

John Ray Times

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

8th June 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:

15.06.26 [Week 1](#) 01.06.2026 [Week 2](#) 08.06.26 [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 The 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.

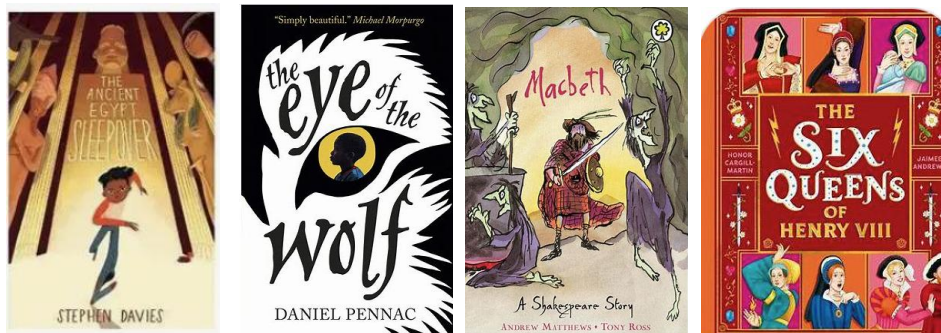
Our Assemblies

In one of our assemblies last week, we discussed the recent story of two sisters from Gaza who had the idea to make new bricks from the rubble of the ruins and destroyed buildings in Gaza. We then discussed the question 'How can people create hope during difficult times?' As one of our own core values is **hope**, we talked about how we demonstrated hope in everyday experiences as well as when things were tricky. Last week, we also looked at the Hajj pilgrimage to Makkah and discussed this in relation to the 5 Pillars of Islam.

Class texts

Children have started reading their new class texts. These are often used as a stimulus for writing outcomes which we carefully publish and display around our school.

This half term, the texts are:



Y3: The Ancient Egyptian Sleepover, Stephen Davies

Y4: The Eye of the Wolf, Daniel Pennac

Y5: Macbeth, William Shakespeare

Y6: The six queens of Henry VIII, Honor Cargill-Martin

RSE (relationships, Health and Sex Educations)

Letters have been sent out regarding the teaching of RSE (relationships, Health and Sex Educations). Lessons take place for 2 weeks from 22nd June. Please read the letter for further information. Copies can also be found in the 'recent letters' section below and on our website.

Reduction to the published admission number

Following our recent consultation, the DfE have approved the reduction in our published admission number from 120 to 90 for the 2027-28 academic year.

Multiplication check for Y4

Just a reminder that children in Y4 continue to take part in the multiplication table check this week and next.

A parental leaflet with further information can also be accessed here:

[Parent leaflet MTC](#)

Message to Y5 parents from Notley High School

Notley High School & Sixth Form - Year 5 School Tour – Intake September 2027

Mr Barrow warmly invites Year 5 parents and carers to visit the school for a guided tour. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore our school, observe lessons in progress, and learn more about what we offer our students.

Please note that spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you are unable to attend either of these sessions, we will also be hosting an Open Morning on Saturday, 26 September 2026 for parents, carers and prospective students where there will be hands-on activities across a range of subject and speak to teachers and staff from all areas of the school.

To reserve your place on a tour, please select one of the dates below (one ticket per person):

Wednesday 8 July – 9am – 9.45am:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1990785062713?aff=oddtcreator>

Thursday 9 July – 9am – 9.45am

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1990786287376?aff=oddtcreator>

Friday 10 July – 9am – 9.45am

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1990786513051?aff=oddtcreator>

In October, there will also be an opportunity to book a tour with your child. Further details will be shared in due course.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school.

Learning conferences for 3W

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

Toys and trading cards from home

This is just a reminder that toys or trading cards of any description e.g. Premier League cards 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.

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.

Non uniform day 19.06.26

We are all looking forward to our summer fete that will be held on Friday 26th June. To help with this, we are holding a non-uniform day on Friday 19th June. Please see information below.

NON-UNIFORM DAY
FRIDAY 19TH JUNE
IN AID OF OUR SUMMER FETE
SUGGESTED DONATIONS BELOW

Years 3 - 6



A bottle for our bottle tombola, or a bottle of alcoholic/non-alcoholic wine for our wine or water game

We know times are tough, so please only donate if you can. Please feel free to donate anything you can from any year group suggestion, we are grateful for any donations.

Contact: pta.secretary.friendsofjohnray@gmail.com

Year 6 SATs question of the week

Here is a question worth 2 mark from the 2017 Maths Reasoning paper.

Write three factors of 30 that are **not** factors of 15

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Here is a question from the 2022 grammar and punctuation paper. It is worth 1 mark.

Which option completes the sentence in the **past perfect**?

Soon after a Frenchman _____ the first land speed record, it was broken.

Tick **one**.

- has set
- had set
- set
- was setting

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.

Football: Players of the match: Harry (3P), Afnan ((3P). Football presentation parents' player: Reggie (3B), through to the semi-final: William (4B)

Dancing: Charlie (3B) foxtrot, Edith (3W) bronze medals for tap and ballet, Taylor (4B) dancing in the Braintree carnival.

Brownies: Willow (3P) performance badge

Stars of the Week

3B: Connor	4B: Mya	5B: Ozzy	6G:
3C: Anthony	4CB: Sidley-Rai	5C: Ruby & Annilyn	6L:
3P: Mason	4J: Matilda	5E: Elisa	6O: Keira
3W: Isabelle	4T: Kerym	5W: Nicholas	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.

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 Making friends online

As technology becomes increasingly embedded in young people's lives, it's common for them to form friendships entirely online. These connections can provide companionship and community — but they also bring potential dangers that parents and educators need to be aware of. From online grooming and privacy breaches to exposure to upsetting content, meeting people on the internet isn't without risk. This guide explains the possible hazards of online friendships and gives parents and educators essential advice on helping children build safe, positive relationships online.

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.
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)
- 20.05.26 [Sports day](#) (all year groups)
- 08.06.26 RSE Letters [Yr 3](#), [Yr 4](#), [Yr 5](#), [Yr 6](#) (Please click on your child's year group)

Dates for the academic year 2024-2025 (new dates in red)
[Please see the website for the term dates](#)

Summer term

- 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**

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sextortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 28-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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Are your little ones off to school this September?

Little Monsters House of Fun are giving parents & children starting primary school this September, the opportunity to get together & make friends



Mini Monster Reception Class Meets

For individual school dates/times and to register scan this QR code or visit www.littlemonstersoftplay.co.uk

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Cafe - free parking - free wifi - Summer garden with playframes

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