

John Ray Times

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

9th June 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: [Absolute Embroidery](#), or visit the shop on 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:

23.06.25 week 1, 09.06.25 Week 2 16.06.25 Week 3

Zones of Regulation The ZONES of Regulation 	School Attendance Difficulties 	Supporting Anxiety 
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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.

Sports day

It was lovely to see so many of you at our sports day. This year, we separated the day into two halves so that only two year groups were out at the same time. We are currently collecting the views of the children to see if they preferred this organisation or would rather have sports day as a whole school as in previous years.

We would also welcome any parent views. You can give your views quickly and easily by adding comments to this form: [Sports day 2025 feedback](#)

Parent survey

If you have not yet had a chance to do so, please add your views by clicking on this link: [2025 parent survey](#)

Non uniform day – Friday 20th June

The PTA are holding a non uniform day on Friday 20th June in exchange for a contribution of a bottle for the tombola stall, or the wine or water game. Children in Y3, who are on a trip to the zoo are also invited to take part. Please ensure children are dressed appropriately for the weather conditions and have shoes suitable for walking.



Frozen Friday

The PTA will be back selling ice creams on Friday.



SEN Local Ofer

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

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

Beavers: Colton 4B 2 badges

Camping Scout badges: Scarlett 5B, Alex 5K, Owen 4T, Reuben 4T, Callum 4T

Dance: Evelyn 3W dancer of the week, Rosie 4CB, Daisy 5W, Izzy 4CB, Akasya 4J all danced at the Braintree carnival

Swimming : Eive 3P stage 6, Elana up to next stage

Gymnastics: Bella-Rose 3C performed at the Braintree carnival

Football: Alfie 6R – 4 goals in a tournament, Henry 4J most improved player and parents' player, Jenson 6G club champion, Tyler 6G 5yr service award, Jasper 6R participation award, Victor 6R participation award, Jenson 5W participation award, 5yr clubman award, Jacob 5W managers' player, Summer 4T participation award, Isaac 5B club champion award, Freddie 5W top score, parents' player, players' player, Faran 6R clubman and participation award, Zac 6R top scorer and participation award, Blake 6L participation award, Jake H 6L participation award and players' player.

Well done to these children who represented the school at a cricket competition last week: Maks 6G, Vinnie 6G, Arthur 6G, Tyler 6G, Ella 6G, Oliver 6R, Cai 5E, Jack 5K, Albie 6G, Amelia S 6L

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: Grace	4B: Lopez	5B: Henry	6G: The whole
3D: Isabella D	4CB: Isla & Logan	5E: Zac	6L: Janiru
3P: Frankie	4J: Olivia	5K: Alfie	6O: Isaac
3W: Taylor	4T: Bessie	5W: Fabi	6R: Angel

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 Emojis

Emojis aren't just digital decoration — they're often used as a coded language that young people use to express identity, humour and emotion. Without context, they can easily be misunderstood by adults, leading to confusion or missed signals. Some emojis may even mask risky behaviours or emotional struggles.

The guide helps decode this ever-evolving language, empowering parents and educators to have more open, informed conversations with the children in their care. It also highlights the meaning of some common emojis and offers practical tips for staying clued-in without snooping or suspicion.

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: wnicholls@compassps.uk 4CB: hcollier-brown@compassps.uk 4J: jbrennan@compassps.uk 4T: tbeeson@compassps.uk, kbreen@compassps.u
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)

04.03.25 [Colchester Zoo Trip 20th June 2025 \(Y3 only\)](#)

22.04.25 Ofsted report publication

02.05.25 Sports Day

06.06.25 [Mersea 2026 – Year 5 only](#)

06.06.25 [Multi School Council Trip](#) – Invite only

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

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

02.06.25 Multiplication check starts for 3 weeks (Y4 only)

02.06.25 Children return to school

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

20.06.25 Non uniform day for the summer fete

20.06.25 Y3 trip to Colchester Zoo

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Emojis are more than playful expressions — they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this 'secret code' is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over 5 billion emojis sent daily on Facebook Messenger alone, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 👍 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mid' or 'delulu' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (🧑) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍂 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌿 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥🍷 (fire + 'woozy' face + pill emojis) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojipedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.



CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.



ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.



PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to — not just someone who's watching them.



EMOJI CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples - please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:

- 🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around
- 🙄 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or 'simping'
- 😬 (Cold face) Cool, stylish or ruthless
- 👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold
- 😍 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement
- 🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)
- 😐 (Moa!) Stone-faced, unbothered
- 👉 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference
- 👑 (Crown) 'Slaying', as in doing great
- 🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone's behaviour

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

- 🍷 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms)
- 🌿 (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
- ❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine
- 🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced'
- 🗝️ (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use
- 🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
- 🍃 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis
- ⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil
- 💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse
- 🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles)

Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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NON-UNIFORM DAY FRIDAY 20TH JUNE

IN AID OF OUR SUMMER FETE
SUGGESTED DONATIONS BELOW

Years 3 - 6



A bottle for our bottle tombola, or a bottle of alcoholic/non-alcoholic wine for our wine or water game

We know times are tough, so please only donate if you can. Please feel free to donate anything you can from any year group suggestion, we are grateful for any donations.

Contact: pta.secretary.friendsofjohnray@gmail.com

NON-UNIFORM DAY FRIDAY 20TH JUNE

IN AID OF OUR SUMMER FETE
SUGGESTED DONATIONS BELOW

Nursery &
Foundation



A soft toy in
good condition
for our teddy
tombola
(preloved)

Year 1 & Year 2



Sweets for our
sweetie hamper

We know times are tough, so please only donate if you can. Please feel free to donate anything you can from our year group suggestions. We are grateful for any donations

Contact: pta.secretary.friendsofjohnray@gmail.com



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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

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.

Who?

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

Where?

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

Attend two sessions before 5th 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