

John Ray Times

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

Tuesday 20th September 2022

Phone: 01376 324107		Email: jrcontact@compassps.uk		Website: www.johnray.compassps.uk	
 @johnrayjuniors		 @changespjohnrayjuniors			
For uniform orders visit: www.gooddies.co.uk					
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: Our menus are available on our website .					
W/C 26.09.22 Week 1		W/C 03.10.22 Week 2		W/C 19.09.22 Week 3	

The curriculum

The children are working hard on their history topics and have made a great start to learning about different aspects of the past. Year 3 are exploring the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age and are thoroughly enjoying their class text of Ug. Year 4 are investigating the Romans and have been reading the book Escape from Pompeii. It has been wonderful to see some of their work relating to it. Children in Year 5 are reading 'How to train your Dragon' and are exploring the Anglo-Saxons within their history lessons, while Year 6 are looking at Ancient Islamic Civilisations as well as the Ancient Greeks. We look forward to sharing some of this work with you during our open afternoon next week. Please see information below.

Parent events

Year groups would like to invite parents into school to share some of the learning that takes place and some of these have been added to the dates section. We look forward to welcoming you to these events. The first of these dates is 28th September from 2:30 until 4pm. Parents are invited to come along at any time from 2:30pm until 4pm. If arriving before 3:10pm, please enter via the white doors that lead into the hall. If you plan on coming along after collecting your child at the end of the day, please collect your child from the playground as normal and then make your way around the building to enter via the white doors. If you plan on coming at a later point, please enter via reception. Class teachers will be in their classrooms. Furthermore, we will be holding an open morning on Saturday 15th October from 9:30 – 11:30. Although this is predominately for prospective parents, current parents and children are welcome too.

We would be really happy to run parent workshops to share some of the maths methods that are taught in school or the elements of punctuation that each year group cover. If this would be of interest to you please email Karen Harrison: kharrison@compassps.uk with 'parent workshop' as the header.

September and Harvest Appeal – Braintree Food Bank

This year, we will once again be collecting items to deliver to the Braintree foodbank. We understand that many of our families may be struggling financially at the moment but if you are in the position of being able to donate food items, please send in your items on 26th or 27th September.



Dinner Money

As communicated in the summer term, school meals are now £2.30 per day.

Secondary School Applications for children currently in Y6

Parents of children in Y6 can now apply for a secondary school place. The admission window is open until 31st October and applications must be made through the [Essex County Council website](#). If you need help applying for a space, please contact the school office.

Secondary school open days are as follows:

- Notley High – Saturday 17th September 9.30am – 1.30pm
- Alec Hunter – Saturday 8th October 9.30am – 12.30pm
- Tabor – Thursday 29th September – further details to follow
- New Rickstones – Thursday 22nd September 6pm - 8pm
- Honywood – Thursday 6th October – 5.30pm

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.

Well done to:

Jasper in 4WY who has moved from stage 5 (blue hats) to a stage 6 (Indigo hats) in swimming.
Mayksymilian in 4WY who has been awarded some badges for achievements in Cubs.
AJ in 5B for being man of the match in football.
Poyraz in 6E for being man of the match in football.

Well done to:

The following Year 6 children who have completed their Bikeability course last week.
Evelyn, George, Frazer, Frankie, Jessica, Rachel, Jenson, Lacey, Zack, Layla, Lincoln, Riley, Maddison, Cameron, Livia, Aston, Leighton, Jake, Harrison, Reece, Nathon, Arijus, Thomas
All the children who completed the Summer Reading Challenge with library services and were awarded their certificate.

Stars of the Week

Each week, class teachers will choose a member of their class to be star of the week. Children who are chosen will have their name added in this section of the newsletter.

3A: Halle-Payton	4A: Jett	5B: Ellie-Mae	6B: Erin
3B: Queenie	4C: Riley	5C: Finley	6CB: Alex
3P: Melody	4S: Jett	5G: Lilly-Ann	6E: Erin
3U: Oscar	4WY: Isaac	5T: George	6R: Conner

PE Days

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.

3A, 3U, 3P	Tuesday and Thursday
3B	Tuesday and Wednesday
4S, 4C, 4A	Monday and Wednesday
4WY	Wednesday and Thursday
Year 5	Tuesday and Friday
6R, 6E, 6B	Wednesday and Friday
6CB	Wednesday and Thursday

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.

The Friends of John Ray Infant and Junior School

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](https://www.childline.gov.uk) at any time on [0800 1111](tel:08001111)

National Online Safety: Amazon Fire Tablets



The Amazon Fire Tablet is a popular choice: not only are Amazon's own-brand devices more affordable than most other tablets on the market, but some models are designed specifically for youngsters (the Fire 7 Kids, Fire 8 HD and Fire HD 10 are aimed at ages 3–7, for example, while the 'Pro' range is geared toward 6 to 12-year-olds). Fires come with access to a wealth of entertaining content, from child-friendly TV shows and videos to age-appropriate games and ebooks.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as potential addiction, getting locked out of your device and faulty older models.

