

# John Ray Times

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


15th December 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

 <p><a href="#">Accelerated Reader</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">Century Tech</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">TTRockstars</a></p>	 <p><a href="#">Nessy</a></p>
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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](mailto:mkeegan@compassps.uk)

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

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

05.01.26, 15.12.25 [Week 1](#) , 12.01.26 [Week 2](#), 19.01.26 [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.

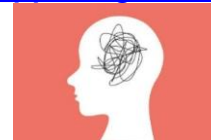
### [Zones of Regulation](#)



### [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.

### Invite to Y5 parents

Y5 parents/carers are invited to visit their child's class from 2.45pm. Children will be sharing a piece of their writing with you and there will be an opportunity to watch a recording of the class performing a piece of music. Visits are on the following days:

16.12.25 5W & 5E

18.12.25 5C & 5B

Please enter via the white hall doors at 2:45pm

### Christmas dinner days

Just a reminder that our Christmas dinner days are this week. On their Christmas dinner days, children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper and / or accessory.

16.12.25 Y4 and Y6 Christmas dinner day *(children in Y4 / 6 are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper and / or accessory, Y3 and Y5 children to bring packed lunches)*

17.12.25 Y3 and Y5 Christmas dinner day *(children in Y3 / 3 are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper and / or accessory, Y4 and Y6 children to bring packed lunches)*

### Year 6 SATs question of the week

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

Amina asked 60 children to choose their favourite flavour of jelly.

These were her results.

Flavour	Number of children
Raspberry	12
Lemon	8
Orange	15
Blackcurrant	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>

What **percentage** of the 60 children chose orange?

1 mark

### Y3 and Y4 Christmas service at St Michael's Church

Y3 and Y4 will be walking to St Michael's church for a Christmas service on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December to take part in our Christmas service. This visit is covered under our local visits permissions but if you have any questions or concerns then please contact class teachers by Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Children should wear comfortable shoes for walking to the church (trainers are permitted) and should also have a coat.

### School Council's anti-bullying policy

Our school council have been working hard to create a child friendly version of the anti-bullying policy. children are now discussing this in class so that we can launch this in January.

### **Dance Days Workshops**

We are looking forward to welcoming Dance Days back to school in the new year and working with the children to explore dance linked to the area of history they are studying. Please ensure that children wear their PE kit to school for these sessions. Children will be taking part in workshops on the following days:

Wednesday 07.01.26 Y5 & Y6;            Friday 09.01.26 Y3 & Y4

### **Is my child too ill for school?**

The NHS has produced useful information to support parents when deciding if their child is too ill to attend school. Information can be found on the NHS website.

[NHS- Is my child too ill for school?](#)

### **Swim Gala**

Well done to Samuel, Ben, Logan, Ashton, Jacob and Alexander who took part in the Panathlon swimming challenge. The children were brilliant and were awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place, each receiving a gold medal.

### **Christmas Gift Sale.**

Many thanks to the PTA for organising the gift shop for the children last week. The PTA help to raise funds for both John Ray schools. If you are interested in helping on a regular or ad hoc basis, please contact the PTA school office.

### **Christmas services at St Michael's Church**



### **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.

Football players' of the match: Max 3C, Oscar 6R, Daniil 5E, Bertie 3W, William 4B

Karate: Isaac 4B- yellow stripe belt

Swimming: Julia 4CB stage 5

Dancing certificates for achievement: Victoria 5W, Amelia 6L, Evie 4T, Evelin 4CB, Maja 5W

Dancing: dancers of the year: Maddie 4T, Mia 6L, Basia 3B

Coding club: certificate of completion: Willow 4T, Carter 4B

Guides: Mixology club: Sophie 6G, Alicja 6G, Quinn 6G

### 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: Theo	4B:	5B: Avzem	6G: Isaac
3C: Mason	4CB: Lexie	5C: Liana-Rose	6L: Jack
3P: Effie	4J: Daisy	5E: Noah	6O: Lexi
3W: Isla	4T: Molly	5W:	6R: Fabi

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. 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 Toy scalping, fakes and scams**

Scalping has long been a frustration for fans hoping to bag concert tickets or exclusive toys, but the online world has supercharged this dishonest tactic. Scalpers use bots to buy up stock in seconds, then resell items such as consoles or collectibles at significant mark-ups. For young people, it can be disappointing and harmful to their wallets, wellbeing and worldview.

As this unethical practice becomes more visible, and, worryingly, sometimes glamourised online, it's important to talk to children about fairness, financial boundaries, and spotting scams. This guide breaks down the tricks of the trade and how to avoid them, helping young consumers stay safe, informed and scam-free.

[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**

3C: [cwaspe1@compassps.uk](mailto:cwaspe1@compassps.uk)

#### **Year 4**

4B: [pwatts@compassps.uk](mailto:pwatts@compassps.uk), [jbird@compassps.uk](mailto:jbird@compassps.uk)

3B: dbanks@compassps.uk 3P: sphillips@compassps.uk 3W: zwatson@compassps.uk	4CB: hcollier-brown@compassps.uk 4J: jbrennan@compassps.uk 4T: tbeeson@compassps.uk, kbreen@compassps.uk
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>
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: <b>Miss Coffee (Assistant Head) if your child is in Y5 or Y6</b> – rcottee@compassps.uk <b>Mrs Breen (Assistant Head) if your child is in Y3 or Y4</b> – kbreen@compassps.uk	
<b>RECENT LETTERS INCLUDING NEWSLETTERS – MANY OF OUR LETTERS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE</b>	
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 <a href="mailto:tojrcontact@compassps.uk">to jrcontact@compassps.uk</a>	
18.07.25 <a href="#">School meal cost</a> (all year groups) 06.10.25 <a href="#">Gemma's Farm Visit</a> (Y3 only) 14.10.25 <a href="#">Autumn Term Learning Conference</a> 15.10.25 <a href="#">Scroogical pantomime</a> (all year groups) 22.10.25 <a href="#">Proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number</a>	
<b>Dates for the academic year 2024-2025 (new dates in red)</b> <a href="#">Please see the website for the term dates</a>	

