

# John Ray Times

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

18<sup>th</sup> May 2026

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[www.johnray.compassps.uk](http://www.johnray.compassps.uk)



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

Spring/Summer Menus:

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 discussed Eurovision and learnt that this year it is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. It helped us to talk about the question 'how can music bring us together?' and

explore the theme of celebrating diversity. This linked with the protected characteristic of race and the British value of tolerance and mutual respect.

### **Well done Y6**

Well done to our brilliant Y6 children who approached the SATs last week with determination and a fantastic attitude. We are all very proud of you.

### **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 3 and 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 and keep an eye out for any messages on MCAS as our plans may have to change in the event of bad weather.**

**All children will need to come to school wearing PE kit on Wednesday this week.**

### **Parent drop ins for 3C, 3W and 4CB- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2:45-3:45**

Parents of 3C, 3W and 4CB are invited to drop in to class anytime between 2:45-3:45 on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June. This is an opportunity for parents to informally meet the new class teachers and take a look at the children's work.

Please enter through the white hall doors.

### **Learning conferences for 3W**

Learning conferences for 3W, which were cancelled in the spring term, will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> June 3:45- 5pm 23<sup>rd</sup> June from 3:45-6:30. Slots will be available to book on MCAS from Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Toys and trading cards from home**

This is just a reminder that trading cards of any description e.g. Premier League cards or toys are not permitted in school. Children are also not permitted to bring in their own fidget tools or ear defenders. If children need these as a reasonable adjustment, they will be provided for them.

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](http://www.travel-training.co.uk)

[Travel.training@essex.gov.uk](mailto: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

**SAT 30 MAY: 6pm - 9pm**  
AT COLCHESTER ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Charity no. 105621

**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

## 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 2025 Maths Reasoning paper.

5

Write the three missing digits to make this multiplication correct.

$$\begin{array}{r} \square 5 \square \\ \times \quad \quad 3 \\ \hline 7 \square 2 \end{array}$$

Here is a question from the 2024 grammar and punctuation paper. It is worth 1 mark.

6

Which sentence uses an **apostrophe** correctly?

Tick **one**.

The car's horn beeps loudly.

The cars' horn beeps loudly.

The cars horn beep's loudly.

The cars horn beeps' loudly.

### 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 \(compassps.uk\)](#).

### 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

3B: Dexter	4B: Aleah	5B: Muhammad	6G: The whole class
3C: Greg	4CB: Francesca	5C: Bailey	6L: The whole class
3P: The whole class	4J: -	5E: Owen	6O: The whole class
3W:	4T: Toby	5W: Francesca and Neerav	6R: The whole class

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



### **National Online Safety: What parents and carers need to know about Snapchat**

With over 900 million monthly users, Snapchat continues to be a favourite among children and young people; however, with its ever-evolving features, the risks have evolved too. From AI-generated filters and chatbots, to disappearing messages and the Snap Map location-sharing tool, it's easy for children to stumble into unsafe territory. This guide breaks down the latest updates, including the Lens+ subscription service, and web browser access.

We've also unpacked the risks of sextortion scams, overuse, and inappropriate content that may slip through the app's moderation systems. With expert advice from online safety consultant Dr Claire Sutherland, this guide is a must-read for anyone helping young people navigate Snapchat responsibly and confidently.

[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.

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: jbreannan@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](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)

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

10.02.26 [Safer Internet Day 2026](#) (all year groups)

20.05.26 [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

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

**04.06.26 Drop in for parents of 3W, 3C, 4CB 2:45-3:45 (please enter via the white hall doors)**

08.06.26 - 10.06.26 Mersea residential for Y6

**18.06.26 3W learning conferences**

19.06.26 Non uniform day (donation for summer fete).

22.06.26 Secondary school transition week (schools will choose their own dates)

23.06.26 **3W learning conferences**

26.06.26 School fete after school

29.06.26 Last week of after school clubs

30.06.26 Children to spend time with new teacher

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

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**

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

### SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🍌 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

### SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

### SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

### ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

### BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

### USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

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/www.thenationalcollege

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@wake.up.weds

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