

John Ray Times



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

30th 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.
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:
14.07.25 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.

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 a PE kit in their bags.

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.

Class organisation for 2025-26

Today, children have been told who their new teacher will be for the next academic year and will have brought home a one page profile of their teacher. Class swaps are planned to take place next week.

Class organisation 2025-26

Current Class	Teacher	Location
Year 3		
Year Group Leader: Mrs Sarah Phillips		
Woodpeckers	Mrs Sarah Phillips (3P)	Current 4B classroom
Kingfishers	Mrs Claire Waspe (3C)	Current 4CB classroom
Kestrels	Miss Zoe Watson (3W)	Current 5E classroom
Robins	Miss Daisy Banks (3B)	Current 5K classroom
Year 4		
Year Group Leader: Mrs Heidi Collier-Brown		
3W	Mrs Heidi Collier-Brown (4CB)	Current 3W classroom
3C	Miss Karla Brighton (4B) <small>It is the intention that Miss Jade Bird will take over the class when Miss Brighton goes on maternity leave.</small>	Current 3D classroom
3P	Miss Toni Beeson (4T) -3 days (Tues, Wed, Thurs) Mrs Karen Breen – 2 days (Mon, Fri)	Current 3P classroom
3D	Miss Jodie Brennan (4J)	Current 3C classroom
Year 5		
Year group Leader: Mr Chris Ellis		
New class 4	Mr Chris Ellis (5E)	Current 5B classroom
New class 1	Miss Harriet Breeze (5B)	Current 6R classroom
New class 2	Mrs Amy Wilson (5W) -3 days (Mon, Tues, Wed) Miss Rachel Cottee - 2 days (Thurs, Fri)	Current 5W classroom
New class 3	Mrs Debbie Casey (5C)	Current 6O classroom
Year 6		
Year group Leader: Natasha Gibson		
5B	Mrs Natasha Gibson (6G)	Current 4J classroom
5W	Mr Ryan Roberts (6R)	Current 6G classroom
5K	Mrs Jess Larbalestier (6L)	Current 6L classroom
5E	Miss Caitlin O'Sullivan (6O)	Current 4T classroom

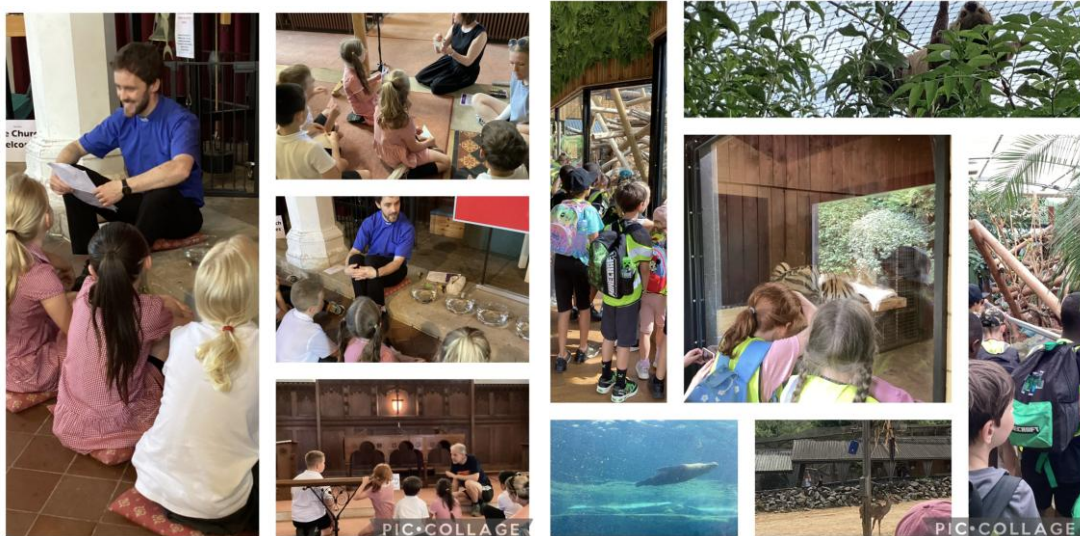
Spotlight on Y3 Y3 Church visits

Our Year 3 children were invited to visit St Michael's Church to undertake a range of activities. As part of their visit, the children learnt about Jesus' baptism, by John the Baptist, and the meaning surrounding this event. They spent time discussing the stories behind the stained-glass windows, focusing mainly on The Last Supper. They were able to decorate a cross. Also, they learnt some Makaton sign language alongside the Lord's Prayer. They completed many other activities too. After this, the children were asked to write a message of thanks to someone special. All classes enjoyed the visit and represented John Ray with exceptional behaviour and listening skills.



Y3 visit to Colchester Zoo

On Friday Year 3 visited Colchester zoo. The children took part in a workshop that explored the rainforest layers, animals and their habitats. The weather was kind to us and lots of animals were visible for us to see including a jaguar, meerkats, the lion, monkeys and many more. The children were keen to see how the zookeeper look after the animals. As always, the children were brilliantly behaved.



Y3 science

In science, Year 3 children have been investigating water transportation in plants. They placed some white carnations and roses into pots. One pot just had water in it and the others had red, orange and yellow food dye. The children were able to see how the water is transported through the stem to the leaves and flowers by seeing the change in colour.



Y6 Knife crime workshop

On 8th July , Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRSS) will be visiting our school to deliver an education programme to Y6 as part of a joint initiative between the police and fire services in Essex. The aim of this programme is to deliver important messages about the dangers of knife crime to our students.

