

# John Ray Times

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

15<sup>th</sup> June 2026

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@ 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](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:**

15.06.26 [Week 1](#) 22.06.2026 [Week 2](#) 29.06.26 [Week 3](#).

**Week 2 menu – Tuesday's burgers will now be replaced with a crispy chicken burger.**

**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



### [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 looked at the Men's World Cup and discussed 'What can football teach us about the world?' We learnt that this year's world cup is the biggest ever and that Mexico are the only team to have hosted the event 3 times. On Tuesday, we found out more about the oceans and specifically how we can protect them. This coincided with World Oceans day on 8<sup>th</sup> June. We learnt about Boylan Slot, an inventor from the Netherlands who became interested in oceans after seeing large amounts of rubbish and pollution while diving as a teenager. At 18, he presented his idea to clean up the oceans and later founded the organisation called the Ocean Cleanup.

## Mersea Residential

The children and staff had a great time at Mersea last week, trying lots of new activities and making memories. Take a look at our Facebook page for photos.

Many thanks to all the staff who supported with the residential.

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Please read the letter for further information. Copies can also be found in the 'recent letters' section below and on our website.

## Non uniform day 19.06.26

We are all looking forward to our summer fete that will be held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June. To help with this, we are holding a non-uniform day on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:pta.secretary.friendsofjohnray@gmail.com)

Children who have PE on Friday should wear clothes that are suitable for them to take part in physical activity.

## **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 subjects and a chance to speak to teachers and staff from all areas of the school.

#### **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 18<sup>th</sup> June 3:45- 5pm and 23<sup>rd</sup> June from 3:45-6:30. Slots are available to book on MCAS.

# FREE WEBINAR FOR PARENTS/CARERS

of secondary aged children to support with mental health and wellbeing.

Provided by your Mental Health Support Team  
@EssexMHST\_and\_SETeamhs

[bit.ly/4ozRciL](https://bit.ly/4ozRciL)



## Coming up in June...

Understanding and Supporting Anxiety  
2<sup>nd</sup> June 10 am

Talking to Your Teen About Mental Health and Wellbeing  
11<sup>th</sup> June 10 am

Understanding and Supporting Your Child with Self-Harm  
16<sup>th</sup> June 6:30 pm



Striving to provide the best care by the best people



# FREE WEBINARS FOR PARENTS & CARERS

supporting your neurodivergent child with mental health and wellbeing

Provided by your Mental Health Support Team  
@EssexMHST\_and\_SETeamhs

[bit.ly/4jtb46c](https://bit.ly/4jtb46c)



SIGN UP

## Helping Neurodivergent Children and Young People with

Sensory Needs  
1<sup>st</sup> June 10 am

Burnout and Masking  
18<sup>th</sup> June 10 am



Striving to provide the best care by the best people



# FREE MOVING UP WEBINARS FOR PARENTS/CARERS of primary aged children

Provided by your Mental Health Support Team  
@EssexMHST\_and\_SETeamhs

[bit.ly/3MaR1wJ](https://bit.ly/3MaR1wJ)



Understanding and Managing Difficult Behaviour  
3<sup>rd</sup> June 10 am

Moving Up! Transition from Infants to Juniors  
17<sup>th</sup> June 10 am and 7 pm

Moving Up! Transition from Primary to Secondary  
24<sup>th</sup> June 10 am and 7 pm



Striving to provide the best care by the best people



## Year 6 Leavers Disco

Correct monies must be brought to the class teacher in a named envelope.



### **Y6 Production – 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July**

The Y6 production of 'Oliver' takes place on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July at 1:30 and 4:30pm. As this production requires a large cast, we have made the decision to split the main parts between the classes for the two days. The performances on the 14<sup>th</sup> July will have children from 6L and 6R performing the main parts. The performances on the 15<sup>th</sup> July will have children from 6G and 6O performing the main parts. However, all children take part in all of the performances on both days.

### **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 by a member of staff.

### **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 2 marks from the 2016 Maths Reasoning paper.

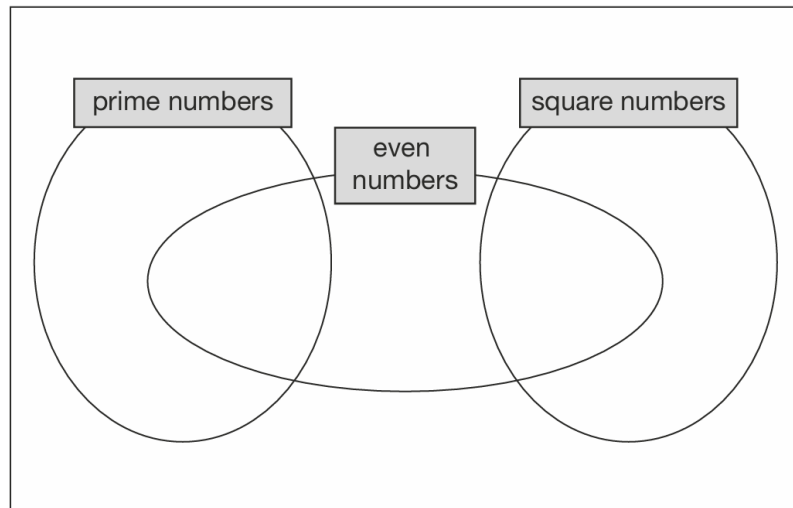
Write each number in its correct place on the diagram.

16

17

18

19



Here is a question from the 2017 grammar and punctuation paper. It is worth 1 mark.

Which sentence uses the **colon** correctly?

Tick **one**.

I bought several beach toys a bucket: a spade a ball and a kite.

I bought several beach toys a: bucket, a spade, a ball and a kite.

I bought several beach toys: a bucket, a spade, a ball and a kite.

I bought several: beach toys, a bucket, a spade, a ball and a kite.

### 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.



Azi (4B) pictured above next to the advert where he is featured.

Art award: Teddy (3W) who has completed a wonderful piece of art that will be published.

Football: Xavier in 6L was top goal scorer of the season and received a trophy at his awards ceremony  
Logan in 5C received the award for most improved player.

Mason in 5C received an award for coaches' player.

Summer in 5W received the award for most improved player.

Freddie in 3B won his football match.

Harry in 3P won his football match and Afnan was top scorer of the season for his team.

Willow in 3P won her football match.

Cricket: Noah in 5E bowled a maiden over in cricket.

Swimming: Ben in 3P completed a Life Guard swimming day.

Dancing: Maja in 5W placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the fast solo group. Barbara in 3B placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in her fats solo and 4<sup>th</sup> in her slow solo.

### Stars of the Week

3B: Sahil	4B:	5B: Magnificence	6G: Whole class
3C: Isla	4CB: Seth	5C: Callum	6L: Whole class
3P:	4J:	5E: Ella	6O: Whole class
3W: Blake	4T: Willow	5W: Daksh, Victoria, Zach, Summer, Excellent	6R: 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 Sports betting online**

Sports betting has become increasingly visible across apps, websites, social platforms and sports coverage, making it easier for young people to encounter gambling messages before they are old enough to take part legally. This guide explores how betting content can appear through adverts, influencers, tipsters, friends, gaming spaces and even adult accounts.

It also highlights the risks of impulsive spending, chasing losses, 'free bet' offers and the way gambling can become normalised around sport. With practical advice on starting calm conversations, spotting warning signs, setting safer digital boundaries and finding support, the guide helps parents and educators approach the topic with confidence.

[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**

3C: [kswann@compassps.uk](mailto:kswann@compassps.uk)

3B: [dbanks@compassps.uk](mailto:dbanks@compassps.uk)

#### **Year 4**

4B: [pwatts@compassps.uk](mailto:pwatts@compassps.uk), [jbird@compassps.uk](mailto:jbird@compassps.uk)

4CB: [aharris@compassps.uk](mailto:aharris@compassps.uk)

3P: sphillips@compassps.uk 3W: cridley@compassps.uk	4J: jbrennan@compassps.uk 4T: tbeeson@compassps.uk, kbreen@compassps.uk
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>
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: <b>Miss Cottee (Assistant Head) if your child is in Y5 or Y6</b> – <a href="mailto:rcottee@compassps.uk">rcottee@compassps.uk</a> <b>Mrs Breen (Assistant Head) if your child is in Y3 or Y4</b> – <a href="mailto:kbreen@compassps.uk">kbreen@compassps.uk</a>	
<b>RECENT LETTERS INCLUDING NEWSLETTERS – MANY OF OUR LETTERS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE</b>	
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 <a href="mailto:jrcontact@compassps.uk">to jrcontact@compassps.uk</a>	
20.01.26 <a href="#">Learning conferences - Spring term</a> (all year groups) 10.02.26 <a href="#">Safer Internet Day 2026</a> (all year groups) 20.05.26 <a href="#">Sports day</a> (all year groups) 08.06.26 RSE Letters <a href="#">Yr 3</a> , <a href="#">Yr 4</a> , <a href="#">Yr 5</a> , <a href="#">Yr 6</a> (Please click on your child's year group)	
<b>Dates for the academic year 2024-2025 (new dates in red)</b> <a href="#">Please see the website for the term dates</a>	

<b>Summer term</b>
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 ( <i>Children having PE today should bring their PE kit in a separate bag</i> ) 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  <b>16.07.26 Last day of term for children</b>

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SPORTS BETTING ONLINE

Sports betting online involves placing wagers on real-world sporting events through websites, apps, and linked accounts. In the UK, licensed gambling is illegal for under-18s, yet young people may still encounter betting through sports coverage, social media, gaming spaces, friends, or adult accounts. With gambling content increasingly visible online, parents and educators should help children understand the risks, financial impact, pressure, and how to make safer choices.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### EASY ONLINE ACCESS

Online sports betting sites and apps are widely available and can be accessed through phones, tablets, computers, and, indirectly, gaming or social platforms. Some young people may attempt to bypass age checks using false details or someone else's account. Digital wallets, prepaid cards, and saved payment details can also make spending harder to notice, increasing the risk of discreet or impulsive betting.

