

# John Ray Times

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

8<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**Phone:** 01376 324107 **Email:** [jrcontact@compassps.uk](mailto:jrcontact@compassps.uk) **Website:** [www.johnray.compassps.uk](http://www.johnray.compassps.uk)



@ facebook.com/johnraycompassps

## Online learning links

 <a href="#">Accelerated Reader</a>	 <a href="#">Century Tech</a>	 <a href="#">TTRockstars</a>	 <a href="#">Nessy</a>
---	---	---	--

**For uniform orders visit: [Absolute Embroidery](#).** or visit the shop at 286 Broad Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 5NW

**For information on Food Bank vouchers email: [mkeegan@compassps.uk](mailto:mkeegan@compassps.uk)**

**For second hand uniform requests email: [rcottee@compassps.uk](mailto:rcottee@compassps.uk)**

**Breakfast club queries email: [hwiltshire@compassps.uk](mailto:hwiltshire@compassps.uk)**

**School dinner menus** are on our website:

**08.09.25 [week 3](#) 15.09.25 [week 1](#) 22.09.25 [week 2](#).**

The cost for a school meal is now £2.50 and is payable on your MCAS App. If you think that your child may be entitled to free school meals, please contact Mrs Wiltshire in the school office.

### [Zones of Regulation](#)

The ZONES of Regulation

Blue Zone	Green Zone	Yellow Zone	Red Zone
Sober	Happy	Worried	Overjoyed/Elated
Bored	Focused	Frustrated	Excited
Tired	Calm	Silly	Angry
Sick	Present	Excited	Terrified

### [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.

### Welcome back

It has been lovely to have the children back at school and they have displayed fabulous learning behaviours. Each year group has started on a whole project based on the book 'The last zookeeper' by Aaron Becker. This is joint project with John Ray Infants and the work the children produce will be displayed in both schools. The book is a wordless picture book set in a flooded future where a compassionate robot named NOA cares for the last endangered animals in a flooded zoo and builds an ark for their survival.

### Update to the summer works on site

The window replacement is on schedule and 2 classrooms are complete. As a result of the scaffolding, the playground is slightly smaller than usual so please remember to stand towards the middle / back of the playground when collecting your child at the end of the day.

### **Applying for a secondary school place**

Parents of children in Y6 need to apply for a secondary school place via the [Essex admissions site](#). Applications open on 12<sup>th</sup> September and close on 31<sup>st</sup> October. If you need any help accessing the site, the office will be pleased to help.

### **Breakfast club**

Children who have been allocated a funded place will receive confirmation by the school office by 11<sup>th</sup> September with the funded places starting on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

### **After school clubs**

After school clubs start next week. Children will be told where to meet for their club by their teachers next week. Please collect your child from the front of the school when the club finishes.

### **Meet the teacher event 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September 3:30-4:30**

We look forward to welcoming parents of Y5 and Y6 on 16.09.25 and Y3 and Y4 parents on 17.09.25. Both sessions will take place from 3:30 to 4:30. Please enter through the white hall doors at the front of the school after collecting your child from the playground.

### **Mersea residential Y6 information evening 22<sup>nd</sup> September 5pm**

Y6 children and their parents are invited to an information session on 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 5pm. This will be held in the main hall. Please enter through the white hall doors.

### **School fish tank-can you help?**

Offers of help any time to help with cleaning and maintaining our fish tank would be very gratefully received. Please email [kbreen@compassps.uk](mailto:kbreen@compassps.uk) if you are able to help with this.

### **Super hero day- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

We are excited to announce our Superhero Day on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. Children are welcome to dress up as their favourite superhero for a donations (suggested £1) to raise money for The Lily Foundation, a wonderful charity that funds research and support for those affected by mitochondrial disease. Mrs Christian (HT of JRIS) is delighted to have been given a charity place in next year's London Marathon, running for The Lily Foundation and all money raised from Superhero Day will go directly towards this cause.

[The Lily Foundation.](#)

### **Notley High School**

### **Notley High School & Sixth Form Open Morning – Saturday 27 September 2025**

- General Open Morning: 9:30am – 12:30pm
- 9.15am start for any family with children with additional needs

We warmly invite you to come and discover what makes Notley High School a welcoming ambitious and supportive school to learn.

