

John Ray Times

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

23rd 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.

Absolute Embroidery will be moving premises. The last day at their current address will be Thursday the 26th June, they will re-open at their new address on Monday 30th June. New address:

Absolute Embroidery Ltd, 286 Broad Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 5NW

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 07.07.25 Week 3

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.

Classes for next year

Children will be told who their teacher for next year will be on Monday 1st July. The class organisation for next year will be on next Monday's newsletter. The current Year 3 and Year 5 will stay in their existing class groups but Year 4 will be mixed to create 4 new class groups.

Mersea 2026

We have been made aware that the current dates booked for Mersea next year may clash with some of the secondary school transition days. Therefore, we have changed the residential date to Monday the 8th June until Wednesday the 10th June. The cost of the residential has not changed and deposit/instalment dates remain the same.

Should you have any questions regarding the residential or wish to discuss payments please contact Mrs Wiltshire.

Sports day

Many thanks if you gave feedback on our sports day. 77% of respondents preferred the way we ran sports day this year.

There is still time for you to give us your views by adding comments to this form: [Sports day 2025 feedback](#)

Y6 leavers' disco

Year 6 children are invited to a leavers' disco taking place at school on Friday 11th July from 5pm until 7pm. Payment should be made in cash to the school office or to class teachers by noon on Monday 7th July.



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](#)

Class photos Wednesday 2nd July

Class photos will be taken on Wednesday 2nd July.

If your child usually has PE on a Wednesday, please can they come to school in school uniform with PE kit in their bags.

Frozen Friday

The PTA are back selling ice creams on Fridays.



Braintree Institute ensemble auditions for The Institute's 2025 panto, Jack and the Beanstalk.

Audition Date: Sunday 6th July
Location: The Institute, Braintree

Ages 7–17

No need to register in advance

No need to prepare anything- a short routine will be taught on the day!
Just turn up, smile big, and wear comfy shoes!

Additional Information: <https://forms.gle/aWSDGZYwnDYNzf417>

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

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: Logan, 4CB -was awarded 4 trophies this weekend for most creative player, never giving up, best passer and a participation award.

Dominic, 5W- had his football presentation at the weekend and was awarded Manager's Player for his amazing performance, commitment and determination this season.

Louie 3W- parents' player and participation award.

Oscar 5W- most improved player

Blessed 5E- parents' player

Alexander 5W, Albert 5W, Jan 5E- participation award



Swimming: Elana 3C- stage 8, Akasya 4J 3 second place and 1 3rd in a gala

Karate: Finley 3W, Willow 3P, Carter 3C, Jack 5K, Antoni 6L- took part in a tournament, Noah 5B- 1st in a competition, Owen 4T- green stripe, Alex 5K – green stripe, Henry 5K – bronze medal

Dog agility: Oliver 6R- 4 1st place rosettes.

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: The whole class	4B: Hari	5B: Ruby	6G: Maks
3D: The whole class	4CB: Simas	5E: Ayden	6L: Emily
3P: Eli-Reed	4J: Sofia	5K: Harry	6O: The whole class
3W: -	4T: Aaryan	5W: Tommy	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 could 5B, 5E and 5K also come to school in PE kits on Friday 27th June.

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 Youtube Kids

YouTube Kids promises a safe, child-centric experience with colourful visuals, age-filtered content, and robust parental controls. Designed to appeal to younger viewers, the app has grown rapidly, being used by tens of millions of children worldwide. But is it as safe as it seems?

Despite YouTube Kids' safeguards, reports have highlighted worrying issues, such as inappropriate content slipping through filters, subtle advertising, and the use of manipulative design to keep children engaged. Our guide explores how to navigate these pitfalls, offering practical advice for making sure children get the most from the platform – without the risks.

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: jbreannan@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 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
- 19.06.25 [Key Stage 2 District Sports 25th June 2025](#) – 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

Summer Term 2025

- 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 YOUTUBE KIDS



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

As its name suggests, YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of Google's online video-sharing platform. Its colourful user interface is designed with young people in mind, and it offers a curated, family-friendly experience with features like age-based content settings and parental controls.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT BYPASSING FILTERS

YouTube Kids is less likely to show inappropriate material than YouTube, but there have been reports of the app showing age-inappropriate content to young viewers. One investigation found that YouTube Kids had shown videos that promote skin bleaching, weight loss, drug culture and firearms to children as young as two, as inappropriate content had bypassed the platform's algorithms and human moderators.

