

John Ray Times

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

20th April 2026

Phone: 01376 324107 **Email:** johnrayjunior@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:

Spring/Summer Menus:

04.05.26 [Week 1](#), 20.04.26 [Week 2](#), 27.04.26 [Week 3](#). **On Thursday 23rd April, all children are invited to eat for free. Please see the information below.**

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](#)

The ZONES of Regulation

			
Blue Zone	Green Zone	Yellow Zone	Red Zone
calm focused happy productive	calm focused happy productive	calm focused happy productive	calm focused happy productive

[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.

Our Assemblies

In one of our assemblies in the last week of term, we explored the question. 'What makes someone a champion?' We looked at the question "what makes a great place to live?" In our discussions, we talked about place isn't just about where we live – what really matters is how we live together. How we care for our local community can make a big difference to everyone. This tied in with the British values of tolerance and mutual respect and the protected characteristic of religion or belief. In another of our assemblies, we looked at the Jewish festival of Passover, considering how Jews remember ancestors who left slavery behind them when they were led out of Egypt by Moses. We

learnt that Passover is celebrated with a series of rituals. Each ritual symbolises a different part of the story.

Sporting events

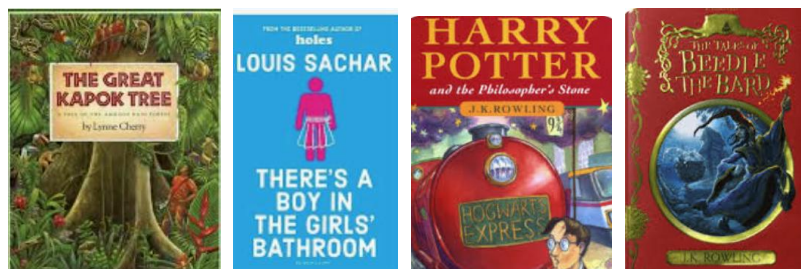
There have been a number of sporting events since we returned from the Easter holidays. On Thursday, we had our first boys' football match of the year. It was a home game against Nottley Green. While it wasn't the outcome we had hoped for, the boys played excellent as a team. Three goals were scored by William, Albert and Max. We have another match this Thursday and the boys are all hoping to secure their first win.

Essex Primary Cross Country

Nine of our children qualified for the Essex Primary Cross Country finals in Southend on 25th March. It was a chilly day but the children tried their best and represented John Ray brilliantly.



This half term's class texts



Y3: The Great Kapok Tree, Lynne Cherry

Y4: There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom, Louis Sachar

Y5: Harry Potter, J. K. Rowling

Y6: The Tales of Beedle, the Bard, J. K. Rowling

Special menu – Thursday 23rd April



Eat for Free!!!

Chartwells is inviting all children to have the opportunity to eat for **FREE** at John Ray Juniors

Thursday 23rd of April 2026

**No need for a packed lunch,
give school dinners a try!!**



**SAINT
GEORGE'S
DAY**

MAINS
Shepherds Pie or Veggie
Shepherds Pie (V)

SIDES
Mini Yorkshire Pudding,
Peas, Carrots and Gravy

DESSERTS
Jam and Coconut Sponge

*Menus may be subject to change

Chartwells

SEND Fest Event



SAT 30 MAY: 6pm - 9pm

EVENING
EVENT

AT COLCHESTER

**ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

Charity no. 105521

A fun festival exclusively for children & young
people with SEND & their families

DISCOVER OVER 150 SPECIES FROM AROUND
THE WORLD SET IN OVER 60 ACRES OF PARKLAND
AND LAKES - ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS - DINOSAUR
REALM - OUTDOOR PLAY AREAS - LOST MADAGASCAR
ROAD TRAIN - DISCOVERY DEN - SAND PLAY
FACE PAINTING - ANIMAL GUYZ

TICKETS: FROM JUST £10 PER PERSON + booking fee
<https://SENFESTZoo.eventbrite.co.uk>

BOOK
ONLINE



After school clubs

Summer term clubs have started today.

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.

Year 6 SATs question of the week

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

Amina's bed is 190cm in length and 91cm in width.

She is making a **one-tenth** scale model of the bed.

What are the length and width of Amina's model?

length = cm

width = cm

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 players of the match: Logan (5C), Alex W (6R), Alex N (6R) Jan (6O), Dominic (6R), Albert (6R)

Archery and table tennis medal: Teddy (3W)

Scouting: Jack (5B)

Other achievements: Ruby (3W) donated 13 inches of her hair to the Little Princess Trust raising £400



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: Tommy	4B: Jorgie	5B: Faith	6G: Abrish
3C: Harry	4CB: Kensie & Grace	5C: Ibrahim	6L: -
3P: Afnan	4J: Musa	5E: Elisa	6O: Jan
3W: Primrose	4T: Pollyanna	5W: -	6R:

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.