Join us for:

- Headteacher's welcome talk, at 10am and again at 11am
  - Student-led tours of our school and facilities
- Hands-on activities across a range of subjects, perfect for curious young visitors
  - A visit to our brand new 4G sports pitch
- Meet the pastoral team and learn about our wellbeing and transition support
  - Drop into our SEND department and see how we support every student
    - Speak to teachers and staff from all areas of the school
    - Take time out to sample our delicious canteen food

- Learn about our Year 7 transition programme and how we can help your child feel settled and confident

Whether you're just starting to think about secondary schools or have questions before applying, we'd love to welcome you and your child to experience our school community.

Please click the link below to book a place at our Headteacher's Talk:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/notley-high-school-open-morning-tickets-1488453768289?aff=oddttdcreator>

### 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](mailto:hello@braintreemusiclessons.co.uk)

**07802 421677**

**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.

**CREATIVE**

[www.braintreemusiclessons.co.uk](http://www.braintreemusiclessons.co.uk)

[hello@braintreemusiclessons.co.uk](mailto:hello@braintreemusiclessons.co.uk)

### **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 \(compassps.uk\)](mailto: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 \(pop-essex.org\)](http://POP Essex • SEN Stay & Play And Respite In Braintree, Essex (pop-essex.org)).

### **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.

Well done to these children who completed the Summer Reading Challenge – Amelie 3P, Teddy 3W, Evelin 4CB, Mia 4J, Matilda 4J, Sidley 4CB, Ivanna 4T, Summer 5W, Magnificence 5B, Brad 5B, Elisa 5E, Imogen 3W, Penny 3W, Bella-Rose 4B, Elana 4B, Scarlett 6G.

Mia 6L – first place in a dance competition, Amelia 6L – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in a dance competition, Allana 4B – medal for dancing, Joanna 5E – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in dancing.

Owen 5E – Silver group swim club, Willow 3P – passed stage 3 swimming, Ellie-Rose 5B – swimming certificate, Lewis 4J – passed stage 2 swimming.

Bertie 3W – man of the match in football, Isaac 6G – supporters' player of the match, Xavier 6L and Alex 6L – man of the match in football, Isaac 4B – scored a hattrick and man of the match.

Amelia 6O – 3<sup>rd</sup> place in a dog 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. The first stars of the week will be chosen this week,

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.**

PE days for each class are:

Monday: Y4

Tuesday: Y6, 3P, 5C, 5B

Wednesday: Y5, 6R, 6G, 6L

Thursday: Y4, 3B, 3W, 3C

Friday: Y3, 6G, 5E, 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 You tube 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](http://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: <a href="mailto:cwaspe1@compassps.uk">cwaspe1@compassps.uk</a> 3B: <a href="mailto:dbanks@compassps.uk">dbanks@compassps.uk</a> 3P: <a href="mailto:sphillips@compassps.uk">sphillips@compassps.uk</a> 3W: <a href="mailto:zwatson@compassps.uk">zwatson@compassps.uk</a>	4B: <a href="mailto:pwatts@compassps.uk">pwatts@compassps.uk</a> 4CB: <a href="mailto:hcollier-brown@compassps.uk">hcollier-brown@compassps.uk</a> 4J: <a href="mailto:jbrennan@compassps.uk">jbrennan@compassps.uk</a> 4T: <a href="mailto:tbeeson@compassps.uk">tbeeson@compassps.uk</a> , <a href="mailto:kbreen@compassps.uk">kbreen@compassps.uk</a>
Year 5	Year 6
5B: <a href="mailto:hbreeze@compassps.uk">hbreeze@compassps.uk</a> 5E: <a href="mailto:cellis@compassps.uk">cellis@compassps.uk</a> 5C: <a href="mailto:dcasey@compassps.uk">dcasey@compassps.uk</a> 5W: <a href="mailto:awilson1@compassps.uk">awilson1@compassps.uk</a> , <a href="mailto:rcottee@compassps.uk">rcottee@compassps.uk</a>	6G: <a href="mailto:ngibson@compassps.uk">ngibson@compassps.uk</a> 6L: <a href="mailto:jarbalestier@compassps.uk">jarbalestier@compassps.uk</a> 6O: <a href="mailto:cosullivan1@compassps.uk">cosullivan1@compassps.uk</a> 6R: <a href="mailto:rroberts@compassps.uk">rroberts@compassps.uk</a>

