

John Ray Times

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

29th June 2026

Phone: 01376 324107 Email: johnrayjunior@compassps.uk Website:

www.johnray.compassps.uk



@ facebook.com/johnraycompassps

Online learning links

 Accelerated Reader	 Century Tech	 TT Rockstars	 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:

05.07.26 [Week 1](#) 12.07.2026 [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

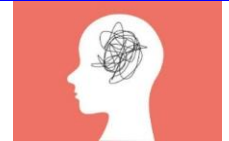
The ZONES of Regulation

Blue Zone	Green Zone	Yellow Zone	Red Zone
Sad Bored Tired Sick	Happy Focused Calm Proud	Worried Frustrated Shy Excited	Overjoyed/Excited Frustrated Angry Temper

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.

Year 5 trip to Kentwell Hall

Year 5 had two wonderful days at Kentwell Hall last week learning about life in Tudor times from the 'Tudor' people on the manor. Our children asked so many brilliant questions and their behaviour was exemplary throughout. They took part in dancing, alchemy, cooking and learnt how to make bread and ale as well as learning so many other skills.



Our Assemblies

Last week, in our assemblies, we explored the question 'how does every person count?' We learnt that India is undertaking the world's biggest census and how the findings would influence the planning of buildings and services for the future. We also commemorated 'Windrush day' which takes place on 22nd June. This day honours the arrival of the HMT Empire Windrush in 1948, which brought over 800 passengers from the Caribbean to help rebuild post-World War II Britain. The date celebrates the immense cultural and economic contributions of the "Windrush generation". We were reminded of the protected characteristic of race and ethnicity during our discussions.

After School Clubs

This is the last week for after school clubs.

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 today. Please read the letter for further information. Copies can also be found in the 'recent letters' section below and on our website.

Class organisation for 2026-27

Class organisation 2026-27

Current Class	Teacher	Location
Year 3 Assistant HT: Mrs Karen Breen		
New class (1)	Miss Jodie Brennan (3JB)	5C
New class (2)	Miss Daisy Banks (3DB)	3B
New class (3)	Miss Toni Beeson and Miss Karla Brighton (3BB)	3W
New class (4)	Miss Lucy Archer (3LA)	5E
Year 4 Assistant HT: Mrs Karen Breen		
3B	Miss Jess Whitehouse (4JW)	6O
3C	Miss Jade Bird (Mon, Tues, Wed) Mrs Karen Breen (Thurs-Fri) (4JB)	5W
3P	Miss Dominique Sayer-Jones (4SJ)	5B
3W	Mr Chris Steadman (4CS)	6L
Year 5 Assistant HT: Miss Rachel Coffee Year group Leader: Mr Chris Ellis		
New class 4	Mr Chris Ellis (5CE)	3P
New class 2	Miss Kerry Swann (5KS)	6G
New class 3	Mrs Amy Wilson (Mon, Tues, Wed) Miss Rachel Coffee (Thurs, Fri) (5AW)	6R
New class 1	Mrs Debbie Casey (5DC)	3C
Year 6 Assistant HT: Miss Rachel Coffee Year group Leader: Mrs Natasha Gibson		
5B	Mrs Natasha Gibson (6NG)	4J
5W	Mr Ryan Roberts (6RR)	4B
5C	Mrs Jess Larbalestier (6JL)	4T
5E	Miss Caitlin O'Sullivan (6CO)	4CB

At the end of the year, we will say goodbye to Mrs Phillips, Miss Breeze and Mrs Ridley who will be leaving to take up positions in different schools. We also say farewell and thank you to Miss Harris who has been covering Mrs Collier-Brown's maternity leave. We thank all of them for the work they have done to support the children at John Ray Juniors. Next year, we welcome Mr Steadman, Miss Archer, Miss Sayer-Jones and Miss Whitehouse who will be joining our teaching team.

Changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility

If your child currently receives free school meals, you will now have to reapply for September. If you do not complete the form your child will no longer be entitled to receive FSM

From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to receive a free school meal. There will no longer be an income threshold of £7400 for the purposes of free school meals.

In order for us to check if you are eligible, please complete this [form](#) if you are in receipt of Universal Credit. One form should be completed per child. Full details can be found on the letter that was sent to parents on the 1st June.

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.

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_SETcamhs

bit.ly/4ozRciL



Coming up in June...

- Understanding and Supporting Anxiety
2nd June 10 am
- Talking to Your Teen About Mental Health and Wellbeing
11th June 10 am
- Understanding and Supporting Your Child with Self-Harm
16th 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_SETcamhs


bit.ly/4jtb46c




SIGN UP

Helping Neurodivergent Children and Young People with

- Sensory Needs
1st June 10 am
- Burnout and Masking
18th 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_SETcamhs


bit.ly/3MaR1wJ




Understanding and Managing Difficult Behaviour
3rd June 10 am

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

Moving Up! Transition from Primary to Secondary
24th 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 – 14th and 15th July

The Y6 production of 'Oliver' takes place on 14th and 15th 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 14th July will have children from 6L and 6R performing the main parts. The performances on the 15th 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.

Boys' football matches

Last week, the boys' football team were busy playing two matches. On Monday, we faced John Bunyan. While it wasn't the outcome we had hoped for, the team showed great resilience and perseverance. On Thursday, we played an away game against Great Bradfords. All players showed great teamwork and we won 5-2 with goals being scored by Max and William. Well done John Ray!



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 2019 Maths Reasoning paper.

Complete the table.

