

John Ray Times

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

11th May 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
---	---	---	--

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:

01.06.26 [Week 1](#), 11.05.26 [Week 2](#), 18.05.26 [Week 3](#).

Special Menu Days

21.05.25 — To celebrate World Bee Day, we will be offering a special menu. Please click [here](#) to view the menu.

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.

Our Assemblies

In one of our assemblies last week we celebrated Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday by discussing the question, 'why do some people become so important to the world'. We looked at

key events in his life and then explored how he had inspired millions of others to learn, care and make a difference. This linked in with our own core value of responsibility.

Sporting events

Our girls' football team have played a match against Notley Green Primary School. The match finished 3-2 to Notley Green. The girls had amazing attitude, coming back from 3-0 down to nearly getting a draw in the last minute. Well done girls.

Goals scored by Darcey - 5C and Selen - 6R
Player of the match was Isla - 5B for her super defensive display.

Sports Day 20.05.26

Parents and carers should have received a letter regarding arrangements for sports day. As a reminder, parents/ carers of children in Year 5 and Year 6 are invited to join us from **09:45** with the sports activities taking place from 10:00 until 11:45. Following the activities, parents/ carers can stay for a picnic lunch.

The Year 3 and Year 4 sports day will start at **13:00** with an approximate finish time of 15:00. Year 3 and Year 4 visitors are welcome to arrive at **12:00** to join us for the picnic lunch before their sports day starts. Please see the full letter for further information.

Toys and trading cards from home

This is just a reminder that trading cards of any description eg, Premier League cards or toys are not permitted in school.

Thank you



Are you worried about your child travelling to secondary school on their own in September?
Is your child anxious about travelling to school by bus for the first time on their own?

Being able to travel independently is a key life skill.

Travel Training gives people with SEN or additional needs the confidence and skills to travel on buses and trains independently. We can also help with walking routes.

Anyone can refer using our online referral form, we aim to be in touch within 10 days.

www.travel-training.co.uk

Travel.training@essex.gov.uk

03330322872

Please take a look at our travel training video by clicking here: [Travel Training, The journey to independence - Essex County Council](#)



SEND Fest Event



★ Accept - Advocate - Include ♥

SAT 30 MAY: 6pm - 9pm

EVENING
EVENT

AT COLCHESTER ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Charity no. 1105621

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



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.

Layla wants to estimate the answer to this calculation.

$$3\frac{9}{10} - 2\frac{1}{8} + 1\frac{4}{5}$$

Tick the calculation below that is the best estimate.

Tick **one**.

3 - 2 + 2

4 - 2 + 1

4 - 2 + 2

3 - 2 + 1

Frozen Fridays

Frozen Fridays are back 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 \(compassps.uk\)](mailto:John.Ray@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.

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.

Well done to Teddy (5W), Henry (5E) and Bailey (5C) who took part in the Uks biggest festival became the ESF '26 champions at the weekend. To top it off the team also won the fair play award.
Well done boys!



Swimmers: Riley (5C) passed stage 5, Ben (3P) can now swim a width, Annabelle (3P) passed stage

4

Football players of the match: Harry (3P), Afnan (3P), Theo (5E), Isaac (4B),

Football: Henry (3B) accepted to a football academy

Gymnastics: Mia (6L) 3rd and 6th place

Dancers: Charlie (3B) samba, Victoria (5W) 1st place and 7th place, Maja (5W) first place, Isis (4T) 3rd and 4th place, Basia 3rd and 5th place

Cubs: Connor (3B) invested

Scouts: Jack (5B), Callum (5B) scout badges

Netball: Rosie (5E) player of the match

3B: Aqib	4B:	5B: William, Brad	6G:
3C: Yeleina, Daphne	4CB: Oliver, Jake	5C: Riley, Delilah	6L: Amelia, Daniel
3P: Ben, Christabel	4J: Isabella	5E: Scarlett, Alice	6O: Ethan
3W: Finley, Lillian	4T: Zak, Ivanna	5W: Summer, Simas	6R: Selen, Jacob

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 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 tracking devices

Tracking devices like AirTags and SmartTags were designed to help people find lost belongings, but they've also opened the door to worrying forms of misuse. Their compact size and subtle design make them easy to hide, which can lead to the unwanted tracking of people without their knowledge. From stalking and bullying to potential misuse by peers, these gadgets bring a range of risks that trusted adults must stay aware of.

