# John Ray Times

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

9th November 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. o**r 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:

**Autumn/Winter Menus:**

23.11.26 Week 1 9.11.26 Week 2 16.11.26 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.

**Free School Meals (FSM)**:

If you receive Universal Credit, your child will be eligible for free school meals.

If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals, please apply using this link.

Once you have submitted your application, you will receive an instant confirmation confirming whether your child is eligible or not eligible.

| **Zones of Regulation** | **School Attendance Difficulties** | **Supporting Anxiety** |
|---|---|---|
|   |   |  |
| Curriculum maps are available on our website | Year 3 curriculum map | Year 4 curriculum map |
| | Year 5 curriculum map | Year 6 curriculum map |

**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.

**Assemblies**

In our assemblies last week, we discussed the story of British adventurer Karl Bushby who has returned to the UK, after spending almost 28 years travelling around the world on a journey home.

After finding out more about the story, we discussed this question: Is the journey more important than the destination?
We linked this to our own school core value of perseverance.
We spent another of our assemblies learning more about the festival of Diwali and how the story of Rama and Sita marks the triumph of good over evil and light over dark.
This week, we will be holding a 2 minute silence as part of our commemorations on 11th November.

**Friend of John Ray Infants & Juniors**




**Snacks in school**

Children are welcome to bring **healthy snacks** to enjoy during break time. Healthy snacks may also be brought on school trips and for children to enjoy after swimming.

Please ensure that all snacks are healthy. **Snacks, such as cakes, sweets, crisps and chocolate, are not permitted.** Y6 children will also not be able to use the vending machine at the swimming pool when attending the school swimming lessons.

**BBC Children in Need**
**Reminder**

It is non – uniform day on Friday and children can wear spots / stripes in return for a donation towards Children in Need.

We are excited to let you know that we will be taking part in a fun run on Friday 13th November in support of Children in Need! The children will have the opportunity to get active, have fun and raise money for a cause that supports children and young people across the UK.

This will be a sponsored event and we would love for the children to get involved in raising money. Every child will have a sponsor sheet where they can keep track of their sponsors and children can ask family members and other adults at home if they would be willing to sponsor them for taking part in the run.

We look forward to seeing the children have fun whilst raising money for a great cause!

**Parking around the school site**

We have received complaints from local residents regarding driveways being blocked during school drop off an pick up times. Please be considerate when parking around the school.

**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.

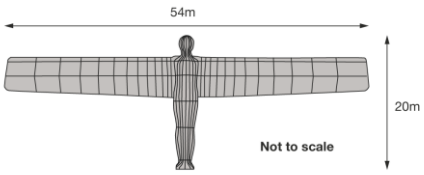
Nuts should not be provided as part of a packed lunch.

**Year 6 SATs question of the week**

Here is a question worth 2 marks from the 2018 Maths reasoning paper.

The Angel of the North is a large statue in England.

It is 20 metres tall and 54 metres wide.




Ally makes a scale model of the Angel of the North.

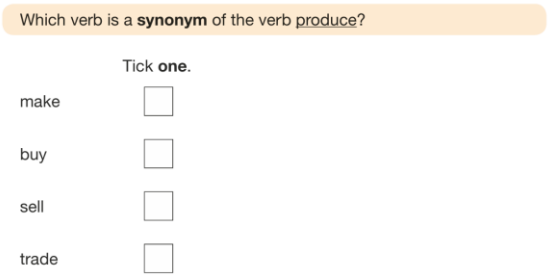
Her model is 40 centimetres tall.

How **wide** is her model?

cm

1 mark

Here is a question from the 2018 grammar and punctuation paper. It is worth 1 mark.




**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. Although class teachers would love to see photos, we are now unable to publish these photos on our newsletter.

Football Player of the Match: Vinnie (6NG), Bertie (4CS), Oliver (5CE), Harry (4CS)
Football Manager's Player of the Match: Dunamis (5CE), Ozzy (6NG), Daniil (6CO)
BMX: Ruby (3BB) 6th place and 3rd place, Isla (3JB) 2nd place
Yasmin (6JL) Girl Guides journalling badge
Harry (4SJ) won a cricket tournament
Tzion (4SJ) drumming
Jack (3DB) musician of the week
Reuben (6CO) Chief Scout award
Owen (6CO) silver Scout award
William (6NG) won multiple rugby matches
Karate: Evan (6CO) red belt, Finley (5AW) red belt, Reuben (6CO) orange belt, Ashiya (3JB) orange belt

We are really proud of all the children who took part in Remembrance Day parades. Well done to Hari in 6RR who laid a wreath on behalf of the school.

Stars of the week

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3BB: Renee, Nimi | 4CS: Scarlett | 5AW: Maddie M | 6CO: Logan |
| 3DB: Albus | 4JB: Ava | 5CE: Ben | 6JL: Ruby |
| 3JB: Dylan | 4JW: Grace | 5DC; Nathan | 6NG: Callum |
| 3LA: Nancy | 4SJ: Amber | 5KS: Bella | 6RR: Reggie |

**PE**

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: 3LA, 6NG, 4CS, 5CE
Tuesday: Y5, 3BB, 3DB, 3JB
Wednesday: Y4, 6CO, 6JL, 6RR
Thursday: Y3, 4JB, 4JW, 4SJ
Friday: Y6, 5AW, 5DC, 5KS

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.



