

John Ray Times

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

1st December 2025

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



@ facebook.com/johnraycompassps

Online learning links

 Accelerated Reader	 Century Tech	 TTRockstars	 Nessy
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Links for permission for children in Y5 and Y6 to bring in a mobile phone: [Request to bring in a mobile phone](#)

Links for permission for children in Y5 and Y6 to walk home alone: [Permission to walk home alone](#)

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:

New Autumn/Winter Menus:

We're excited to launch our new Autumn/Winter menus this term!

You can view the updated menus below, and they're also available on our school website.

15.12.25 [Week 1](#) , 01.12.25 [Week 2](#), 08.12.25 [Week 3](#)

A Message from our catering provider, Chartwells:

At Chartwells, we're passionate about fuelling every child's learning with meals that are tasty, nutritious, and sustainable. Our menus are designed to make smart nutritional choices, meeting – and exceeding – the UK Government's School Food Standards.

To view the Chartwells Parent Information Leaflet, please [click here](#).

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](#)



[School Attendance Difficulties](#)



[Supporting Anxiety](#)



My Happy Mind Parent App

To access these materials just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> We will send out a separate letter with the access code to enable you to access these at home.

Year 5 Wonderdome

**On 25th November, Year 5 children had a visit from the Wonderdome. Their focus was brilliant and they asked really well considered questions.
Here's what 5W had to say about the visit:**

Carys and Callie-Mai - "This week we had a visit from the Wonderdome. It is a mobile planetarium and it was an incredible experience. We would love to do it again! We learnt a lot of facts and were able to lay down and experience space in a 3D way."

Harrison and Zachary - "We were able to ask questions and we experienced what it would be like if two black holes collided. We learnt more about The Milky Way and the Andromeda galaxy (the nearest major galaxy to our solar system)".



Year 6 SATs question of the week

Here is a question worth 1 mark from the Reasoning paper.

A theme park sells tickets online.

Each ticket costs £24

There is a £3 charge for buying tickets.

Which of these shows how to calculate the total cost, in pounds?

Tick **one**.

number of tickets \times 3 + 24

number of tickets \times 24 + 3

number of tickets + 3 \times 24

number of tickets + 24 \times 3

This week, children in Y3 will be walking to the church to take part in a Christmas Experience workshop event. The workshop takes the children through the different elements of the Christmas story. Please ensure that the children are dressed appropriately for the walk and have sensible shoes for walking- trainers are permitted. Visits will take place on the following days. Children will eat lunch in school as usual and will be back in time for the end of the school day.

Children in 3C had their visit today

Tuesday 2nd December 3W

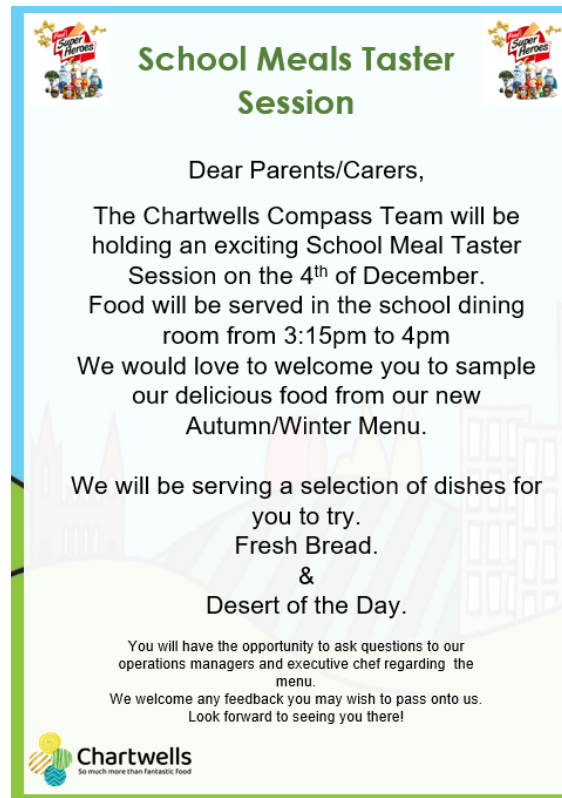
Wednesday 3rd December 3P

Friday 5th December 3B

Christmas Gift Sale.

On Thursday 4th December, children can bring £1.00 to buy a special present from our PTA Christmas Gift Sale. This takes place during the school day.

School Meal Taster Session – Thursday 4th December 2025 – 3.15pm - 4.00pm



The flyer is titled "School Meals Taster Session" in green text. It features two "Super Heroes" logos at the top corners. The main text is centered and reads: "Dear Parents/Carers, The Chartwells Compass Team will be holding an exciting School Meal Taster Session on the 4th of December. Food will be served in the school dining room from 3:15pm to 4pm. We would love to welcome you to sample our delicious food from our new Autumn/Winter Menu. We will be serving a selection of dishes for you to try. Fresh Bread. & Desert of the Day." Below this, it says: "You will have the opportunity to ask questions to our operations managers and executive chef regarding the menu. We welcome any feedback you may wish to pass onto us. Look forward to seeing you there!" At the bottom left is the Chartwells logo with the tagline "So much more than Fantastic Food".

