

John Ray Times

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

16th 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](#)

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, 30.06.25 Week 2 16.06.25 Week 3

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.

Mersea

Last week, our year 6 pupils headed off to Mersea for their residential trip. It was beautiful weather and the children were able to enjoy a variety of activities including: kayaking, paddle boarding, indoor archery, off road biking, climbing and high ropes. Overnight, the children stayed in tents and woke with the dawn!

As ever, our children impressed us with their attitudes to trying new activities and their resilience when things got tricky.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff who looked after the children for the 3 days and 2 nights. It's a massive responsibility to undertake and the management at Mersea were really impressed with the positive attitudes of all of our staff.

We're now planning Mersea 2026.



Sports day

There is still time for you to give your views about our sports day 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](#)

Y3 Church visits

We have been fortunate that Y3 have been invited to take part in a workshop at St Michael's Church, Braintree where they will learn about the different features of the church building. Consent is already covered under local visits permissions but if you do not wish for your child to participate please contact class teachers by email.

Classes are going on the following days:

3C Monday 16th June

3D Wednesday 18th June

3P Thursday 19th June

3W Monday 23rd June

All visits will take part in school time and the children will be back in time for the end of the school day. They will be eating their lunch at school as normal. Please ensure the children have a hat and are wearing sensible shoes for walking- trainers are permitted.

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 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

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:

Freddie, 5W, won Parents' player, Players' player and Top Goal Scorer for his team.



Oliver, 3D, scored 26 goals this season and was award most improved player.

Alfie, 6R, Presentation award, Oscar, 6R, Parents' player award,

Theo, 5E, participation trophy and most improved player, Harrison, 5B, presentation award and has been at Braintree town for 4 years. Bailey, 4J, Top assist award and sponsored player. Max, 4J,

Manager's player, Players' player and participation trophy.

Gymnastics: Adam, 5W, 3 gold medals for beam, bars and floor, and a silver medal for vault.

Oliver, 6R, 2 1st place dog agility certificates and he will be presenting at Crufts in 2026! We hope we see you on the telly Oliver!

Dance:

Amelia, 5K, 1st in pairs, 6th in slow, 5th in fast.

Maja, 4J, 1st in fast, 3rd in slow, 3rd in pairs.

Victoria, 4J, 6th in fast and 3rd in pairs.

Akasya, 4J, Dancer of the week.

Elana in 3C got her Stage 7 swimming.

Ellie in 4T shared her Brownie badge for Clue dun it.

Leo in 3W won a cricket tournament.

Sophia and Sophie both in 5B got their VE day Brownie badges.

Lilly in 4CB got her Stage 3 swimming and 1st place in a 3 hour Roller Derby.

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: Maisie	4B: Pixie	5B: River	6G: The whole class
3D: Oliver & Donnie	4CB: -	5E: Blessed	6L: Janiru
3P: Maddie	4J: -	5K: -	6O: -
3W: Hayden	4T:-	5W: Jessica	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 generative AI safety

The remarkable growth of generative AI tools like ChatGPT has opened up exciting new opportunities for young learners. Used wisely, AI can be a powerful ally in boosting creativity, learning and problem-solving skills. However, without proper guidance, young people may stumble into challenges including

inaccurate information, data security risks, and a growing reliance on AI over their own critical thinking.

From setting clear usage boundaries to teaching digital hygiene and promoting independent thought, this guide offers parents and educators practical advice on the safe, positive use of AI. With the right understanding and guidance, you can ensure that generative AI becomes a positive influence, rather than a potential pitfall in young people's digital lives.

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.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

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 GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY



Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING



Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY



Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES



Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

IDEAS

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.

PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.

ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brendan guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.



@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 11.06.2025

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





SUMMER FETE

Games

Free
Entry

Face
Painting

Hot
Food

Train
Rides

Stalls

Inflatables

Raffle

Drinks
Van

FRIDAY 27TH JUNE 3.15PM - 5:30PM
John Ray Junior School Playground
Wristbands for inflatables £8 - cash only

pta.secretary.friendsofjohnray@gmail.com

SWIM
BIKE
RUN

Local

GET INVOLVED,
SCAN HERE



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