From Monday 20.04.26, PE days have changed for 3B, 3W, 4CB and 5E

Monday: 4B, 5E, 3B, 6G
 Tuesday: Y5, 3P, 3W, 3C
 Wednesday: Y4, 6R, 6O, 6L
 Thursday: Y3, 5B, 4CB, 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 app and play stores

With millions of apps available and children accessing them from an increasingly young age, app stores can present a range of risks. From malware and copycat apps to inappropriate content and persuasive in-app purchases, this guide highlights how easily young users can encounter issues – even when using official platforms.

It also offers clear, practical advice to help parents and educators manage these risks. From setting up parental controls and checking app credibility to having open conversations about safe usage, the guide supports adults in building children's awareness, encouraging safer choices and promoting more balanced, responsible app use.

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.

<p style="text-align: center;">Year 3</p> 3C: kswann@compassps.uk 3B: dbanks@compassps.uk 3P: sphillips@compassps.uk 3W: cridley@compassps.uk	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 4</p> 4B: pwatts@compassps.uk , jbird@compassps.uk 4CB: aharris@compassps.uk 4J: jbreennan@compassps.uk 4T: tbeeson@compassps.uk, kbreen@compassps.uk
<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 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](#)

Summer term

20.04.26 First week of after school clubs

11.05.26 SATs week

20.05.26 Sports day (Y5 / 6 in the morning, Y3 / Y4 in the afternoon, picnic 12-12:45)

25.05.26 Half term week

01.06.26 Multiplication check for 3 weeks (Y4 only)

02.06.26 Enhanced and focussed one plans

03.06.26/10.06.26 Year 3 dental checks

03.06.26 reserve sports day in case of poor weather

08.06.26 - 10.06.26 Mersea residential for Y6

19.06.26 Non uniform day (donation for summer fete).

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 (*Children having PE today should bring their PE kit in a separate bag*)

06.07.26 SEND Coffee morning with SPACE (secondary transition focus) 9:30-10:30am

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APP & PLAY STORES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Since the introduction of Apple's App Store and Google's Play Store, an estimated two million apps have been made available on each. Ofcom's 2025 media use and attitudes report states that more than half of children aged between 3 and 7 use apps or sites to communicate with each other, and, by the ages of 10 to 12, 45% of children are playing games on their mobile phones. This guide will help you ensure that children use the app stores and their content safely.

MALICIOUS APPS WITH MALWARE

Although Google and Apple must approve the apps on their official stores, inappropriate content sometimes slips through the net. For example, in 2025, the security company Kaspersky found that multiple iOS and Android apps contained screen-reading software, primed to look for passwords and stealing crypto-wallet recovery phrases captured in screenshots.

UNOFFICIAL COPYCAT APPS

Both official app stores contain copycat apps – often games – designed to look like popular rivals, mimicking their branding, layout and logos. While these will usually just offer a poor experience packed with ads as a quick money-making exercise, they're also more likely to be vessels for malware than the products they're counterfeiting.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

As the App Store and Play Store are for all ages, there's a lot of content available that's inappropriate for children. Examples include apps that have references to alcohol, drugs, sex, violence or gambling. In general, these are sensibly age-rated, but social media sites such as YouTube and TikTok, which both have an App Store age rating of 12+, can be gateways to adult material.

PREDATORY IN-APP PURCHASES

App-making is a business, and most creators have found that 'freemium' software is the way to make money. That means the app will be free initially but will either require the user to watch ads or rely on them making in-app purchases. Some 'free' apps can be predatory, and there are plenty of examples reported where parents have racked up huge bills on behalf of their children's app activity.

ADDICTIVE BY DESIGN

Phone addiction is fast becoming recognised as a real concern, and apps are a big part of this. Freemium apps have a real incentive to keep children checking in every day in order to generate more ad views or secure extra in-app purchases. This can interfere with schoolwork and other offline hobbies.

SIDELoadED BANNED APPS

'Sideloaded' – the more complicated practice of installing applications on a device from sources other than the official app stores – bypasses Google's and Apple's security procedures; however, it is possible for tech-savvy users. This opens up huge risks – not just apps that would be forbidden by Apple and Google, but pirate ones packed with malware too.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS FOR APPS

Both Google and Apple have apps that can give adults greater control over children's phone activity. 'Screen Time' (iPhone) and 'Family Link' (Android) have a range of features, such as letting you set age-related restrictions on the app stores, require permission to download an app, set daily time limits on specific apps, and control real-world spending.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

If children ask permission to download an app, do your due diligence and research it. Read the app summary and search the internet for reviews and discussions to establish its legitimacy, safety and appropriateness – if it doesn't seem to be appropriate, look for safer alternatives instead.

LOOK BEYOND THE REVIEWS

App store reviews are helpful, but they are easily gamed, and some unscrupulous developers will pay for quick reviews to give their work perceived legitimacy. Take more than a cursory glance at listings by digging out the one- and two-star reviews and looking closely at the developer – for example, if they've published a lot of unrelated apps, that's a red flag.

TALK TO YOUR CHILD

Talk to children and make sure they're aware that apps can be risky. As part of a wider talk about internet literacy, ensure they don't download apps outside of the official channels, nor grant apps permission to access their camera, microphone, or photos without a good reason. Make sure they understand that in-game currency costs real-world money.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College