Please enter via the white hall doors opposite the bus stop on Notley Road.

Final days for the consultation: John Ray Infant and John Ray Junior Schools: Proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number

Specific Proposal John Ray Junior and John Ray Infant Schools, along with our Trust, propose to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 120 to 90 with effect from September 2027. For pupils who already have a place at John Ray Infants and in other year groups, there will be no change.

It is important to consider the views of our parents and the wider community. The consultation will run until 3rd December 2025. All stakeholders are invited to submit comments in writing about the

proposal to: PAN Consultation: C/O Alderwood Primary School Rainham Close, Eltham London, SE9 2JB Email: contact@compassps.uk. Please [click here](#) to view a full copy of the letter sent to parents
22/10/25

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.

Bikeability level 2: Lilah, Isabella A, Scarlett, Isabella B, Imogen, Alexander, Fabi, James, Selen, Jenson, Bella, Adam

Dance competition: Mya (5W), Victoria (5W) Basia (3B) Amelia (6L) Mia (6L) Akasya (5C), Lilly (5B) Performing at the Witham Town Christmas light up; Amelie (3P), Ruby (3P), Roxy (3B)

Swimming: Gala medals Akasya (5C), Eive (4T) stage 6

Football players' of the match: Bailey (5C), Theo (5C) Jacob (6R), Ozzy (5B), Isaac 4B
Cricket: Harry (3P)

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.

3B: Connor	4B: Fletcher	5B: Muhammed	6G: Alicja
3C: Ella	4CB: Liam	5C: Pixie	6L: Daniel
3P: Annabelle	4J: Mia	5E: Henry	6O: Charlie
3W: Alice	4T: Lucas	5W: The whole class	6R: Adam

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: 4B, 4CB, 3W, 6G

Tuesday: Y5, 3P, 3B, 3C

Wednesday: Y4, 6R, 6O, 6L

Thursday: Y3, 5B, 5E, 5C

Friday: Y6, 4J, 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](#) at any time on [0800 1111](tel:08001111)



National Online Safety: What parents and carers need to know about electrical safety and devices

This edition of WakeUpWednesday explores essential electrical safety habits for homes and schools. This week's guide highlights simple steps that can prevent overheating, fires and other hazards linked to everyday electrical devices. It offers clear, reassuring advice to help adults spot risks early and model safer routines.

It explores common risk areas, including unsafe charging habits and overloading sockets, and explains how to identify early warning signs such as damaged cables or poorly ventilated devices. The guide also touches on protective measures like RCDs and safe power bank use, supporting families and educators in creating safer environments for young people.

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 3B: dbanks@compassps.uk 3P: sphillips@compassps.uk 3W: zwatson@compassps.uk	4B: pwatts@compassps.uk 4CB: hcollier-brown@compassps.uk 4J: jbreannan@compassps.uk 4T: tbeeson@compassps.uk, kbreen@compassps.uk
Year 5	Year 6
5B: hbreeze@compassps.uk 5E: cellis@compassps.uk 5C: dcasey@compassps.uk 5W: awilson1@compassps.uk, rcottee@compassps.uk	6G: ngibson@compassps.uk 6L: jlarbalestier@compassps.uk 6O: cosullivan1@compassps.uk 6R: rroberts@compassps.uk

Please contact class teachers in the first instance to resolve any issues. Should you feel you need to escalate the issue, please contact:

Miss Coffee (Assistant Head) if your child is in Y5 or Y6 – rcottee@compassps.uk

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

RECENT LETTERS INCLUDING NEWSLETTERS – MANY OF OUR LETTERS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE

All communication will be sent through Bromcom. Please ensure that you have given us a current email address. Issues with Bromcom communication should be emailed [to jrcontact@compassps.uk](mailto:tojrcontact@compassps.uk)

- 18.07.25 [School meal cost](#) (all year groups)
- 06.10.25 [Gemma's Farm Visit](#) (Y3 only)
- 14.10.25 [Autumn Term Learning Conference](#)
- 15.10.25 [Scroogical pantomime](#) (all year groups)
- 22.10.25 [Proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number](#)

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
04.12.25 PTA gift shop – children to bring £1.00 to buy a gift for someone special.	05.01.26 Non Pupil day	13.04.26 Children return to school
04.12.25 School meal taster session 3.15pm - 4pm	06.01.26 Children return to school	20.04.26 First week of after school clubs
15.12.25 SEN tea and chat	12.01.26 After school clubs start	11.05.26 SATs week
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>)	22.01.26 Young Voices at the O2	20.05.26 Sports day (<i>Y5 / 6 in the morning, Y3 / Y4 in the afternoon, picnic 12-12:45</i>)
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>)	03.02.26 SEND tea and chat	25.05.26 Half term week
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>)	04.02.26 Enhanced one planning for specific children	01.06.26 Multiplication check for 3 weeks (Y4 only)
	05.02.26 In class individual photos (<i>Children having PE today should bring their PE kit in a separate bag</i>)	02.06.26 Enhanced and focussed one plans
	09.02.26-15.02.25 Children's mental health week	03.06.26 reserve sports day in case of poor weather
	10.02.26 Safer internet day	08.06.26 - 10.06.26 Mersea residential for Y6
	16.02.26 Half term week	
	05.03.26 World book day (<i>Children are invited to dress as</i>	