	Round 39,476
to the nearest 10,000	
to the nearest 1,000	
to the nearest 100	

2 marks

Here is a question from the 2019 grammar and punctuation paper. It is worth 1 mark.

Circle the correct option in each box to complete the sentences.

Were
We're

 going on a treasure hunt.

Shall we start looking for

clues
clue's

 ?

Robs
Rob's

 team found the treasure first.

1 mark

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.

Gymnastics: Adam (6R several medals)

Swimming: Akasya (5C) 2 bronze and 2 silver medals, Elana (4B) drowning prevention week, Owen (5E) 50m racing, Ellie-Rose (5B) stage 3, Jacob (6R) stage 3

Dancers: Amelie (3P) and Ruby (3P) took part in a show, Bella (4B), Issy (5C) Rosie (5E), Daisy (4B), Taylor (4B), Amelie (5B) took part in a dancing show

Football: Harry (3P) Player of the match, Bertie (3W) football presentation trophies, Daniel (4B) presentation trophy, Ozzy (5B) Club champion of the season, Max (6G) most improved, Sid (5E) players' player, well done to Gracie (3C) who was awarded club champion at her football presentation.



Stars of the Week

3B: Roxy	4B: Jaxson	5B: Lilly	6G:
3C: Penny	4CB: Evelyn-Rose	5C: Morgan, Mason	6L: Alex O
3P: Amelie	4J: The whole class	5E: Orion	6O:
3W: Alice	4T:	5W:	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.easypundraising.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 streamers

Livestreaming is now a major part of children's entertainment, evolving from gamers sharing screens into a booming industry with diverse personalities. While watching streamers can be entertaining, it comes with no small number of risks for children, such as misinformation, negative influences, and inappropriate content. With over 2.5 million viewers on Twitch – the current most popular streaming platform – at any one time, this guide highlights the potential dangers associated with watching livestreams and the importance of staying informed.

We've created this guide to provide parents and educators everything they need to know about streamers and how to keep children protected.

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

3B: dbanks@compassps.uk

Year 4

4B: pwatts@compassps.uk, jbird@compassps.uk

4CB: aharris@compassps.uk

3P: sphillips@compassps.uk 3W: cridley@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: roberts@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 Cottee (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	
<u>RECENT LETTERS INCLUDING NEWSLETTERS – MANY OF OUR LETTERS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE</u>	
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	
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) 01.06.26 Free School Meal - New eligibility (all year groups) 08.06.26 RSE Letters Yr 3 , Yr 4 , Yr 5 , Yr 6 (Please click on your child's year group) 22.06.26 Year 5 Kentwell Hall Heatwave considerations (Yr 5) 22.06.26 Compass Eko strategy June 2026 & CET Strategy One Pager Families (all year groups) 29.06.26 Colour run 10th July 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
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 10.07.26 Colour run 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 The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMERS

Livestreaming has become a big part of the entertainment people consume, and what began as a series of gamers sharing their screens has grown into a huge industry packed with personalities – and potential risks for your children. With over 2.5 million people watching Twitch, the most popular streaming service, at any one time, it's important to remain aware of the risks associated with streamers.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some gaming streamers will stick to family-friendly titles, but others will play more violent games that tend to be more popular. Non-gaming streamers could, in theory, discuss just about anything, and some streamers will often stream in revealing outfits.



NEGATIVE INFLUENCES

While things have improved, streamers are often paid by companies to promote products, and this isn't always stated explicitly. While it's unlikely these goods will be harmful to your child, some streamers and influencers have engaged (knowingly or not) in scams in the past.



FINANCIAL HARM

Streamers will often have donation buttons on their screens for users to submit money. What can start as small amounts can quickly spiral as streamers engage with paying viewers more often, potentially leading to financial issues.



UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Influencers often showcase how glamorous their lives are, making some users feel as though they are lesser. However, it's important to stress that, in many ways, this is an act, or at the very least, not common. Logan Paul, who has been successful as a streamer and influencer, has a Pokemon card worth \$5 million, but this is atypical of anyone working in the medium.



MISINFORMATION

Streamers are, in many ways, just like us – and they can get things wrong or reel off an opinion without having thought about it. Some can simply say awful things to get a rise out of viewers or to sway them to their side of a hot topic.



ADDICTION AND SCREEN TIME

If your child is watching a lot of a particular streamer, it can be just as damaging to their social life as playing too many video games.



Advice for Parents & Educators

EXPLAIN HOW STREAMING WORKS

For a younger viewer, being a streamer or influencer seems aspirational, but it involves a lot of work and no small degree of good fortune. Streamers are often managed and unable to speak freely due to sponsors, and influencers are just that – influencing young minds, for better or for worse.



CHECK OUT STREAMING PLATFORMS

While Twitch was the de facto streaming service for years, YouTube has gained popularity, too. Then there are Kick and Rumble, which have grown in popularity with moves for big-name streamers – despite many being dogged by controversy.



DO NOT LOG PAYMENT INFORMATION

Streamers can reward donations with additional content, on-camera "shout outs" and more. If you're unsure about who or what your child is watching, consider avoiding linking payment information. This is especially notable with Twitch, which is owned by Amazon and therefore has some crossover.



SET SCREEN TIME LIMITS

You can set screentime limits for mobile apps on iOS and Google, but with other platforms like a PC it may be more difficult to keep tabs. Consider checking in regularly to ensure your children aren't watching content they shouldn't be.



Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of the Daily Star, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



PIZZA
#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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

X @wake_up_weds

f /wuw.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 19.03.2025

★★★★★
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

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

 **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