

John Ray Times

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

23rd March 2026

Phone: 01376 324107 **Email:** johnrayjunior@compassps.uk **Website:**

www.johnray.compassps.uk



@ facebook.com/[johnraycompassps](https://www.facebook.com/johnraycompassps)

Online learning links



[Accelerated Reader](#)



[Century Tech](#)



[ITRockstars](#)

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:

Autumn/Winter Menus:

23.03.26 [Week 3](#)

New Spring/Summer Menus:

We're excited to launch our new Spring/Summer menus after the Easter holidays!

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

13.04.26 [Week 1](#), 20.04.26 [Week 2](#), 27.04.26 [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.

[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.

Y4 Easter Experience Workshops at St Michael's Church

Last week, Y4 enjoyed a visit to the church for an Easter workshop. They took part in a range of engaging activities that helped them explore the meaning of Easter, including storytelling and crafts. The children represented JRJ beautifully: they asked thoughtful questions, learned about key events in the Easter story, and showed great curiosity throughout. Well done Y4.

After school clubs

This week is the last week for after school clubs. Summer term clubs start during the w/c 20th April.

Comic Relief- Friday 20th March



Thank you for all your donations, we raised £170

PTA Break the rules day Friday 27th March

The poster features a cartoon boy with a brown satchel riding a large yellow pencil. He is holding a ruler. The background is a blue and pink scribbled area with the text "BREAK the RULES DAY" in large, white, hand-drawn letters. A paper airplane and a baseball cap are also shown. A yellow box lists rules to be broken, and a pink box lists a suggested donation. A green box states the date. A speech bubble says "Here's how it works:" with an arrow pointing to a mobile phone icon. The Parentkind Member Association logo is at the bottom.

THE FRIENDS OF JOHN RAYNANT & JUNIOR SCHOOLS

BREAK the RULES DAY

Rules to be broken include:

- School uniform only!
- Neat and tidy hair!
- School shoes only!
- No crazy hair colours!
- No nail varnish!
- No temporary tattoos!
- No make up!

Here's how it works:

When Friday 27th March

Suggested donation £1 minimum

Parentkind Member Association

CSSE (Consortium of Selective Scholls in Essex) 11+ examination 2027 entry

11+ tests take place on 19th September and parents of children currently in Y5 will need to register in advance between 12th May and 5pm on 19th June. Information can be found on the [CSSE website](#).

Nuts and nut products

Please be aware that nuts, including peanuts, or products containing nuts are not allowed in school under any circumstances. This includes chocolate spread with nuts like Nutella and filled crepes and croissants.

Nuts should not be provided as part of a packed lunch.

Vacancy

We are looking for a Midday Assistant to join our team and support our children at lunchtime. If you would like further information and to apply for this role, please click [here](#).

Our Assemblies

In one of our assemblies last week, we found out more about St Patrick including how and why St Patrick's day is celebrated in different countries round the world.

We also followed up on the news that Pokémon is turning 30 this year. Pokémon was first created in Japan in 1996 as a video game and has since expanded in many ways. We discussed how we would answer the question: What makes something fun and how Pokémon has enabled people of different generations to have fun together. This linked in with the protected characteristic of age.

Rachel, from the outreach team at St Michael's Church, delivered the next assembly in a sequence that explore and retell the Easter story.

Year 6 SATs question of the week

Here is a question worth 2 marks from the Maths Reasoning paper.

Ali puts these five numbers in their correct places on a number line.

511 499 502 555 455

Write the number **closest** to 500

1 mark

Write the number **furthest** from 500

1 mark

Y5 and Y6 Easter Service at St Michael's Church

Y5 and Y6 will walk to St Michael's church tomorrow to take part in their Easter service. This takes place in school time and is for staff and children only. Children should wear suitable shoes for walking. Permission is not required as this is covered under the local visits consent.

Farewells

At the end of term, we say goodbye to Mrs Waspe and Miss Watson who are taking up positions in different schools. We wish them both well and thank them for all they have done for the school.

We will be welcoming Mrs Swann, new 3C teacher, and Mrs Ridley who will be teaching 3W. We also say goodbye to Mrs Clyde, one of our MDAs. Ann has worked at John Ray since 1997 and has supported 1000s of children. We wish her a very happy retirement.

St. Michael's Church presents...
SMASH holiday club 2026
MELODY MAKERS
3 mornings of fun, games, songs, Bible stories and much more!
for children of primary school age
Monday 30th March – Wednesday 1st April
9.30am – 12.30pm
To book scan the QR code

The poster features a piano keyboard background. A QR code is located on the right side, with a blue arrow pointing to it from the text 'To book scan the QR code'. The text 'for children of primary school age' is written in a white box with an orange border. The dates and times are listed in an orange box on the left.

Chartwells parent taster sessions

Chartwells, our school meal provider, will be hosting a parent taster session after school in the hall on 16th April. We look forward to seeing you there. Please enter via the hall doors.

Parent Governor Vacancies

Each Compass school has a local school committee composed of a group of volunteers drawn from the community, each bringing a range of skills, expertise and professional experience to the role. John Ray Infants and John Ray Juniors have a joint committee and we currently have vacancies for parent governors. Our Governors provide essential links between the school, parents/carers and the local community and work with staff and parents in an atmosphere of co-operation to provide the best possible framework for educating our children. Formal meetings are held once a term and training is provided. In addition, governors undertake termly monitoring alongside school leaders

If you would like further information about becoming a governor, please contact the school office.

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: Jan (6O) player of the match

Swimming: Harrison (5C) moved to stage 5, Paris (4B) passed stage 4, Amelie (3P) moved to stage 5, Alice (3W) 10m on her back and 5m on her front, Bailey (5C) 2000m distance award

Gymnastics: Effie (3P) grade 5



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: Reggie	4B: Nathan	5B: Callum, Ellie-Rose	6G: Aaron
3C: Anthony	4CB: Vinales	5C: Faye	6L: Taliah
3P:	4J: The whole class	5E: Phoebe	6O: Amir
3W: Bertie	4T: Billie-Rae	5W: Lopez	6R: Jimmy

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 setting boundaries around gaming

Behind video-sharing platforms (like YouTube) and streaming TV shows and movies, gaming is the third most popular online activity for children in the UK. In fact, according to recent data from Ofcom, an overwhelming 89% of children aged 3 to 17 play video games. Of those, more than one in five (22%) talk to other players online who they don't know outside the game.

The risk of contact from strangers is just one of the reasons that many parents are concerned about their child's gaming: increased screen time, inappropriate content and in-game spending also figure among the most frequent fears. Agreeing on some rules around your child's gaming activities can certainly help, and our guide has some useful tips for establishing these boundaries.

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.

Year 3	Year 4
3C: cwaspe1@compassps.uk 3B: dbanks@compassps.uk 3P: sphillips@compassps.uk 3W: zwatson@compassps.uk	4B: pwatts@compassps.uk , jbird@compassps.uk 4CB: hcollier-brown@compassps.uk 4J: jbrennan@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)

20.01.26 [Learning conferences - Spring term](#) (all year groups)

10.02.26 [Safer Internet Day 2026](#) (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
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	13.04.26 Children return to school 16.04.26 Chartwells (Meal provider) parent taster session after school in the hall 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> 25.05.26 Half term week 01.06.26 Multiplication check for 3 weeks (Y4 only) 02.06.26 Enhanced and focussed one plans 03.06.26/10.03.26 Year 3 dental checks

	<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>19.06.26 Non uniform day (donation for summer fete).</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>
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Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

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CENSORED

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: who's behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipol.app/about/privacy.html>

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