

John Ray Times

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

15th September 2025

Phone: 01376 324107 Email: jrcontact@compassps.uk Website: www.johnray.compassps.uk



@ facebook.com/johnraycompassps

Online learning links

 <p>Accelerated Reader</p>	 <p>Century Tech</p>	 <p>TTRockstars</p>	 <p>Nessy</p>
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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

For second hand uniform requests email: rcottee@compassps.uk

Breakfast club queries email: hwiltshire@compassps.uk

School dinner menus are on our website:

[15.09.25 week 1](#) [22.09.25 week 2](#), [29.09.25 week 3](#)

Our catering team will be doing a special Diwali menu on Monday 20th October. Please click [here](#) to view the menu. If you would like your child to have a dinner on this day, please complete this [form](#) by 8am on Monday 13th October

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
Sad Bored Tired Sick	Happy Focused Calm Proud	Worried Frustrated Silly Excited	Overjoyed/Elated Nervous Angry 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.

Permission for children in Y5 and Y6 to bring in a mobile phone

We understand that if children are walking home alone parents may want them to bring a mobile phone to school as a safety measure. We have a clear policy on phones in our school and information can be found on our [website](#). If you wish for your Y5 / Y6 child to bring a phone to school, please ensure you have read the information on our website and either completed the paper request form or the online form found below. Parents of children in Y6 should complete a new form even if they requested permission last academic year

[Request to bring in a mobile phone](#)

Permission for children in Y5 and Y6 to walk home alone

Should you decide that your Y5 or Y6 child is mature enough to walk home alone, please refer to our agreement for allowing children to walk home alone on our website and complete the following form.

[Permission to walk home alone](#)

Parents of children in Y6 should complete a new form even if they requested permission last academic year.

Early Departures for Swimming Lessons

We have received several requests for children to leave school early on a regular basis to attend swimming lessons. Please be advised that this type of absence is not considered acceptable and will not be authorised.

The school day is structured to support consistent learning, and regular early departures cause disruption to both the child's education and the wider classroom environment. Swimming lessons and other extracurricular activities should be scheduled outside of school hours.

We appreciate your co-operation in ensuring your child's full attendance.

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 12th September and close on 31st October. If you need any help accessing the site, the office will be pleased to help.

Lockdown Drill

On Friday, we had a practice of our lockdown drill. As this was the first drill of the school year, children were given prior notice and staff spoke to the children beforehand. The children remembered what to do and were very sensible, following instructions quickly and quietly. For your information, we talk to children about a lockdown being needed when we have to stay indoors e.g., if a swarm of bees were outside or a vicious dog.

Individual photos – Friday 26th September

Children will be having their individual photos taken on Friday 26th September. All children should come to school *Children having PE on the 26th September should bring their PE kit in a separate bag.*

After school clubs

After school clubs start this 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.

Mersea residential Y6 information evening 22nd September 5pm

Y6 children and their parents are invited to an information session on 22nd 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 if you are able to help with this.

PTA AGM

Our PTA do a wonderful job in raising much needed funds for both JRJ and JRI. The AGM will be held at John Ray Juniors at 2pm on Wednesday 1st October.

PTA AGM & Coffee Afternoon

Our annual AGM plus tea, coffee, biscuits and cake

John Ray Junior School

2:00pm Weds 1st October

Join us as we discuss our fundraising from the previous year and make plans for 2025/2026! We will be appointing our new committee so come along if you've ever been curious about what we do and how you can help.

If you can't make this, but are interested in joining the PTA or simply helping out at our events then please email pta.secretary.friendsofjohnray@gmail.com.



Superhero day- Friday 24th October

We are excited to announce our Superhero Day on Friday 24th October. Children are welcome to dress up as their favourite superhero for a donation (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.](https://www.thelilyfoundation.org/)

Notley High School

Notley High School & Sixth Form Open Morning – Saturday 27th 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=oddtcreator>

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 hello@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.

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

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.

Swimming: Fabi (6R) stage 3 swimming

Kickboxing: Jacob in 6R passed his grading at the weekend and is now an orange belt.

Karate: Owen in 5E has achieved his green belt.

Swimming: Akasya in 5C placed 2nd five times, 3rd once and 4th once.

Squash: Imogen in 3W placed 2nd and shared her trophy with us.

Football: Adam (3W) player of the match



Henry in 5E, Bailey in 5C and Teddy in 5W were all players of the match.
 Isaac in 4B played on the winning team at the weekend.
 Ellie-Rose in 5B shared 8 of her brownie badges with us.