<p>19.12.25 Last day of term</p>	<p><i>a book character or bring in a prop from a book)</i> 09.03.26 Science week 11.03.26 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:00 12.03.26 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:30 23.03.26 Last week for clubs 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> 27.03.26- SEND tea and chat 27.03.25 PTA Break the rules day 27.03.26 Last day of term</p>	<p>22.06.26 Secondary school transition week (schools will choose their own dates) 26.06.25 School fete after school 29.06.26 Last week of after school clubs 01.07.26 Class photos <i>(Children having PE today should bring their PE kit in a separate bag)</i> 09.07.26 Annual reports sent out 30.06.26 Children to spend time with new teacher 08.07.26 Open afternoon 3:30-4:30 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 16.07.26 Last day of term for children</p>
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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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND DEVICES

Electrical safety is a vital topic for parents and educators, especially with the growing use of devices like smartphones, laptops, and power banks. Electrical fires are a major risk and are the cause of many deaths and injuries each year. There are reportedly nearly 20,000 accidental fires of electrical origin each year in the UK. This guide offers practical advice to help families and schools prevent electrical hazards, and promote safety when using everyday devices.

1 CHECK FOR OVERHEATING

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones can overheat if used for long periods or when charging. Ensure that children don't use devices on soft surfaces like beds or sofas, which can block ventilation. If a device becomes unusually hot, turn it off and unplug it. Overheating can lead to fire hazards if left unchecked.

2 INSTALL RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES

Ensure that homes and schools are equipped with Residual Current Devices (RCDs). These devices cut off the power if an electrical fault occurs, preventing electric shocks and reducing the risk of fires. RCDs should be tested regularly to ensure they are working properly. More information about RCDs is available from Electrical Safety First.

3 AVOID OVERLOADING SOCKETS

Plugging too many devices into one socket can overload the electrical system and cause a fire. In schools and homes, ensure extension leads are not overloaded and never 'daisy chain' multiple extension cords together. Educate children on the dangers of connecting too many devices to a single outlet.

4 POWER BANKS: SAFE USE

Power banks are a handy way to charge devices, but they can also pose a risk if misused. Ensure power banks are of high quality and comply with UK safety standards. Teach children never to leave power banks charging unattended, and to avoid placing them under pillows or bedding where they may overheat.

5 REGULAR DEVICE INSPECTIONS

Regularly check devices for signs of wear and tear. Frayed charging cables, cracked device casings, or devices that are slow to charge may indicate electrical problems. If any issues are noticed, stop using the device until it can be repaired or replaced by a qualified technician. This proactive approach helps prevent fires caused by faulty devices.

6 UNPLUG DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE

Encourage children and pupils to unplug devices when not in use, particularly overnight. Devices left plugged in unnecessarily can overheat or become fire hazards, especially if left charging unattended for long periods. Simple habits like unplugging can prevent serious incidents.

7 USE GENUINE CHARGERS

Always use chargers supplied by the manufacturer or from a reputable retailer. Faulty or counterfeit chargers can cause devices to overheat, short-circuit, or even catch fire. Teach children the importance of avoiding poor-quality chargers, and regularly inspect charging cables for signs of wear or damage. More tips on safe charging can be found at Electrical Safety First.

8 WATER & ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX

Teach children that water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Devices should never be used near sinks, bathtubs, or swimming pools. Parents and educators should ensure that any electrical appliances near water sources have proper waterproof casings and are plugged into RCD-protected outlets.

9 KEEP DEVICES VENTILATED

Devices need proper ventilation to avoid overheating. Avoid stacking items on top of plugged-in devices like laptops or gaming consoles, and make sure there is enough space around devices to allow for airflow. Proper ventilation helps prevent dangerous heat build-up, reducing the risk of fires.

10 SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN

Younger children may not understand the dangers of electricity, so it's important to supervise them when they are using devices. Keep electrical cords out of reach and always remind children never to put objects into electrical outlets.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings as well as many other industries to help them maintain a safe working environment.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

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FREE PARENT WEBINARS

for supporting your primary aged
child with mental health and wellbeing

Provided by your Mental Health Support Team

@set_camhs_nhs

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OUT MORE



Do you need help supporting your child? We offer a variety of online workshops to help you to support your child on the following topics:

- ✓ Fears and Worries
- ✓ Challenging Behaviour
- ✓ Emotionally Based School Avoidance
- ✓ Understanding Autism
- ✓ Understanding ADHD
- ✓ Sleep Support

Sessions will be held online during the day and evenings.



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