### PEER AND INFLUENCER PRESSURE

Social media influencers, online tipsters, and sports content creators can make betting appear fun, profitable, or part of being a committed fan. Young people may feel pressure to copy this behaviour, especially when friends talk about odds, accumulators, or predictions during matches. Gambling advertising rules aim to protect under-18s, but children can still see persuasive betting content in online spaces.

### FREE BET OFFERS

Online betting platforms often use free bets, bonus credits, or 'risk-free' promotions to attract users. These offers can make gambling seem safe or low commitment, but they usually include terms and conditions that young people may not understand. A free incentive can lead to real spending, repeated deposits, or the belief that gambling is easier to control than it is.

### NORMALISING GAMBLING BEHAVIOUR

Online sports betting can make gambling feel like a routine part of watching sport. Young people may begin to see odds, predictions, and wagers as harmless entertainment rather than as financial risk. This can also blur boundaries with other gambling-like activities, including loot boxes, skins betting, or casino-style games, making later gambling feel more acceptable or familiar.

### ADVERTISING AROUND SPORT

Young people can be exposed to betting brands through sports broadcasts, social media, sponsorship, pitch-side advertising, and content linked to major fixtures. Repeated exposure may make gambling seem normal, glamorous, or expected as part of the sport. Without adult guidance, children may connect betting with excitement, loyalty, and success, rather than understanding that gambling is designed to make money from customers.

### CHASING WINS AND LOSSES

A winning bet can create excitement and encourage a young person to try again, while a losing bet may lead them to place another wager to win back the money. This is known as chasing losses. Because online bets can be quick, small, and available at any time, children may not recognise how rapidly repeated decisions can become costly and emotionally harmful.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Talk openly with children about how betting works, including odds, losses, advertising, and the fact that gambling companies are commercial businesses. Use examples they may recognise, such as betting adverts during football matches, influencer predictions, or online tipsters. Keep the tone calm and curious, so that children feel able to ask questions, share concerns, and discuss pressure from friends without fearing punishment.

### SET SAFER BOUNDARIES

Use device, app store, and bank settings to limit spending, block gambling transactions where possible, and require adult approval for purchases. Check payment histories for unfamiliar withdrawals, digital wallet use, or repeated small transactions. These safeguards work best alongside clear conversations, helping children understand that online payments are still real money, even when they feel quick, hidden, or invisible.

### EXPLORE ONLINE EXPOSURE

Ask which apps, websites, games, sports channels, and social media accounts children use around live sport. Betting content may appear through adverts, sponsorship, livestreams, tipster pages, or discussions between friends. Watching a match together can help you point out gambling messaging in real time and explain how it is designed to influence choices, normalise betting, and encourage spending.

### NOTICE AND SEEK SUPPORT

Look out for secrecy around devices, sudden interest in odds, requests for money, unexplained spending, mood changes linked to sports results, or late-night phone use. Respond with support first, then gather information and seek specialist advice where needed. Organisations such as GambleAware, Ygam, GAMSTOP, and the Gambling Commission provide information about gambling harms, education, blocking tools, and support routes.

### Meet Our Expert

Bubba Goeddert is a Senior Lecturer and the Head of Events at the University Campus of Esports. He is also the President and Co-Founder of the Videogames and Esports Foundation, a charity that supports safe and inclusive gaming environments. With over 25 years of experience in esports, education, and media, Bubba is a global leader in promoting positive gaming practices for youth and families.



See full reference list on our website



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.06.2026

★★★★★  
Voted Best Essex  
Soft Play & Party Venue  
- Childrens Enterprise Award -

# 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](http://www.littlemonstersoftplay.co.uk)

SCAN ME



Little  
**Monsters House of Fun**

Soft play & parties for little monsters

Ford Farm, Braintree Road, Great Dunmow, Essex CM6 1HU

3-level adventure frame - Dedicated baby/toddler soft play area  
Cafe - free parking - free wifi - Summer garden with playframes

Book a Play Session or Class at [www.littlemonstersoftplay.co.uk](http://www.littlemonstersoftplay.co.uk)

 **minimonster**  
Classes & Activities



Book now for Baby & Toddler classes at Little Monsters House of Fun

# Free Family Events in Braintree

A snapshot of low or no cost fun & family-friendly activities across Mid Essex Helping you make the most of the summer holidays!

Families across Mid Essex can enjoy a range of free, fun summer events in Braintree, Chelmsford, and Maldon.

This guide highlights local activities, support, and welcoming spaces to help keep children entertained.

This is just a starting point, there are many more opportunities available through local organisations, offering plenty to explore this summer. Scan here to take a look at our web page for further activities on offer.

Find out  
more here!



**SCAN ME**



**MID ESSEX CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP**

*Working together to ensure all children & young people in Mid Essex get the best start in life*