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,

3B: Francesca	4B: Maisie	5B: Ivy	6G: Dylan
3C: Yeleina	4CB: Luna	5C: Logan	6L: Megan
3P: Amelia	4J: Lewis	5E: Ashton	6O: Anderson
3W: Penny	4T: Toby	5W: Victoria	6R: Freddie

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 conspiracy theories

The latest update to the DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) identifies the safeguarding concerns posed by conspiracy theories. This guide will help you to understand the risks, spot the signs, build children's resilience and safeguard against the harmful effects of conspiracy theories.

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.**

<p style="text-align: center;">Year 3</p> 3C: cwaspe1@compassps.uk 3B: dbanks@compassps.uk 3P: sphillips@compassps.uk 3W: zwatson@compassps.uk	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 4</p> 4B: pwatts@compassps.uk 4CB: hcollier-brown@compassps.uk 4J: jbreannan@compassps.uk 4T: tbeeson@compassps.uk, kbreen@compassps
<p style="text-align: center;">Year 5</p> 5B: hbreeze@compassps.uk 5E: cellis@compassps.uk 5C: dcasey@compassps.uk 5W: awilson1@compassps.uk, rcottee@compassps.uk	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 6</p> 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:jrcontact@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
<p>12.09.25 Secondary school admissions open (Y6 only)</p> <p>15.09.25 After school clubs start</p> <p>16.09.25 Meet the teacher 3:30-4:30 Y5 and Y6</p> <p>17.09.25 Meet the teacher 3:30-4:30 Y3 and Y4</p> <p>22.09.25 Y6 meeting 5pm (Mersea and Y6 information)</p> <p>26.09.25 Individual photos (<i>Children having PE today should bring their PE kit in a separate bag</i>)</p> <p>27.09.25 Notley High School open morning</p> <p>01.10.25 PTA AGM at 2pm</p> <p>15.10.25 Enhanced one planning for specific children</p> <p>15.10.25- SEND tea and chat</p> <p>17.10.25 4CB & 4J visit to Colchester zoo</p> <p>21.10.25 4T & 4B visit to Colchester zoo</p> <p>24.10.25 Super hero fundraiser (<i>children are invited to dress as a superhero for a donation to the Lily Foundation</i>).</p> <p>27.10.25 Half term week</p> <p>31.10.25 Secondary school admissions close</p> <p>04.11.25 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:00</p> <p>05.11.25 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:30</p> <p>08.11.25 Open morning for new parents 9:30-11:30</p> <p>14.11.25 Children in need (non – uniform: children can wear spots / stripes in return for a donation)</p>	<p>05.01.26 Non Pupil day</p> <p>06.01.26 Children return to school</p> <p>12.01.26 After school clubs start</p> <p>03.02.26 SEND tea and chat</p> <p>04.02.26 Enhanced one planning for specific children</p> <p>05.02.26 In class individual photos (<i>Children having PE today should bring their PE kit in a separate bag</i>)</p> <p>09.02.26-15.02.25 Children's mental health week</p> <p>10.02.26 Safer internet day</p> <p>16.02.26 Half term week</p> <p>05.03.26 World book day (<i>Children are invited to dress as a book character or bring in a prop from a book</i>)</p> <p>09.03.26 Science week</p> <p>11.03.26 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:00</p> <p>12.03.26 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:30</p> <p>23.03.26 Last week for clubs</p> <p>24.03.26 Y5 and Y6 to walk to St Michael's church for an Easter 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>27.03.26- SEND tea and chat</p> <p>27.03.26 Last day of term</p>	<p>13.04.26 Children return to school</p> <p>20.04.26 First week of after school clubs</p> <p>11.05.26 SATs week</p> <p>20.05.26 Sports day (<i>Y5 / 6 in the morning, Y3 / Y4 in the afternoon, picnic 12-12:45</i>)</p> <p>25.05.26 Half term week</p> <p>01.06.26 Multiplication check for 3 weeks (Y4 only)</p> <p>02.06.26 Enhanced and focussed one plans</p> <p>03.06.26 reserve sports day in case of poor weather</p> <p>08.06.26 - 10.06.26 Mersea residential for Y6</p> <p>22.06.26 Secondary school transition week (schools will choose their own dates)</p> <p>26.06.25 School fete after school</p> <p>29.06.26 Last week of after school clubs</p> <p>01.07.26 Class photos (<i>Children having PE today should bring their PE kit in a separate bag</i>)</p> <p>09.07.26 Annual reports sent out</p> <p>30.06.26 Children to spend time with new teacher</p> <p>08.07.26 Open afternoon 3:30-4:30</p> <p>14.07.26 Y6 production for 6L and 6R 1:30 and 4:30</p> <p>15.07.26 Y6 production for 6O and 6G 1:30 and 4:30</p> <p>16.07.26 Last day of term for children</p>

<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>19.12.25 Last day of term</p>		
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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

I WANT TO BELIEVE

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories>