




John Ray Times

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

27th 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](#), 11.05.26 [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.

<p>Zones of Regulation</p> 	<p>School Attendance Difficulties</p> 	<p>Supporting Anxiety</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.

Our Assemblies

In one of our assemblies last week we found out more about the London marathon and explored the question, 'Is it ever too late to try something new?' We discovered that an 82 year old runner, Eileen Hieron is showing that age isn't holding her back after she started running in her 70s and completed her first marathon aged 74. This tied in with our core values of hope and courage and the protected characteristic of age. In another of our assemblies, we looked at the patron saint of England, St George. We learnt more about him and found out he is the patron saint of many other countries and cities.

Sporting events

Last week, our boys' team played an away football match against Lyons Hall. It was a tight and fiercely competitive game with John Ray winning 1-0. Well done team!

The girls' team faced strong opposition when playing White Court in our team's match first of the season. Despite losing, the John Ray girls kept held their heads high and showed strong team spirit.

SATs information for Y6 parents

SATs Breakfast

Y6 children are invited to come into school at 8am on the days of the tests to have a relaxed start to the day with their friends. There will be toast, fruit, juice and other goodies to share and staff on hand to answer any last minute questions. They should come to the front gate and can walk around to the courtyard door to enter the building.

SATs Timetable

This year's KS2 assessments take place over four days from 11 to 14 May 2026. The timetable is:

- Monday 11th May – English grammar, punctuation and spelling
 - Tuesday 12th May – English reading
- Wednesday 13th May – Mathematics (arithmetic and reasoning)
 - Thursday 14th May – Mathematics (reasoning)

- **What if my child is ill on the day?**

If you feel your child is not well enough to take part in the tests on the day, please phone the school and ask to speak to a senior leader.

What are the SATs actually for?

SATs help to measure how your child is doing at the end of primary school and make sure they get the right support as they move into secondary school.

When will we get the results?

Schools will receive results in early July. Before the end of the summer term, we will send you a report including their test results and teacher assessment judgements. Results are given as a scaled score – a score of 100 or above means your child is working at or above the expected standard for their age.

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.

Year 6 SATs question of the week

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

Dev says,

I had £10
I gave some money away.



Which expression shows how much money Dev has left?

a is the amount of money, in pounds, that Dev gave away.

Tick one.

$10 + a$

$10 \div a$

$a - 10$

$10 - a$

$a \times 10$

SEND Fest Event

SAT 30 MAY: 6pm - 9pm

AT COLCHESTER ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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 GUVZ

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

BOOK ONLINE

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 should not be provided as part of a packed lunch.

Frozen Fridays

Frozen Fridays are back starting this week thanks to the brilliant PTA.



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 \(pop-essex.org\)](#).

FREE WEBINARS FOR PARENTS/ CARERS

of primary aged children to support with mental health and wellbeing

Provided by your Mental Health Support Team
@EssexMHST_and_SETcamhs

bit.ly/3MaR1wJ



Coming up in May...

Supporting Your Child with Fears and Worries
6th May 10 am

Understanding Anxiety & Emotional Based School Avoidance
12th May 6:30 pm



Striving to provide the best care by the best people



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.

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.

Swimmers: Evie (4T) stage 7, Alice (3W) awarded a certificate

Dancing: Charlie (3B) Waltz award

Karate: Finley (4CB) Double gold medals

Ella-Rose (5B) A selection of brownie badges

Football: Players of the match-Jenson (6R), Joe (6R), Freddie (6R), Jacob (6R), Oscar(6R), Oliver (4J), Teddy (5W).

Football – cup final winners: Joe, Jenson and Freddie (all in 6R) won their League Cup Final yesterday



3B: Isabella	4B: Bella-Rose	5B: Aaryan	6G: The whole class
3C: Harrison	4CB: Alex	5C: Jackson	6L: William
3P: Willow & Harley	4J: Bella	5E: Rosie	6O: Tate
3W: Katie	4T: Kooper	5W: Teddy	6R: Kelsie, Freddie

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.

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 Coffee 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](tel:08001111) at any time on [0800 1111](tel:08001111).



National Online Safety: What parents and carers need to know about online grooming

Online Grooming is when someone befriends and builds an emotional relationship with a child and communicates with them through the internet with the intent to commit a sexual offence. This type of victimisation can take place across any platform; from social media and messaging apps to online gaming and live streaming. Often it involves young people being tricked, forced or pressured into doing something they wouldn't normally do (coercion) and often the groomer's goal is to meet the victim in a controlled setting to sexually or physically abuse them. In some cases children may be abducted or have long-lasting psychological damage.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as strangers online, closed messaging and emotional attachments.

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: kswann@compassps.uk 3B: dbanks@compassps.uk 3P: sphillips@compassps.uk 3W: cridley@compassps.uk	4B: pwatts@compassps.uk, jbird@compassps.uk 4CB: aharris@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 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

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

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, facts and tips for adults.



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What parents need to know about

ONLINE GROOMING



CHILDREN ARE MOST VULNERABLE

Unsurprisingly children are often most at risk as they are easy to target and a likely to question the person who is engaging in conversation with them. Groomers will use psychological tricks and methods to try and isolate them from their families and friends and will often choose to target more vulnerable children who may be easier to persuade. Predators will stalk apps and websites that are popular with young people and will use a targeted approach to find victims, contacting hundreds of children to increase their chance of success.