**Keeping children safe: What parents and carers need to know about advertisements aimed at children**

From sponsored posts and influencer promotions to adverts hidden within games and videos, children encounter online advertising almost everywhere. But can they always tell when they're being sold something? With young people particularly susceptible to persuasive marketing, it's important to understand how adverts can influence their choices, expectations and spending habits – often without them even realising.

The Wake Up Wednesday guide explores the risks of advertising aimed at children, including misleading claims, unrealistic beauty standards, inappropriate promotions and pressure to make purchases. It also offers practical advice for parents and educators on helping young people recognise sponsored content, think critically about marketing messages, avoid unintended spending and develop healthier relationships with online advertising.

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 |
|---|---|
| 3BB: tbeeson@compassps.uk, kbrighton@compassps.uk | 4JB: jbird@compassps.uk, kbreen@compassps.uk |
| 3DB: dbanks@compassps.uk | 4CS: csteadman@compassps.uk |
| 3LA: larcher@compassps.uk | 4JW: jwhitehouse@compassps.uk |
| 3JB: jbrennan@compassps.uk | 4SJ: dsayer-jones@compassps.uk |
| **Year 5** | **Year 6** |
| 5KS: kswann@compassps.uk | 6NG: ngibson@compassps.uk |
| 5CE: cellis@compassps.uk | 6JL: jlarbalestier@compassps.uk |
| 5DC: dcasey@compassps.uk | 6CO: cosullivan1@compassps.uk |
| 5AW: awilson1@compassps.uk, rcottee@compassps.uk | 6RR: 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 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

**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 to johnrayjunior@compassps.uk

17/09/26 Year 5 Wonderdome - Year 5 only

30/09/26 Colchester Castle - Year 4 only
23/09/26 The Snowman – Year 5 only
02/10/26 Learning Conferences – All year groups
05/10/26 Enhanced One-Plan – Selected children only
05/10/26 Focused One-Plan – Selected children only
09/10/26 The Compass Eko Trust Strategy 2026-2031 - All year groups
21/10/26 Children in Need Fun Run – All year groups

**Dates for the academic year 2026-2027 (new dates or changes in red)**

Please see the website for the term dates

| **Academic diary dates for 2026-27** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Autumn term** | **Spring term** | **Summer term** |
| 11.11.26 Flu vaccinations<br>13.11.26 Children in need (non – uniform: children can wear spots / stripes in return for a donation)<br>19.11.26 Wonderdome for Y5 children<br>20.11.26 Non uniform day in exchange for a donation for the PTA gift shop<br>20.11.26 Dick Whittington panto in school<br>23.11.26 4CS and 4JW to Colchester Castle<br>24.11.26 4SJ and 4JB to Colchester Castle<br>30.11.26 Year 5 to Charter Hall for The Snowman<br>30.11.26 last week for after school clubs<br>03.12.26 PTA gift shop<br>05.12.26 Christmas fete at JRIS<br>07.12.26 SEN tea and chat 2-3pm<br>10.12.26 Chartwells school meals parent taster session in hall 3:30pm<br>16.12.26 Y3 and Y5 Christmas dinner day *(children in Y3 / 3 are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper and / or accessory)*<br>17.12.26 Y4 and Y6 Christmas dinner day *(children in Y4 / 6 are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper and / or accessory)*<br>17.12.26 Y3 and Y4 to walk to St Michael's church for a Christmas service *(This takes place in school time and is for staff and children* | **04.01.27 Children return to school**<br>11.01.27 After school clubs start<br>01.02.27-7.02.27 Children's mental health week<br>09.02.27 SEND tea and chat 9:30-10:30<br>03.02.27 Enhanced one planning for specific children<br>05.02.27 Individual photos *(Children having PE today should bring their PE kit in a separate bag))*<br>9.02.27 Safer internet day<br><br>**15.02.27 Half term week**<br><br>04.03.27 World book day *(Children are invited to dress as a book character or bring in a prop from a book)*<br>05.03.27 Science week<br>9.03.27 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:00<br>10.03.27 Learning conferences 3:40 – 6:30<br>22.03.27 Last week for clubs<br>22.03.27 School Council to visit the Houses of Parliament<br>24.03.27 Y5 and Y6 to walk to St Michael's church for an Easter service *(This takes place in school time and is for staff and children only. Children should wear suitable shoes for walking)*<br>**26.03.27 Last day of term** | **12.04.27 Children return to school**<br>19.04.27 First week of after school clubs<br>10.05.27 SATs week<br>19.05.27-21.05.27 Mersea residential for Y6<br>25.05.27 Sports day *(Y5 / 6 in the morning, Y3 / Y4 in the afternoon, picnic 12-12:45)*<br>**31.05.27 Half term week**<br>07.06.27 Multiplication check for 3 weeks (Y4 only)<br>08.06.27 reserve sports day in case of poor weather<br>09.06.27 Enhanced and focussed one plans<br>21.06.27 Secondary school transition week (schools will choose their own dates)<br>28.06.27 Last week of after school clubs<br>29.06.27 School group photos *(Children having PE today should bring their PE kit in a separate bag))*<br>*29.06.27 Class swaps – children to spend time in their new class*<br>02.07.27 Y6 leavers' disco 5pm-7pm<br>07.07.27 Open afternoon 3:30-4:30<br>08.07.27 Annual reports sent out<br>13.07.27 Y6 production for 6JL and 6CO 2pm and 4:30<br>14.07.27 Y6 production for 6RR and 6NG 2pm and 4:30 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *only. Children should wear suitable shoes for walking)*<br><br>**18.12.26 Last day of term** | | **16.07.27 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. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# ADVERTISEMENTS AIMED AT CHILDREN

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Children are particularly vulnerable to the persuasive effects of advertising because of their still-developing critical thinking and impulse control skills. Children are regularly and passively exposed to advertising online, whether through influencers, paid advertisements, or sponsored content. Although 92% of 12–17-year-olds felt confident recognising online advertising, only 37% correctly identified sponsored adverts in search results.

### INFLUENCER MARKETING

Influencers are an increasingly prominent part of children's online experiences, with four in ten 3–17 year olds who watch online videos reporting that they watch influencer content as entertainment. Influencers can appear credible, relatable, trustworthy and aspirational. Although seven in ten 12–17 year olds recognised a paid partnership, some believed products were promoted because influencers liked or thought they were 'cool'.

### PARENTAL PRESSURE TO PURCHASE

Children's exposure to online advertising can pressure parents to buy products they see advertised. When told no, children may feel upset, treated unfairly or left out when comparing themselves with peers. With children potentially seeing up to 40,000 adverts a year, parents cannot meet every request. This can lead to arguments and put strain on family relationships.

### UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Advertising often focuses on the positive effects of a product, which can create unrealistic expectations among young people. Children may be particularly susceptible to these claims when they do not recognise the persuasive intent behind them. They may be more likely to believe that a cream will 'transform' their skin, clothing will help them fit in, or protein powders will quickly build muscle. Repeated exposure to adverts such as beauty content can normalise unrealistic expectations and create material dissatisfaction or body image concerns.

### HARMFUL ADVERTISING

Children can encounter online advertising through games, videos, social media and links, meaning they may see content that is inappropriate for their age. This can include products or messages that influence attitudes towards body image, health or behaviours such as gambling. Repeated exposure to beauty content can normalise adult-oriented beauty routines and psychological pressure.

### UNINTENDED PURCHASES

Online advertising can encourage young people to make purchases. Ofcom found that 58% of 8–17 year olds had spent money online, with 27% saying adverts encouraged them to spend and 22% influenced by influencer content. Despite this, a third of the children regretted an in-game purchase, while almost half said they were unclear about what they were buying. This can lead to children spending more than intended or making purchases without fully understanding the cost or product, adding pressure on parents to spend.

### LACK OF ADVERTISING TRANSPARENCY

Advertising is not always obvious to children, particularly when influencers promote brands, products or services without clearly stating that it is an advert, or when advertising is embedded within entertaining content and uses positive language. Children may not realise that the adverts are promoting something, making the recommendation seem more trustworthy and more influential.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### TEACH CHILDREN HOW TO SPOT ADS

Help children to recognise when content is trying to sell them something. Teach them to look for signs such as '#ad', 'sponsored', 'paid partnership' as well as promo codes or product links attached. Explain to your child that these adverts can be embedded within videos, social media posts, games or influencer posts and are not always obvious to identify. Helping children recognise these advertisements can make them less likely to be influenced by them.

### ENSURE PAYMENT DETAILS ARE LOCKED DOWN

Avoid saving your bank card details on children's devices, games or apps wherever possible. This can help reduce the risk of children making accidental or impulsive purchases following seeing an advert. Check the purchasing settings on games and social media accounts and use parental controls or purchase approval settings where possible. Talk to your child about the importance of asking before making a purchase online.

### DEVELOP CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

It is important to encourage children to question what they see online rather than automatically believing it. Encourage them to stop and think before clicking. Have them ask themselves, 'Why am I seeing this?' and 'What are they trying to get me to want/buy?'. Remind them that adverts and influencers only highlight the positive aspects of a product. By developing these skills, children will begin to recognise, question, and respond to manipulative marketing practices.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

While it is important to set age restrictions on games and social media, inappropriate adverts can still slip through. Talk regularly with your child about adverts or influencer content they see online. Open communication makes it easier for your child to come to you if they have any questions about products or inappropriate content. It also helps you understand what your child is being exposed to online and where they may need support.


## Meet Our Expert

Dr. Claire Sutherland is an education consultant and digital safety expert, with a background in primary teaching. She combines her PhD research in cyberbullying with hands-on experience, delivering impactful digital wellbeing workshops and policies for schools across Australia and now in the UK.

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