEK 1

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Bank Holiday (No Camp)  
 Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May

Times: 09:00 – 15:00  
 Price: £27 per day | £98 for the full week

	<b>TUE</b> 27 <sup>th</sup> MAY OLYMPIC SPORTS DAY	<b>WED</b> 28 <sup>th</sup> MAY NINJA WARRIOR DAY	<b>THU</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> MAY WATER SPORTS DAY	<b>FRI</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> MAY DRESS-UP PARTY DAY
<b>09:00-09:30</b>	Registration and arrival activities	Registration and arrival activities	Registration and arrival activities	Registration and arrival activities
<b>09:30-10:30</b>	Activity 1: Gymnastics / Football / Multisports	Obstacle Courses & Ninja Skills	Multi Sports (Soft Archery, Speed & Agility Games)	Activity 1: Multisports
<b>10:30-10:45</b>	Break time	Break time	Break time	Break time
<b>10:45-11:45</b>	Activity 2: Basketball / Tennis	Ninja Warrior Games	Dodgeball	Activity 2: Football / Camp Games
<b>11:45-12:15</b>	STEM Activity: Olympic Lego Building	STEM Activity: Piñata Challenge	STEM Activity: Water Relay Game	STEM Activity: Design Your Superhero Mask
<b>12:15-13:15</b>	Lunch and half-day booking collection	Lunch and half-day booking collection	Lunch and half-day booking collection	Lunch and half-day booking collection
<b>13:15-14:00</b>	Activity 3: Rounders	Ninja Dodgeball	Water Dodgeball (with safe water balloons!)	Activity 3: Party Games & Competitions
<b>14:00-14:45</b>	Team games and tournaments	Team Games: Dodgeball	<b>Age-appropriate water fight</b>	Dance Off & Celebration
<b>14:45-15:00</b>	Review and home time	Review and home time	Review and home time	Review and home time

Early Bird Discount code for flyers and schedule please **XCF216**  
 Expires: Sat 26 Apr 2025, 11:59pm

# 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](http://libraries.essex.gov.uk/events)





### **Empower Yourself with Essential First Aid Skills**

Join our **FREE** Family First Aid sessions to gain the knowledge and confidence to handle common emergencies. Ensure your loved ones are safe with practical skills.


#### **Course Highlights**

Everyday first aid techniques, Confidence to act swiftly

#### **Why Attend?**

Empower yourself, Connect with local parents and carers, Ensure your family's safety

 When: Book now for sessions taking place March to July 2025

 Where: Chelmsford, Colchester, or Witham

Don't miss out—sign up today!

Visit our website [aclessex.com](https://www.aclessex.com) and type 'Family First Aid' in to the 'Find a course...' box

**COMMUNITY &  
FAMILY LEARNING**