The guide can be found at the bottom of the newsletter and also on the National Online safety website under guides. 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.

<p style="text-align: center;">Year 3</p> <p>3A- jadams@compassps.uk 3B- bball@compassps.uk 3P- sphillips@compassps.uk 3U- ktoomey-underhill@compassps.uk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 4</p> <p>4A- zahsan@compassps.uk 4C – mcheema@compassps.uk 4S- scoleman@compassps.uk 4WY-awilson1@compassps.uk or syoung@compassps.uk</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Year 5</p> <p>5B- hbreeze@compassps.uk 5C - dcasey@compassps.uk 5G- ngibson@compassps.uk 5T- tbeeson@compassps.uk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 6</p> <p>6B- jbird@compassps.uk 6CB-hcollier-brown@compassps.uk 6E-cellis@compassps.uk 6R – rroberts@compassps.uk</p>

Please contact class teacher 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 – ALSO 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 jrcontact@compassps.uk

09.09.22 Letter from our CEO, John Camp (All JRJ parents)

09.09.22 Letter to Y3 parents (Y3 only)

12.09.22 Applications for Head Ambassadors (Y6 only)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (new dates added in red)

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<p>28.09.22 Open afternoon drop in for current parents <i>from 2:30 – 4pm</i></p> <p>29.09.22 & 04.10.22 One Plan meetings for children on SEN register</p> <p>07.10.22 Individual photos (<i>Y5 and 6B, 6E and 6R should come to school in school uniform and bring PE kits in a separate bag</i>)</p> <p>10.10.22 Non-pupil day</p> <p>11.10.22 8:35 – 9:15 Y6 parents invited into classes for a morning maths session.</p> <p>Saturday 15.10.22 9:30-11:30am Open morning for prospective parents and children (current parents and children welcome too)</p> <p>17.10.22 8:35-9:15 4C & 5C parents invited into class for reading café session.</p> <p>18.10.22 8:35-9:15 4A & 5T parents invited into class for reading café session.</p> <p>19.10.22 8:35-9:15 4S & 5G parents invited into class for reading café session.</p> <p>19.10.22 2:40-3:10 Y3 parents invited into school for a reading café session.</p> <p>20.10.22 8:35-9:15 4WY & 5B parents invited into class for reading café session.</p> <p>24.10.22 Half term</p> <p>31.10.22 Children return to school</p> <p>09.11.22 Flu immunisations (<i>details and consent forms to follow from the provider</i>)</p> <p>09.11.22 8:35-9:15 Y3 parents invited into classes for a morning spelling session.</p> <p>31.10.22 Secondary school applications close (<i>Y6 only</i>)</p> <p>15.11.22 Learning conferences (<i>3:45-7pm</i>) for children not on SEN register</p> <p>17.11.22 Learning conferences (<i>3:45-5:30pm</i>) for children not on SEN register</p> <p>18.11.22 Children in Need (<i>non-uniform: children can wear spots / stripes in return for a donation</i>)</p> <p>02.12.22 Non-pupil day</p>	<p>05.01.23 Start of term for children</p> <p>09.01.23 After school clubs start</p> <p>17.01.23 & 26.01.23 One Plan meetings for children on SEN register</p> <p>17.01.23 Young Voices concert at the O2 (<i>Only for children who have attended the Young Voices club</i>)</p> <p>06.02.23 Class photos (<i>All children should come to school in school uniform and bring PE kits in a separate bag if it is a PE day</i>)</p> <p>02.03.23 World book day (<i>Dress as a book character or bring in a prop from a book</i>)</p> <p>13.02.23 Half term</p> <p>20.02.23 Children return to school</p> <p>17.03.23 Red Nose Day (<i>Children can wear a red nose and / or non-uniform in exchange for a donation</i>)</p> <p>20.03.23 Last week for clubs</p> <p>21.03.23 Learning conferences (<i>3:45-7pm</i>) for children not on SEN register</p> <p>23.03.23 Learning conferences (<i>3:45-5:30pm</i>) for children not on SEN register</p> <p>30.03.23 Y5 and Y6 to walk to St Michael's church for Easter service. (This is a pupil and staff only service & will take place during the school day- children should come to school in trainers / suitable shoes for walking)</p> <p>31.03.23 Last day of term</p>	<p>17.04.23 Start of term for children</p> <p>24.04.23 After school clubs start</p> <p>08.05.23 SATS week (<i>Y6 only</i>)</p> <p>09.05.23 & 11.05.23 One Plan meetings for children on SEN register</p> <p>29.05.22 Half term</p> <p>05.06.23 Non-pupil day</p> <p>05.06.23 Multiplication check starts for 3 weeks (<i>Y4 only</i>)</p> <p>06.06.23 Children return to school</p> <p>14.06.23-16.06.23 Mersea residential (<i>Y6 only</i>)</p> <p>10.07.23 Last week for clubs</p> <p>11.07.23 Annual reports sent out</p> <p>13.07.23 Children to spend time with their new teacher</p> <p>13.07.23 Open afternoon drop in for current parents <i>from 2:30 – 4pm</i></p> <p>18.07.23 Sports day and parent picnic (<i>parents invited from 11:45</i>)</p> <p>19.07.23 6CB and 6R Y6 production to parents 1:30 and 4:30</p> <p>20.07.23 6E and 6B Y6 production to parents 1:30 and 4:30</p> <p>21.07.23 Last day of term</p>