The presentation delivered by ECFRS will cover a number of important topics, including joint enterprise, custodial sentences, and the adolescent brain and decision-making. The objectives of this session are to:

1. Understand the consequences of carrying/using a knife
2. Understand the implications of joint enterprises
3. Investigate ways of addressing peer pressure

We believe that this is a serious and sensitive subject that requires the attention of our students, parents and carers. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you discuss this with your children and young people at home.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this programme, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher. We hope that this programme will be informative and useful for all involved.

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.



Summer Fete

Many thanks for supporting the PTA and coming to the fete on Friday. The PTA put in a huge amount of work to make the fete a success and are always on the lookout for more volunteers to help. Please

contact the school office if you would like to get involved. Many thanks to the PTA members for all their hard work.

In-school music lessons



Music lessons
Every Wednesday



WHERE EVERY CHILD IS VALUED



ENROLL NOW



and become a part of our music club



John Ray Music

Learn instruments and have fun with friends. We have set fun goals for the development of the children under our care. We aim to work collaboratively with parents to help develop music both at home and in school. Practice is important and pupils can perform at the students concert each year.

Our lessons are every Wednesday during school time. We offer group lessons at £7 per week or one to one at £16 subject to availability. Lessons are paid per term. Don't miss out!

Our music club operates

30 mins lessons
09:00 to 15:00

Every Wednesday at John Ray Juniors. For more info email hello@braintreemusiclessons.co.uk

07802 421677



www.braintreemusiclessons.co.uk



About Us

Join the schools awesome music club run by Braintree Music Lessons! Learn guitar, piano, drums and singing. It's super fun and for all year groups.

Learn to strum cool guitar chords and play your favourite songs. Tinkle the ivories and create beautiful melodies, it's magical. Bang those drums and make some noise, rhythm is key. Belt your favourite song in a singing group, singing is power and confidence building. Get creative with music today.



www.braintreemusiclessons.co.uk



hello@brainteemusiclessons.co.uk

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](#)

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

Essex Outdoors



Essex Outdoors Mersea offer school holiday activities. These can be booked for just a day at a time and give a taster of some of the sort of activities we take part in during our residential trip. Each day offers different activities. When you click on the date, there is a list of the activities offered on that day.

Click on the link below for more details.

[School holiday activities | Essex Outdoors](#)

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: Jude 3W - awarded player's player for the u8 Witham Greens at his football presentation, Henry 4J, Bailey 4J and Teddy 4CB all took part in the Sporting 77 football tournament with Henry playing in goal. The team won the tournament with both the semi-final and final ending on penalties. Max 5B player of the week in football.



Swimming: Bailey 4J has moved up a level, Vinnie 5E moved up a level, Elana 3C stage 3, Samuel 3P stage 2

Dancing: Izzy and Rosie 4CB – dancers of the week

Gymnastics: Mia 5E bronze medal, Harriet 5K level 4 and 5

Paddle boarding: Max 5B – 2nd place

Brownie badges: Ellie-Rose 4T several brownie badges

Running: Xavier 5K- ran a 5K run

Basketball: Albie 6G received a trophy for contributing towards his team coming first on the league.



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: Azi	4B:	5B: Freddie	6G:
3D: Sam	4CB: Zac	5E: Lexi	6L: Berat
3P: Michael	4J: Akasya	5K: Hope	6O:
3W: Liam	4T: Eliza	5W:	6R: Bobby

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. If a child is in immediate danger, you should call 999.

Children can call Childline at any time on 0800 1111



National Online Safety: What parents and carers need to know about Nintendo Switch 2

Nintendo's long-awaited Switch 2 has finally arrived, blending fresh hardware with fan-favourite franchises. From Mario to Pikachu, the familiar mascots are back – but so too are evolving online features, in-game purchases, and potential exposure to mature content. As ever, it's essential that parents and educators understand the risks to young players.

Among these are GameChat voice communication, camera-based gaming, and potential access to mature-rated titles. This guide outlines what to watch out for and how to keep children safe, engaged and having fun.

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 3C: cwaspe1@compassps.uk 3D: dcasey@compassps.uk 3P: sphillips@compassps.uk 3W: zwatson@compassps.uk	Year 4 4B: wnicolls@compassps.uk 4CB: hcollier-brown@compassps.uk 4J: jbrennan@compassps.uk 4T: tbeeson@compassps.uk , kbreen@compassps.uk
Year 5 5B: hbreeze@compassps.uk 5E: cellis@compassps.uk 5K: kbrighton@compassps.uk 5W: awilson1@compassps.uk , rcottee@compassps.uk	Year 6 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 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)
- 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
- 25.06.25 [NOFS festival](#) – Invite only
- 30.06.25 [Year 6 Relationships, Health and Sex Education Letter](#) (Y6 only)
- 30.06.25 [Year 5 Relationships, Health and Sex Education Letter](#) (Y5 only)
- 30.06.25 [Year 4 Relationships, Health and Sex Education Letter](#) (Y4 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

- 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
- 08.07.25 **Knife crime workshops for Y6**
- 10.07.25 Annual reports sent out
- 10.07.25 **Home safety workshops in Y3 (2 classes)**
- 11.07.25 **Home safety workshops in Y3 (2 classes)**
- 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 NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18
CENSORED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Hitman* have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like *Fortnite* or *Splatoon 4* allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 18 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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@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: 25.06.2025

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**