

# John Ray Times

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


26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Phone:** 01376 324107 **Email:** [johnrayjunior@compassps.uk](mailto:johnrayjunior@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>
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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:** [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:

### 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.

26.01.26 [Week 1](#) , 02.02.26 [Week 2](#) , 09.02.26 [Week 3](#)

### A Message from our catering provider, Chartwells:

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.

<p><b><a href="#">Zones of Regulation</a></b> The ZONES of Regulation</p> 	<p><b><a href="#">School Attendance Difficulties</a></b></p> 	<p><b><a href="#">Supporting Anxiety</a></b></p> 
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### 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.

### Young Voices 2026

Last Thursday, 31 children took part in the Young Voices choir of 2026 at the O2. The children had an amazing time and had spent many weeks learning the songs and rehearsing. The children behaved brilliantly, displaying all of our John Ray values. Many thanks to Miss Baker, Mrs Dowman, Miss Ball, Miss Clarke and Miss Cresswell for accompanying the children.



### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February, the catering team will be making pancakes for dessert.



### Online safety at home

Teaching children how to stay safe online is part of our curriculum and we regularly revisit this. In addition, most social media and messaging apps have an age rating that is higher than primary aged children. While we teach online safety in school, we cannot oversee or control internet use outside of school hours.

We encourage you to set appropriate boundaries and regularly discuss safe and responsible online behaviour with your child. Parents should also take responsibility for monitoring and managing their children's online activity at home. Each week, an online safety section is added to this newsletter and we have access to parental guides for many aspects of online games and apps. If you would like paper copies of these, please contact the school office.

Additional advice and support can also be found on the following sites:

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

[Homepage - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

**Individual school photos – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Just a reminder that school photos take place on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Children who have PE on that day should come to school in school uniform and bring their PE kit in a bag to change into.

### Year 6 SATs question of the week

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

4 pineapples cost £3.40



Calculate the cost of 1 pineapple.

1 mark

### 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?](#)

### 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: Harry (3W) player of the match, Jan (6O) player of the match, Oliver (4J) parents' player

Tennis: Eive (4T) player of the week

Sponsored walk: Chloe (5B) 5K walk

Gymnastics: Ellie (5B) and Amelie (5B)

Swimming: Owen (5E) has been picked to be part of the racing squad of Braintree Swim Club

Squash: Imogen (3W) 1<sup>st</sup> in an U9 tournament

Dancing: Darcey (5C) who has passed her grade 2 exam, Akasya (5C) grade 2 exam, Mia (6L) 1<sup>st</sup> place in fast pairs and fast solo, Bella (4B) award for overair arts



### 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: Paddy	4B: Ricky	5B: Gabriel	6G: Freddie N
3C: Bonnie	4CB: Jacob	5C: Akasya	6L: Hope
3P: Ruby	4J: Donnie	5E: Daniil	6O: Bianca
3W: Annaiyah	4T: Maddie	5W: Ronnie	6R: Spencer

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 0800 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 Roblox

Roblox is hugely popular with children, offering millions of user-created games and social experiences. The #WakeUpWednesday guide explains how the platform differs from traditional video games, and why its scale, self-rating system and automated moderation can expose young users to inappropriate content or unsafe interactions.

Aimed at parents and educators, the guide explores concerns including online communication, in-game spending and compulsive play. It also shares practical advice on parental controls, limiting chat and encouraging open conversations, helping adults support children to enjoy Roblox more safely and responsibly.

[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> , <a href="mailto:jbird@compassps.uk">jbird@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 Cottee (Assistant Head) if your child is in Y5 or Y6** – [rcottee@compassps.uk](mailto:rcottee@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)
- 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](#)
- 20.01.26 [Learning conferences - Spring term](#) (all year groups)

**Dates for the academic year 2024-2025 (new dates in red)**  
[Please see the website for the term dates](#)

Spring term	Summer term
<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><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>)</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>13.03.26 Parent workshop: Neurodiversity and sleep workshop 9:30-11:30 in the hall</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><b>27.03.25 PTA Break the rules day</b></p> <p><b>27.03.26 Last day of term</b></p>	<p><b>13.04.26 Children return to school</b></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><b>25.05.26 Half term week</b></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><b>16.07.26 Last day of term for children</b></p>

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# ROBLOX

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

### A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

### MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

### IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

### RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

### COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

### CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

### PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

@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: 21.01.2026

# FREE PARENT WEBINARS

for supporting your primary aged  
child with mental health and wellbeing

Provided by your Mental Health Support Team

@set\_camhs\_nhs

SIGN-UP & FIND  
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.



Striving to provide the best care by the best people



**NHS**  
North East London  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Holiday Club



Our free Holiday Club is run once a week during most school holidays. It creates a safe space for children to:

- participate in meaningful activities
- make friends and socialise
- access lunch and snacks

and all of this is while developing social and communication skills and exploring new talents or interests.

### Who is Holiday Club for?

Holiday Club sessions are booked and offered to families according to criteria. Priority will be given to those from lower income families, in receipt of pupil premium or eligible for free school meals.

**Activities are free and suitable for children aged 6 and over in primary school.**

For more information you can [read our Holiday Club Terms and Conditions](#).

### Where are the Holiday Club activities?

Activities are held at our Kids Inspire HQ, Hargrave House, ~~Hollycroft~~, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, CM2 7FW

**Time:** 10:30am-3:30pm

### Upcoming dates for 2026 Holiday Clubs:

**Tuesday 17 February 2026 - Animal Discovery with [Eden Oasis](#)**

This February half term, children will have the chance to meet and handle eight amazing animals with a visit from Eden Oasis! **Please be aware that this will include cockroaches, leaf insects, royal python, blue tongue skunk, tortoise, ferrets, armadillo and rabbits.**

Expressions of interest are now open for our February activity, please **complete our [expression of interest form](#)**.

[Eden Oasis - Animal Discovery Tuesday 17 February 2026 – Fill in form](#)

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