05.12.22 Last week for clubs

19.12.22 Y3 and Y4 to walk to St Michael's church for Christmas service. (This is a pupil and staff only service & will take place during the school day - children should come to school in trainers / suitable shoes for walking)

20.12.22 Last day of term

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMAZON FIRE TABLETS

The Amazon Fire Tablet is a popular choice: not only are Amazon's own-brand devices more affordable than most other tablets on the market, but some models are designed specifically for youngsters (the Fire 7 Kids, Fire 8 HD and Fire HD 10 are aimed at ages 3-7, for example, while the 'Pro' range is geared toward 6 to 12-year-olds). Fires come with access to a wealth of entertaining content, from child-friendly TV shows and videos to age-appropriate games and ebooks.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STORAGE ISSUES

Many parents have bemoaned the Amazon Fire's relative lack of storage space. Fires ship with either 16GB or 32GB of memory, so if your child gets busy downloading books, games and videos, they'll quickly run out of room. You could invest in an SD card for extra storage (especially if multiple youngsters are sharing the device), so it's worth factoring in this possible additional expense.

GETTING LOCKED OUT

If your child unsuccessfully attempts to bypass your security PIN code (to access the Fire's parental controls settings, for instance) too many times, this could easily result in them being locked out of their device – and, arguably even worse, you being locked out of your Amazon or Kindle account. If this happens, the Amazon support team will be able to help you regain access.

POTENTIAL ADDICTION

Like most digital technology, Amazon Fires and their child-friendly content tend to be highly engaging to young users. You might find your child often spending hours staring at their tablet, leading to irritability when asked to put it down. It may be a wise move to adjust the built-in screen time settings so you can control exactly how long they're able to spend on the device each day.

'ASSISTANCE' FROM ALEXA

Though the Amazon Fire's parental controls are comprehensive and allow you to limit access to age-inappropriate content, your child could still potentially bypass those restrictions using Alexa, Amazon's built-in AI assistant. We recommend that you switch off this functionality altogether by toggling Alexa to 'off' in the Settings menu.

FAULTY OLDER MODELS

Back in 2016, Amazon announced a product recall of the Amazon Fire 7 and Kids' Edition power adapters, due to a fault which caused an increased risk of electrical shock. This is no longer an issue on newer models of the Fire tablet, but it's unquestionably worth remembering if you're thinking about picking up a second-hand device for your child.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REGISTER ON YOUR ACCOUNT

Before your child uses their Fire, you'll need to register it to an Amazon account. Rather than having to set up a dedicated Amazon account for them, Amazon's 'Household' feature simply lets you add a separate profile to your own account. In-app purchases and Amazon store access are set to 'off' by default on child accounts, so young ones can't buy anything on their Fire without the password.

CONSIDER A CODENAME

When you add a child profile on a Fire, you can select an image to represent your child and then enter their name, gender and date of birth. To keep things extra secure, you might want to consider using a codename for your child's profile – keeping their real name private from Amazon or anyone else who might ever get access to the account.

FILTER SHARED CONTENT

You'll also be asked during the set-up process whether you want the Amazon Fire to be able to share any digital content that you've already purchased. We advise selecting 'For Kids' at this point, as this will only show the family-friendly books or videos in your content library, as opposed to any movies, shows or audiobooks you might have downloaded that aren't suitable for little ones.

SET A PASSWORD OR PIN

You'll also be prompted to set a lock screen password or PIN. This is recommended to prevent your child from accessing device settings, browsing the internet, trawling social media or making in-app purchases. If more than one child will be sharing the tablet, you can create a lock screen PIN for each of their profiles, so that each child can only access content that's appropriate for their individual age.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

The Fire's parental controls are very thorough and worth utilising. They let you choose, for example, to restrict access to additional settings such as location-based services, the built-in camera, and specific content types (such as apps). You can also set daily goals and time limits to specify when – or, crucially, for how long – your child can use their Fire tablet.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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