

John Ray Infant School

Notley Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 1HL

Tel: 01376 323071

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Headteacher Lisa Christian



17th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I honestly can't believe that we have reached the end of another school year. As I look back over the past year, I feel incredibly proud of everything our children have achieved. Their hard work, determination and enthusiasm have shone through in so many ways, and it has been a privilege to watch them grow.

One of our key focuses this year has been handwriting, and what a difference it has made. The presentation of work across the school is now absolutely beautiful, and it is wonderful to see the pride that the children take in their learning. Alongside this, the exciting curriculum topics have sparked so much curiosity, enthusiasm and excitement. Seeing children eager to ask questions, explore new ideas and develop a genuine love of learning has been one of the highlights of the year.

As always, the end of the year brings mixed emotions as we say goodbye to our fantastic Year 2 children. We are so incredibly proud of each and every one of them. Their end-of-year performances were simply brilliant, showcasing not only their talents but also the confidence they have developed during their time with us. They were also exceptional ambassadors for the school during their leavers' trip to *Hercules* in London, demonstrating exemplary behaviour throughout the day.

Watching them leave through our famous balloon arch yesterday was a lovely, but emotional, moment. We really are going to miss them all. Although it is always sad to see them move on, I know they are more than ready for the next stage of their education. I look forward to visiting them regularly at John Ray Junior School and have no doubt that they will continue to make us all incredibly proud.



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Over the last few weeks it has also been wonderful to welcome our new Reception children and their families, and for all of our pupils to spend time with their new teachers. These transition opportunities are so valuable in helping everyone feel excited and confident about September.

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support Sports Day. Despite the incredibly hot weather, it was fantastic to see such a wonderful

turnout from families. The children showed brilliant determination, resilience and sportsmanship throughout the day, and I think the adults who took part deserve a mention too!

Our Colour Run was another highlight of the term! It was wonderful to see the children (and staff!) having so much fun, with plenty of laughter, giggles and colourful memories made. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a fantastic event.

As previously mentioned, we are saying farewell to some valued members of our staff team. We would like to thank Mrs Gooday, Miss Hollingsworth and Miss Okusaga for everything they have contributed to John Ray Infant School. They have all played an important part in our school community, and we wish them every success and happiness in their new ventures.

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome some new faces to our team. Miss Sheppard joins our Year 2 teaching team, Miss Newman joins Year 1, and Mrs Hancock joins our EYFS team. We are also very pleased to welcome Mrs Bailey-Whyte back from maternity leave. She will be working alongside Mrs Hales and Miss Ball within our Inclusion Team.

A reminder that any SEND queries should continue to be directed to our Inclusion Team via jri-inclusionleads@compassps.uk.

Congratulations to our Year 2 End of Year Award Winners:

- Outstanding Achievement Award – Kiera Johnson
- Kindness Award – Zara Roberts
- Sporting Stars – Isla-Kikki Emery and Kieron Hodgekiss

These awards recognise children who have consistently demonstrated our school values and should be incredibly proud of their achievements.



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As the summer holidays begin, I hope every family has the opportunity to relax, recharge and spend time doing the things that make you happy. Whether you're travelling, enjoying days out or simply making memories together at home, I hope you all have a wonderful summer.

If you can, please continue to encourage your child to read regularly over the holidays and, for our younger children, to keep practising their phonics. Even a few minutes each day makes a huge difference and will help them return to school feeling confident and ready to learn.

We look forward to welcoming our EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 children back to school on **Thursday 3rd September**. As previously communicated, our new EYFS children will attend their Group A and Group B induction days before starting together.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns over the summer break, please do get in touch. I will be checking my emails periodically throughout the holidays, although responses may be a little slower than usual. You can contact me at lchristian@compassps.uk.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support throughout the year. Working in partnership with our families makes such a difference, and we are incredibly grateful to be part of such a wonderful school community.

Have a safe, restful and happy summer, and we look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Mrs Lisa Christian
Headteacher