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 – [rcoffee@compassps.uk](mailto:rcoffee@compassps.uk)**

**Mrs Breen (Assistant Head) if your child is in Y3 or Y4 – [kbreen@compassps.uk](mailto: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)

18.07.25 [School meal cost](#) (all year groups)

**Dates for the academic year 2024-2025 (new dates in red)**

[Please see the website for the term dates](#)

Academic diary dates for 2025-26		
Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
12.09.25 Secondary school admissions open (Y6 only)	05.01.26 Non Pupil day	<b>13.04.26 Children return to school</b>
15.09.25 After school clubs start	<b>06.01.26 Children return to school</b>	20.04.26 First week of after school clubs
16.09.25 Meet the teacher 3:30-4:30 Y5 and Y6	12.01.26 After school clubs start	11.05.26 SATs week
17.09.25 Meet the teacher 3:30-4:30 Y3 and Y4	03.02.26 SEND tea and chat	20.05.26 Sports day (Y5 / 6 in the morning, Y3 / Y4 in the afternoon, picnic 12-12:45)
22.09.25 Y6 meeting 5pm (Mersea and Y6 information)	04.02.26 Enhanced one planning for specific children	<b>25.05.26 Half term week</b>
26.09.25 Individual photos (Children having PE today should bring their PE kit in a separate bag))	05.02.26 In class individual photos (Children having PE today should bring their PE kit in a separate bag))	01.06.26 Multiplication check for 3 weeks (Y4 only)
27.09.25 Notley High School open morning	09.02.26-15.02.25 Children's mental health week	02.06.26 Enhanced and focussed one plans
15.10.25 Enhanced one planning for specific children	10.02.26 Safer internet day	03.06.26 reserve sports day in case of poor weather
15.10.25- SEND tea and chat	<b>16.02.26 Half term week</b>	08.06.26 - 10.06.26 Mersea residential for Y6
<b>25.10.25 Super hero fundraiser</b> (children are invited to dress as a superhero for a donation to the Lily Foundation).	05.03.26 World book day (Children are invited to dress as a book character or bring in a prop from a book)	22.06.26 Secondary school transition week (schools will choose their own dates)
<b>27.10.25 Half term week</b>	09.03.26 Science week	29.06.26 Last week of after school clubs
31.10.25 Secondary school admissions close	11.03.26 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:00	01.07.26 Class photos (Children having PE today should bring their PE kit in a separate bag))
04.11.25 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:00	12.03.26 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:30	09.07.26 Annual reports sent out
05.11.25 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:30	23.03.26 Last week for clubs	30.06.26 Children to spend time with new teacher
08.11.25 Open morning for new parents 9:30-11:30	24.03.26 Y5 and Y6 to walk to St Michael's church for an Easter service (This takes place in school time and is for staff	08.07.26 Open afternoon 3:30-4:30
14.11.25 Children in need (non – uniform: children can wear spots / stripes in return for a donation)		14.07.26 Y6 production for 6L and 6R 1:30 and 4:30
		15.07.26 Y6 production for 6O and 6G 1:30 and 4:30

<p>24.11.25 last week for after school clubs</p> <p>15.12.25 SEN tea and chat</p> <p>16.12.25 Y4 and Y6 Christmas dinner day <i>(children in Y4 / 6 are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper and / or accessory)</i></p> <p>17.12.25 Y3 and Y5 Christmas dinner day <i>(children in Y3 / 3 are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper and / or accessory)</i></p> <p>18.12.25 Y3 and Y4 to walk to St Michael's church for a Christmas service <i>(This takes place in school time and is for staff and children only. Children should wear suitable shoes for walking)</i></p> <p><b>19.12.25 Last day of term</b></p>	<p><i>and children only. Children should wear suitable shoes for walking)</i></p> <p>27.03.26- SEND tea and chat</p> <p><b>27.03.26 Last day of term</b></p>	<p><b>16.07.26 Last day of term for children</b></p>
---	--	--

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS

AGE RESTRICTION  
4+

## 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.

18  
CENSORED

### 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.

BUY NOW!

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.06.2025