<b>Academic diary dates for 2025-26</b>		
<b>Autumn term</b>	<b>Spring term</b>	<b>Summer term</b>
16.12.25 5W & 5E Parent/Carer can visit class from 2.45pm. Children will be sharing a piece of their writing with you and there will be an opportunity to watch a recording of the class perform a piece of music. 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> 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> 18.12.25 5B & 5C Parent/Carer can visit class from 2.45pm. Children will be sharing a piece of their writing with you and there will be an opportunity to watch a	05.01.26 Non Pupil day <b>06.01.26 Children return to school</b> <b>07.01.26 Y5 &amp; Y6 Dance Days workshops (children to wear PE kit to school)</b> <b>09.01.26 Y3 &amp; Y4 Dance Days workshops (children to wear PE kit to school)</b>  12.01.26 After school clubs start 22.01.26 Young Voices at the O2 03.02.26 SEND tea and chat 04.02.26 Enhanced one planning for specific children 05.02.26 In class individual photos <i>(Children having PE today should bring their PE kit in a separate bag)</i>	<b>13.04.26 Children return to school</b> 20.04.26 First week of after school clubs 11.05.26 SATs week 20.05.26 Sports day <i>(Y5 / 6 in the morning, Y3 / Y4 in the afternoon, picnic 12-12:45)</i> <b>25.05.26 Half term week</b> 01.06.26 Multiplication check for 3 weeks (Y4 only) 02.06.26 Enhanced and focussed one plans 03.06.26 reserve sports day in case of poor weather 08.06.26 - 10.06.26 Mersea residential for Y6 22.06.26 Secondary school transition week (schools will choose their own dates) 26.06.25 School fete after school

<p>recording of the class perform a piece of music.  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>09.02.26-15.02.25 Children's mental health week  10.02.26 Safer internet day  <b>16.02.26 Half term week</b></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>  09.03.26 Science week  11.03.26 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:00  12.03.26 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:30</p> <p>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  <b>27.03.26 Last day of term</b></p>	<p>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</p> <p><b>16.07.26 Last day of term for children</b></p>
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# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TOY SCALPING, FAKES & SCAMS

Online scalping is when individuals or groups use automated software (bots) to bulk-buy high-demand items – such as gaming consoles, concert tickets, limited-edition trainers, or exclusive merchandise – with the intention of reselling them at vastly inflated prices. It's a fast-moving online trend that can frustrate young consumers and expose them to misleading practices or financial harm. As this unethical tactic grows, it's important to help children and young people understand how scalping works and how to navigate it responsibly.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### FINANCIAL PRESSURE AND MANIPULATION

Scalpers create artificial scarcity by buying up large quantities of stock before the public has a fair chance to purchase. This drives up demand and pushes prices to extreme levels. Young people may feel intense pressure to spend more than they can afford for fear of missing out entirely.

### EXPLOITATION OF FANDOMS

Scalping often targets popular releases with strong fan bases, knowing that loyal followers are emotionally invested. Children and young people may place huge value on owning certain items linked to their favourite artists, sports teams or games, making them more likely to accept unfair prices or questionable sellers.

### ACCESSING UNSAFE WEBSITES

In the rush to secure rare items, young people might click through to unverified sellers, online marketplaces with little consumer protection, or even sites designed specifically to harvest personal and financial data. This can expose them to fraud, malware, and identity theft.

### NORMALISING UNETHICAL BEHAVIOUR

Some influencers and online communities present scalping as a clever money-making scheme rather than an exploitative one. This can normalise dishonest behaviour and blur the line between legitimate business and opportunistic profiteering for younger audiences.

### RISK OF SCAMS OR COUNTERFEIT GOODS

Not every high-priced resale is legitimate. Fraudulent sellers may take payment for goods they never send, or ship counterfeit versions of branded items. In some cases, the product may look authentic in photos but turn out to be of poor quality or completely different from what was advertised.

### REINFORCING INEQUALITY

Scalping makes already expensive items even less accessible, particularly for lower-income families. Children may feel excluded from trends or shared experiences with friends if their family cannot meet the inflated prices, which can lead to with feelings of isolation and disappointment.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### TALK ABOUT ONLINE FAIRNESS

Use scalping as an opportunity to discuss fairness, consumer ethics, and how some people exploit markets for profit. Encouraging children to think critically about whether they truly need an item – and at what cost – can help them make more considered decisions.

### ENCOURAGE PATIENCE OVER IMPULSE

Teach young people to wait for official restocks or future releases instead of paying over the odds. Many products come back into circulation, and patience can save significant amounts of money while reducing the likelihood of falling victim to scams.

### SUPPORT INFORMED PURCHASING

Show children how to check seller credentials, read independent reviews, and verify whether a site is secure before making any payment. Knowing how to spot red flags, such as unrealistic promises or missing contact details, can prevent costly mistakes.

### SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Establish clear rules for online spending, including limits on prepaid cards, gaming gift cards, and online wallets. Discuss the real-world value of money spent on digital or collector's items so children understand the long-term impact of their purchases.

### Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.



Source: See full reference list on guide page 41



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