

John Ray Times

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

6th July 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:

05.07.26 [Week 1](#) 12.07.2026 [Week 2](#)

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.

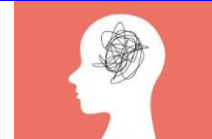
[Zones of Regulation](#)



[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

Last week, in our assemblies, we explored the question 'how much should the weather influence our decisions?' This was linked to the news that scientists are monitoring a climate trend called El Nino. El Nino begins in the Pacific Ocean and can impact weather in different parts of the world. It can bring hot, dry weather in some countries while others can experience heavy rain and flooding.

Experts are helping communities understand what might happen so they can be prepared if needed. In another assembly, we talked about our core values and how we might need to use them for different and new experiences such as meeting our new teacher or starting a new school.

Open evening 8th July 3:30 – 4:30

We invite all parents to our open evening on Wednesday 8th July from 3:30 – 4:30. This is a chance to see the children's books and classroom and informally chat to class teachers. Entry will be via the white hall doors only from 3:30pm. Last entry will be 4:15pm. Many thanks

Colour Run 10th July

We will be going ahead with the Colour Run on Friday but have reduced but have made adaptations to ensure children are outside for less time. We have also extended the deadline for opting out. If you **do not** wish for your child to take part, please complete this form by **Wednesday 8th July at 3pm.**

[Opt Out Colour Run - 10th July 2026](#)

As previously mentioned on the letter regarding the event, children will need collecting at the normal time.

Annual reports 9th July

Reports will be sent out via the MCAS app to all parents recorded as having parental responsibility. If you require a printed copy, please contact the school office between the 10th July and 16th July.

Dismissal at the end of the day

It would be most appreciated if parents / carers could stand towards the back of the playground at the end of the day when waiting for children. This enables staff to be able to see parents more easily when dismissing the children. Please also be mindful when approaching staff at the end of day if teachers are still dismissing children. Some of our pupils have been bumped into at the end of the day by adults who are collecting and while this is not intentional, we don't want anyone to get hurt.

In September, it is hoped that our playground will be resurfaced and new markings will be added to identify where parents can stand.

Many thanks for your support.

Special treats planned for our Year 6 children next week!

Thursday 16th July – Water Fight!

Get ready to make a splash! Year 6 will be taking part in a fun water fight on the playground. Please send your child to school with a spare set of clothes and shoes, as they may want to get changed afterwards.

Friday 10th July – Pizza Day (FREE!)

To celebrate our Year 6's, Mrs Ryan and Mrs Meehan from the kitchen will be cooking delicious homemade pizza for lunch, followed by a chocolate mousse for dessert! Best of all, there's no charge for this special lunch. If your child would prefer, they are still very welcome to bring a packed lunch.

Dress rehearsals take place this week so please can all costumes be in school by **Wednesday 8th July.**

Saying goodbye to Y6

We will be saying farewell to the Y6 children on Thursday 16th July. Please join us as we send them off to secondary school on the school playground. Y6 children will be dismissed 5 minutes later on that day at 3:30pm.

After School Clubs

After school clubs have now finished for the term.

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.

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

Nuts and nut products

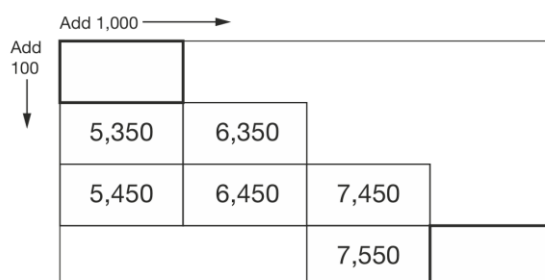
Please be aware that nuts, including peanuts, or products containing nuts are not allowed in school under any circumstances. This includes chocolate spread with nuts like Nutella and filled crepes and croissants.

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 2025 Maths Reasoning paper.

Write the two missing numbers.



Here is a question from the 2025 grammar and punctuation paper. It is worth 1 mark.

Insert a **dash** in the correct place in the sentence below.

I will not tell you any more about the film you'll have to see it
for yourself.

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:

Swimming: Fletcher (4B) has passed stage 5, Joy (3P) took part in drowning prevention week, Freddie (3B) has completed stage 5, Alice (3W) has completed stage 4 % 5, Teddy (3W) completed stage 3,

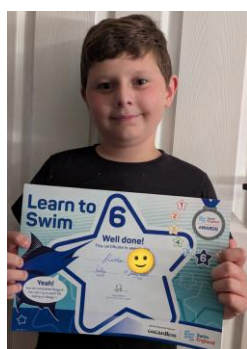
Martial arts: Leo (3W) has his green belt in karate, Willam (4B) 2nd place in sparring

Dance: Mai (6L) dancer of the week, Daphne (3C) won a competition, Annabelle (3P), Elana (4B), Daisy (4B) and Bella-Rose (4J) took part in a dance show, Isla (3C) moved up a stage in dance, Willow (3P) performed in a show, Amelia (6L) took part in a dance competition.

Football: Mason (5C) Trainer of the week

Driving: Noah (5E) took part in a driving experience.

Gymnastics: Rosie (5E) awarded level 1



Stars of the Week

3B: Theo	4B:	5B: Dennie	6G:
3C: Gracie	4CB: Lianna	5C:Amelija, Jackson	6L:
3P: Frankie W	4J: Azan	5E: Roxanne	6O: Pedro
3W: Teddy	4T: Maddie	5W:Leyton, Freddie	6R: Daisy

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 using and reviewing parental controls

With most children today having their own phones, computers and other devices, it's vitally important that parents and educators know how to keep young people protected while using them. Between targeted adverts, age-inappropriate content, and other online safety concerns, it can sometimes feel overwhelming to keep on top of.

Parental controls, present on most devices and several apps, can make this job significantly easier – but a certain amount of knowledge is required to use them effectively. This online safety guide will provide you with the information you need to activate and maintain parental controls on children and young people's devices.

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.uk
Year 5	Year 6
5B: hbreeze@compassps.uk 5E: cellis@compassps.uk 5C: dcasey@compassps.uk	6G: ngibson@compassps.uk 6L: jlarbalestier@compassps.uk 6O: cosullivan1@compassps.uk 6R: rroberts@compassps.uk

5W: awilson1@compassps.uk, rcottee@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	
<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) 22.05.26 Mersea 2027 – Current Yr 5 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) 03.07.26 Y6 SATS results delay – Yr 6 only 04.07.26	
Dates for the academic year 2024-2025 (new dates in red) Please see the website for the term dates	

Summer term
09.07.26 Annual reports sent out 08.07.26 Open afternoon 3:30-4:30 08.07.26 Water fight – Y6 only 10.07.26 Colour run 10.07.26 Pizza lunch – Yr 6 only 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

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

1 KNOW THE TYPES

While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

2 COVER ALL DEVICES

Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of 'blind spots' in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH

While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS

Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

5 BLOCK APP SPENDING

Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions: purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT

Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately will slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

7 MIND THE GAPS

There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover WiFi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

8 KEEP THINGS SECURE

Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY

Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – to let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP

The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

X @wake_up_weds

f /www.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: 28.08.2024

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