

John Ray Times

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

13th 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
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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 Unit 32-33 Block B, Braintree Enterprise Centre, Springwood Drive, CM7 2YN

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 'What makes something popular?' This was linked to the story about how Squishy dumpling toys have become popular in recent months. However, concerns over the safety of some of the products have led for checks to take place. We talked about the British value of rule of law and how laws and rules are made to protect us and help to keep us safe. This linked in with our core values of trust and responsibility.

First day of the Autumn term

Children return to school on Thursday 3rd September. As we have done previously, we ask that if at all possible, children entering Y4, 5 and 6 arrive between 9:40 and 9:50am. Please email the contact address if it is impossible for you to help with this.

As a reminder, children in Y3 and Y4 finish at 3:20 and Y5 and Y6 children are dismissed at 3:25.

Colour Run 10th July

The children had an amazing time at the colour run. Thank you Miss O'Sullivan for organising this.

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 when 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 have been resurfaced and new markings will be added to identify where parents can stand and where classes will be dismissed from at the end of the day.

Many thanks for your support.

Special treats planned for our Year 6 children this 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.

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.

Toys and trading cards from home

This is just a reminder that toys and 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 1 mark from the 2024 Maths Reasoning paper.

The numbers in this sequence increase by the same amount each time.

Write the missing numbers.

-11		1	7		19
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Here is a question from the 2024 grammar and punctuation paper. It is worth 1 mark.

Complete the sentence below using the **past progressive** form of the verb in the box.

While we _____ to our friend, his phone started ringing.

to talk

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 6, Gracie (3C) 100m, Owen (5E) 50m breaststroke and freestyle in a gala, Summer (5W) stage 6

Cubs: Maisie (4B) was a great help to the cubs

Art: Penny (3W) won an art competition at Hampton Court Palace

Brownies: Katie (3W) now has her brownie bronze award

Karate: Eddie (3C) red stripe

Futsal: Reggie (5W)

Dancing: Charlie (3B) has added to his tango, Vinnie (6L) street dance competition, Rosie (5E), Darcie (5C), Akasya (5C), Amelie (5B), Bella-Rose (4B) Izzy (5C) all took part in a dance show, Elana (4B) performed at the Notley fete

Football: Afnan ((3P) player of the match

Cricket: Harry (3P) took part in a tournament, Dexter (3B) took part in the All Stars programme



Stars of the Week

3B: Mikey	4B: William, Miss Watts	5B: Miss Clifton	6G:
3C: Ivy	4CB:	5C: Miss Watts, Mrs Bell	6L:
3P: Mrs Flemming & Mrs Marshall	4J:	5E: The whole class	6O: Awesome
3W: Harry	4T: Pollyanna	5W: Reggie	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. **In the holidays, access to school emails is limited so 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

How to stay safe online this summer

With the school summer holidays only a matter of days away, many parents and carers will already be planning outings and activities to keep their young ones entertained. In between those special summer moments, though, there are also likely to be occasions when children happily invest a whole afternoon in Among Us or spend most of their Monday on Minecraft.

As young people's screen time almost inevitably increases over the holidays, parents like to feel confident that their child will stay safe while they're exploring the digital world. So we've produced a #WakeUpWednesday poster with some simple solutions to help children avoid frequent online pitfalls and enjoy a more positive experience when they go online this summer.

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 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)
- 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
- 10.07.26 [Summer Term Parent Engagement Survey](#) (all year groups)
- 13.07.25 [Morrisons and Kellogg's Breakfast Clubs](#) (all year groups)

Dates for the academic year 2024-2025 (new dates in red)

[Please see the website for the term dates](#)

Summer term

- 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**

Academic diary dates for 2026-27

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
03.09.26 Children return to school 09.09.26 Meet the teacher 3:30-4:00 12.09.26 Secondary school admissions open (Y6 only)	04.01.27 Children return to school 11.01.27 After school clubs start 01.02.27-7.02.27 Children's mental health week	12.04.27 Children return to school 19.04.27 First week of after school clubs 10.05.27 SATs week