LIVE STREAMING CONCERNS

Predators may use live video to target children in real-time using webcams, done or built-in gifts to make date lines. Grooming often takes the form of a game where children receive 'likes' or even money for performing sexual acts. Social media channels, such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat, all have live streaming or public live, but there are many apps which children can use to live stream, including Omegle, Liveme, BIGO Live, Yellow and many more.



ANYONE CAN BE A PREDATOR

The internet has made the ability to talk to strangers online easy. Many sites and apps are reliant on individual users entering their own information when signing up. However individuals can waste a great deal if they choose to enter inaccurate information and many online predator cases are due to groomers using impersonation techniques. However, often the greatest threat comes from adults who 'let's in plain sight', choosing to befriend young children without taking their real identity.



CAN BE DIFFICULT TO DETECT

Unfortunately most children feel the 'grooming' process (before any meeting or exchange) as the predator will compliment, encourage, and flatter them to gain their trust, friendship and loyalty - it tends to always contain 'secrets'. This often means children fail to disclose or report what is happening, if the groomer is also previously known to the child, their family and their friends, then this can make detection even harder.



FROM OPEN TO CLOSED MESSAGING

Online predators may contact their victims using any number of ways including social media, forums, chat rooms, gaming communities or live streaming apps. Sometimes, there is little need to develop a friendship (support stage) as the victim has already shared personal information online and is prepared to add other online friends they don't know so well to gain online credibility through increasing their friends list. Predators will often take this opportunity to slowly build a relationship and then move their conversation with the child to a more secure and private area, such as through direct messaging.

EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENTS

Online predators will use creative language and aim to form close, trusted bonds with their victims through showering them with compliments and making them feel good about themselves. Often victims will refer to them as their 'boyfriends' or 'girlfriends' and it can be difficult to convince some young people that they have been groomed, often leading to lasting psychological effects.

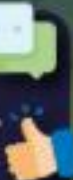


Safety Tips for Parents & Carers



IT'S GOOD TO TALK

It's entirely okay to stop your child using the internet, but you can constantly monitor their online activities, but you can talk to your child on a regular basis about what they do online. By talking openly with them about online relationships, they can quickly ascertain the kind of behavior which is appropriate or inappropriate. Ask them whether they have any online friends or if they play online games with people they haven't met. This could be open up conversations about the subject of grooming.



CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

In order to give your child a safer online experience, it is important to check privacy settings on parental controls on the networks, devices, apps, and websites they use. Double location sharing if you can. If you use location-sharing apps to check where your child is, remember that these could always be used by strangers to follow your child without their knowledge. Even if you check up on so that location information is never shared with anyone except those they have permission to share with.



MONITOR SOCIAL MEDIA & LIVE-STREAMING USE

It's important to be aware of what your children are sharing on social media and with whom. Create your own profile and become 'friends' with the user before them so that you can monitor their activity. Similarly, always check on them if they are live streaming and implement privacy controls. Choose a unique screen name and profile picture that hides their identity. You may also find more comfortable living present each time they live stream.



STICK TO 'TRUE FRIENDS'

Make it clear to your children that they should not accept friend requests from people they don't know and to verify friend requests with people who they do know. Encourage them to only interact and engage with 'true friends' (i.e. those friends who don't ask personal questions such as close family and friends). Remind them to never share chat personally with strangers or someone they don't really know and to never disclose personal information, such as mobile phone numbers, addresses, passwords or the name of their school.



DISCUSS HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Talk to your child about what a healthy relationship looks like and how to detect someone who might not be who they claim to be. Explain that groomers will pay your child compliments and engage in conversations about personal information, such as hobbies and relationships. They may ask you how and they play an online game or how they look in photos. Groomers will also try and isolate a child from people close to them, such as parents and friends, in order to make their relationship feel special and unique.

BE SUPPORTIVE

Show your child that you will support them and make sure they understand they can come to you with any concerns they may have. They need to know they can talk to you if someone does something they are uncomfortable with, whether that is inappropriate comments, images, requests or sexual comments.



Meet our expert

Jonathan Taylor is an online safety expert and Senior Content Internet Investigator for the Metropolitan Police. He is responsible for the grooming and exploitation and has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, social media apps and platforms.



LOOK OUT FOR WARNING SIGNS

Child safety experts have identified key grooming patterns and advise parents to look out for:

- Secretive online behavior.
- Late night internet or smartphone usage.
- Meeting new friends in unusual places.
- Frequent lying, cheating, sleeping or being provoked or even bullying.
- Lack of interest in other computer activities.
- Hiding items, such as clothes or photos, unsupervised.
- Loss of interest, anxious, depressed or aggressive.
- Hiding other boyfriends or girlfriends.





FOOTBALL
DEVELOPMENT

OPEN TRIALS

TRIALS IN:

PETERBOROUGH

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

HERTFORDSHIRE

SUFFOLK

SURREY



SCAN
HERE
TO
BOOK