BE WARY OF ADVERTISING

Like Google's regular YouTube app, YouTube Kids features pervasive advertising before a video plays. While these adverts are designed to be family friendly and are subject to a strict review process, it's worth noting that YouTube Kids collects information around children's viewing to inform targeted content and advertisements.

DESIGNED TO BE ADDICTIVE

YouTube Kids is designed to be addictive. The platform's design features, such as the constant stream of new videos and the reward system of points or virtual stickers, can be very engaging and make it difficult for children to switch off. Research has shown that spending too much time using digital services such as YouTube can lead to screen addiction, affecting children's daily routines, studies, and even their social lives.

SETTINGS CAN BE CIRCUMVENTED

YouTube Kids offers built-in parental controls, enabling you to set screen time limits and curate the content children are able to view; however, children are often more tech-savvy than we think. They can easily bypass or tweak these settings if they have access to the associated Google account password, thereby exposing themselves to age-inappropriate and potentially dangerous content.

AI-GENERATED MISINFORMATION

There is also a risk of children accessing videos that contain disinformation and misinformation. A BBC investigation found that some YouTube channels are using artificial intelligence (AI) technology to create misleading 'scientific' videos that are recommended to children as educational content. These videos included conspiracy theories and ideas that lack scientific backing.

DATA COLLECTION RISK

While there are limits on the data that YouTube can collect on children under 13, children can still inadvertently give away sensitive information when using YouTube Kids. The platform collects data on children's viewing habits, content searches and location, which YouTube and third-party advertisers can use.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PARENTAL CONTROLS

YouTube Kids offers several settings that allow you to manage what content children can view. For example, you can choose what level of content you want them to access, such as 'Preschool' or 'Younger'. You can also turn off the search function, so that only those videos approved by the YouTube Kids team themselves will appear on a child's recommendations list.

CHECK WATCH HISTORY

YouTube Kids has made it easy for you to keep an eye on what the children in your care have been watching on the app. By clicking on the 'Recommended' icon at the top right of the home screen, you can see which videos they've been viewing, and how much of each. If a child watches YouTube Kids while signed into a Google account, you can check their history through Google's 'My Activity' page.

SET TIME LIMITS

The built-in parental controls let you keep a tab on how long children spend watching videos. You can set a timer that limits screen time and disables the YouTube Kids app once a specified length of time has been reached. It's also worth speaking to children about the dangers of spending too much time on YouTube, to ensure they remain focused on other, more important activities.

WATCH TOGETHER

It's important that you try to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for children. One way to do this is by introducing watching sessions, where you all gather around and share the most enjoyable videos that you have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you both new things to talk about and of keeping an eye on what they're watching.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced journalist with more than 10 years of experience covering the technology industry. Previously a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly is now a freelance journalist, editor, and copywriter. Her bylines include Forbes, TechRadar, Tes, The INQUIRER, The Metro, Uswitch, and WIRED.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youtube-kids-2025>

 @wake_up_weds

 /www.thenationalcollege

 @wake.up.wednesday

 @wake.up.weds

ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS

SUNDAY 6TH JULY AT THE INSTITUTE - BRAINTREE

JUVENILE AUDITIONS 7 - 11 YEARS

REGISTRATION - 9:30 - 10:00

AUDITIONS - 10:00 - 12:00

SENIOR AUDITIONS 12 - 17 YEARS

REGISTRATION - 12:30 - 13:00

AUDITIONS - 13:00 - 15:00

**WE'RE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR TALENTED CHILDREN AGED 7 TO 11 TO JOIN
THE JUVENILE CHORUS IN THIS YEARS GIANT PRODUCTION!
IF YOU HAVE A STRONG DANCE BACKGROUND AND CAN SING WITH CONFIDENCE
WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU AT OUR AUDITIONS**



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