This guide examines the growing popularity of Bluetooth trackers, the most common ways they're being misused, and how to spot signs that a child may be affected. With practical tips on detecting hidden devices, using the right apps, and starting important conversations, it's a vital read for parents, carers and educators looking to stay ahead of a fast-moving issue.

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> <p>3C: kswann@compassps.uk 3B: dbanks@compassps.uk 3P: sphillips@compassps.uk 3W: criddle@compassps.uk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 4</p> <p>4B: pwatts@compassps.uk, jbird@compassps.uk 4CB: aharris@compassps.uk 4J: jbrennan@compassps.uk 4T: tbeeson@compassps.uk, kbreen@compassps.uk</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Year 5</p> <p>5B: hbreeze@compassps.uk 5E: cellis@compassps.uk 5C: dcasey@compassps.uk 5W: awilson1@compassps.uk, rcottee@compassps.uk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 6</p> <p>6G: ngibson@compassps.uk 6L: jarbalestier@compassps.uk 6O: cosullivan1@compassps.uk 6R: rroberts@compassps.uk</p>

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)
- 11.05.26 [Sports day](#) (all year groups)

Dates for the academic year 2024-2025 (new dates in red)

[Please see the website for the term dates](#)

Summer term 2026

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 TRACKING DEVICES

Bluetooth tracking devices like Apple's AirTag and Samsung's SmartTags have exploded in popularity, with millions sold each year. These small tools help people locate their lost items, but their discreet design has also made them attractive for more sinister purposes. From stalking to bullying, tracking devices present unique risks that trusted adults need to understand and address.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STALKING AND HARASSMENT

Because of their tiny size and unassuming appearance, tracking devices can easily be hidden in bags or clothing. They've been used to monitor individuals without their knowledge, with a lawsuit in the US labelling AirTags "the weapon of choice of stalkers and abusers". In the UK, use of tracking devices in coercive control and stalking cases reportedly rose by 317 percent between 2018 and 2023.

TOOLS FOR BULLYING

Tracking devices could allow bullies to follow or locate their targets even outside of school. This makes it difficult for children to find refuge, potentially extending the trauma of bullying into spaces – like home – that should feel safe and secure.

FALSE ACCUSATIONS

Because tracking devices are linked to user accounts, they could be misused to 'prove' ownership of someone else's possessions. Someone could, for example, plant a tracker on another person's belongings to falsely claim them as their own.

INVASION OF PRIVACY

These devices are designed to share location data with the user via other people's phones, which can unintentionally broadcast someone's movements without their consent. This makes them vulnerable to being monitored by strangers without realising.

DIFFICULT TO DETECT

Many tracking devices are designed to be discreet, but that also means they're easy to hide. Without proactive checking or the right tech to detect them, children and young people might not realise they're being tracked.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH FOR WARNING SIGNS

If a child's peers always seem to know their location – whether in person or hinted at online – it could be worth checking for tracking devices. Some, like AirTags, will eventually make a noise if separated from their owner. Listen out for a chirping sound.

CHECK LIKELY HIDING SPOTS

Common places where trackers may be planted include jacket linings, bag seams, pockets, or under bike seats. If you find one, take a photo of the serial number before disposing of it – this could help police trace the account it's linked to.

USE DETECTION APPS

Apple devices running iOS 14.5 or later will notify users of unknown AirTags nearby. Android users can install Apple's 'Tracker Detect' or the third-party app 'AirGuard' to scan for tracking devices from various manufacturers.

HAVE THE CONVERSATION

Talk to your child about what tracking devices are, what signs to look out for, and how they might be misused. Emphasise the legal consequences of using them to prank, harass, or monitor someone.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a seasoned technology journalist with bylines in Wired, TechRadar, The Guardian, The Evening Standard, The Telegraph, and The New Statesman. He specialises in consumer tech, online safety, and emerging risks in the digital landscape.

