

John Ray Times





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

7th July 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:
14.07.25 week 1, 07.07.25 Week 3

<p><u>Zones of Regulation</u> The ZONES of Regulation</p> 	<p><u>School Attendance Difficulties</u></p> 	<p><u>Supporting Anxiety</u></p> 
--	--	---

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.

Timings of the school day from September 2025

Currently our gates open from 8.35am in the morning and remain open until they are locked at 8.45am.

From September, we are considering opening the gates 5 minutes later at 8.40am with gates being locked at 8.50am. This change would start in September. We welcome feedback from parents which can be given by adding your views to the form below. Alternatively, please contact the school office.

The form below will accept responses until Monday 14th July.

[Consultation – timings of the school day](#)

Spotlight on Y4 DT

This week, our year 4 children made high energy, portable snacks as part of their DT learning. The aim of these snacks was to be suitable for conducting fieldwork in Antarctica for a short period of time. Year

4 spent time researching suitable ingredients looking at their nutritional value, planning their snack and making a recipe to follow.



I'm going to Antarctica to do some field work. I am going to be away from our base station for a few days. I therefore need a **high-energy portable snack** for when I get hungry.
Can you help?



Year 4 recently went on a trip to the cinema to watch the new How to Train Your Dragan Movie. This week, they watched a clip from a movie journalist and learned all about his job role. Following this, they wrote a review of the movie, thinking about things they liked and disliked. They also compared the film to the book and thought about similarities and differences. Year 4 really enjoyed their trip to the cinema, walked sensibly and behaved brilliantly.



In geography, Year 4 have been learning all about climate change. This week, they showed their inquisitive nature as they asked some great questions to deepen their knowledge. After lots of interesting discussion, the children decided on their top five ways to reduce their carbon footprint. These include: walking and cycling more to reduce the amount of pollution in the atmosphere, eating locally grown food to reduce greenhouse gases and turning electrical devices off to reduce the emissions in the atmosphere. It was lovely to see them so passionate about improving the world we live in.



Year 4 multiplication check results

Y4 children should have brought home in an envelope last week. If you have not received a copy please contact the school office.

Colour run – Thursday 10th July

If your child wishes to take part in our colour run, please complete this [form](#) by noon on Wednesday 9th July and make the voluntary contribution of £2 via MCAS (payments can be made from 3pm on 3rd July). Please see the letter in our letter section below for full details.

After school clubs

This is the last week of after school clubs.

End of year pupil reports

Reports will be sent out to Parents/Carers on Thursday 10th July via the MCAS App. Please could you make sure that you have downloaded the App and are able to log in. If you need support setting up the App please contact Mrs Wiltshire or Miss Vickers in the school office.

If you have not received your child's report by 2pm on Thursday 10th July, please contact Mrs Wiltshire by calling the school office.

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday 3rd September 2025. To allow year 3s time to settle in, we are asking for children in years 4, 5 and 6 to come into school at **09:45**. If it is difficult for you to support us with this, please contact the school office.

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 Year 6 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.

Job vacancy

We are currently recruiting for a Midday Assistant. Please click [here](#) for full details and to access our application form.

In-school music lessons



Music lessons

Every Wednesday

WHERE EVERY CHILD IS VALUED



ENROLL NOW

and become a part of our music club



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.



hello@brainteemusiclessons.co.uk

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](#)

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.](#)

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: Daniil (4B) most improved player, Henry (4J), Bailey (4J), Teddy (4CB) got through to the final in the Gt Bradford's Tournament losing on penalties, Xavier (5K) newcomer award and Alex (5K) parents' player, Max (5B) participation award, Jaxson (3C) player of the match.

Swimming: Elana (3C) stage 10

Acting: Ellie-Rose (4T) performing in the Wizard of Oz

Karate: William (3C) 2 second places and 1 first place, Georgi (4J) 1st and 2nd place

Dance: Victoria (4J) 3rd, 5th and 6th place, Rosie (4CB) took part in a show, Johanna (4CB) 1st and 2nd place, Isabella (6) 2nd place, Mia (5K) 2nd and 3rd, Maja (4CB) 5th place, Bella (3C), Phoebe (4CB), Izzy (4CB) performing in a dance / acting show



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: Zion	4B: Evan and Theo	5B: Alicja	6G: Kaidan, Ella,
3D: Hehir	4CB: Ella	5E: Amir	6L: Blake
3P: -	4J: Jack	5K: Alex	6O: Florence
3W: Aismitha	4T: Summer	5W: Dominic	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 Apple Ipad

iPads are a familiar fixture in many households and classrooms, offering access to educational tools, entertainment, and the internet in one sleek package; however, with great versatility comes notable risk. From accidental spending and data privacy breaches to excessive screen time, there's plenty for parents and educators to consider before handing over the device. While Apple offers built-in safeguards such as 'Screen Time' and 'Family Sharing', these features must be correctly set up and actively managed to be effective.

The guide below walks you through these options and highlights some of the more surprising ways children can get around restrictions – including with Siri – while offering practical advice on how to help keep young users safe and healthy online.

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: 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: 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 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: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

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)
01.07.25 [Year 3 Relationships, Health and Sex Education Letter](#) (Y3 Only)
01.07.25 [Colour run](#) 12th July 2025 (All year groups)

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

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

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

DATA PRIVACY

While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.

SCREEN ADDICTION

iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.

USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits sets daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Forbes, TechRadar, and Tes. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

@wake_up_weds

/wuw.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: 02.07.2025