14.09.26 After school clubs start 18.9.26 (delayed) Summer Fete 21.09.26 Y6 meeting 4:30pm (Mersea and Y6 information) 25.09.26 Individual photos (Children having PE today should bring their PE kit in a separate bag) 14.10.26 Enhanced one planning for specific children 15.10.26- SEND tea and chat 9:30-10:30 20.10.26 3:40 – 6:30 Learning Conferences 21.10.26 3:40 – 6:30 Learning Conferences 26.10.26 Half term week 31.10.26 Secondary school admissions close 13.11.26 Non uniform day in exchange for a donation for the PTA gift shop 19.11.26 Wonderdome for Y5 children 20.11.26 Children in need (non – uniform: children can wear spots / stripes in return for a donation) 28.11.26 Christmas fete at JRIS 30.11.26 last week for after school clubs 03.12.26 PTA gift shop 07.12.25 SEN tea and chat 2-3pm 16.12.26 Y3 and Y5 Christmas dinner day <i>(children in Y3 / 3 are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper and / or accessory)</i> 17.12.26 Y4 and Y6 Christmas dinner day <i>(children in Y4 / 6 are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper and / or accessory)</i> 17.12.26 Y3 and Y4 to walk to St Michael's church for a Christmas service <i>(This takes place in school time and is for staff and children only. Children should wear suitable shoes for walking)</i> 18.12.26 Last day of term	09.02.27 SEND tea and chat 9:30-10:30 03.02.27 Enhanced one planning for specific children 9.02.27 Safer internet day 15.02.27 Half term week 04.03.27 World book day <i>(Children are invited to dress as a book character or bring in a prop from a book)</i> 05.03.27 Science week 9.03.27 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:00 10.03.27 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:30 22.03.27 Last week for clubs 24.03.27 Y5 and Y6 to walk to St Michael's church for an Easter service <i>(This takes place in school time and is for staff and children only. Children should wear suitable shoes for walking)</i> 26.03.27 Last day of term	19.05.27-21.05.27 Mersea residential for Y6 25.05.27 Sports day <i>(Y5 / 6 in the morning, Y3 / Y4 in the afternoon, picnic 12-12:45)</i> 31.05.27 Half term week 07.06.27 Multiplication check for 3 weeks (Y4 only) 08.06.27 reserve sports day in case of poor weather 09.06.27 Enhanced and focussed one plans 21.06.27 Secondary school transition week (schools will choose their own dates) 28.06.27 Last week of after school clubs 02.07.27 Y6 leavers' disco 5pm-7pm 07.07.27 Open afternoon 3:30-4:30 08.07.27 Annual reports sent out 13.07.26 Y6 production for 6JL and 6CO 2pm and 4:30 14.07.26 Y6 production for 6RR and 6NG 2pm and 4:30 16.07.27 Last day of term for children
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STAY SAFE ONLINE THIS SUMMER

SHARE FEEL-GOOD CONTENT & LEAVE POSITIVE COMMENTS

NEWS
DOUBLE CHECK STORIES - DON'T FALL FOR FAKE NEWS!

USE CAUTION ON PUBLIC WIFI

MAKE THE MOST OF THE OUTDOORS

BE KIND & BE TOLERANT

Report bullies & ignore trolls

KEEP YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS PRIVATE

AVOID BINGE STREAMING AND ALL-DAY GAMING

BE CAREFUL WITH IN-APP SPENDING

ENJOY SCREEN-FREE ACTIVITIES

TAKE FREQUENT BREAKS

ENABLE PRIVACY SETTINGS

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

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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

Essex County Council
Libraries

THE
READING
AGENCY

UNIVERSAL
UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP
UNITED KINGDOM

READ to the BEAT

Summer Reading
Challenge 2026

Join FREE at your
local library!



Saturday 18 July to Saturday 5 September
At your local Essex library or mobile library -
see libraries.essex.gov.uk for library opening times



National
Year of
Reading
2026



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Delivered in partnership with libraries
summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

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