Handford Hall Primary School

57, Gatacre Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 2LQ
Headteacher: Mrs K Blake BA (Hons)
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Newsletter - September 2026

For your diary in September

Thursday 3.09 - school starts

Parent Workshops:

Tuesday 15.09 at 8.45 (Dome)
Tuesday 29.09 at 8.45 (Dome)
Tuesday 6.10 at 8.45 (Dome)
For more information, please see page 3 of this newsletter

Week beginning 7.09 - Geography week and ITFC SHINE project starts

Week beginning 14.09 – Topic Entry Point sessions

Week beginning 21.09 – KS2 Science week with Fab Science workshops

After school clubs start week beginning 28.09 letters to follow

Headteacher update

Dear Handford Hall Families,

Welcome back, parents and children, to the new academic year 2026/27! We have had the most amazing summer with the most beautiful summer weather. Even though from time to time we were looking forward to a bit of rain, which I am sure will come in the autumn, it has been a wonderful time for everyone.

I hope you all had the most amazing six weeks, and you are all ready for the new fabulous school year ahead.

A very special welcome to all our new families joining us at Handford Hall Primary School. We hope you and your children will enjoy their time with us and become part of our wonderful school community.

As we prepare for the return to school, I wanted to let you know about an important communication coming your way. On Friday 4th September, you will be emailed your child's class newsletter along with a presentation from your child's class teacher. These documents are designed to help you understand what your child will be learning and what we expect of them. The presentation will also cover other important areas such as the class timetable, PE sessions, reading expectations and other key information that will help you support your child's learning at home. I hope you will find both documents useful and informative.

We are also delighted to welcome some new members of staff to Handford Hall. Mrs Elsdon will be teaching our Reception class, Mrs Izzard will be teaching in Year 4, Miss Bryan will be teaching in Year 1, Mrs Watkins will be teaching in Year 3, and Miss Davies will be supporting children in Year 4. We are confident they will love working at Handford Hall as much as we all do and will make a wonderful addition to our team.

I would also like to offer our warmest congratulations to Miss Worley, who is taking up the role of Assistant Head for Inclusion at our school whilst also teaching one of our Year 6 classes. This is a well-deserved promotion, and we wish her all the best in her new role.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our children back to school on Thursday 3rd September 2026 promptly at 8.30am. Let's make 2026/27 an academic year that is the most memorable and successful for everyone in our school community.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs K Blake
Headteacher

2026/27 classes and teachers:

Reception RB	Mrs Barnett
Reception RE	Mrs Elsdon
Year 1 1B	Miss Bryan
Year 1 1L	Mrs Larkins
Year 2 2B	Miss Manners
Year 2 2S	Mrs Southgate
Year 3 3B	Miss Bodkin
Year 3 3SW	Mrs Watkins (Mon, Tue) Mrs Simpson/Wed-Fri)
Year 4 4I	Mrs Izzard
Year 4 4S	Ms Sterling
Year 5 5B	Miss Blake
Year 5 5G	Miss Gilardi
Year 6 6H	Mr Harraway
Year 6 6W	Miss Worley
Interventions	Mrs Morrison, Mrs Reid and Mrs Scales Kennedy

2026/27 School Priorities

Handford Hall Primary School Curriculum Priorities for 2026/2027

HH strengths: outstanding progress for all groups across the whole school, supportive, highly cohesive learning community where children reach and exceed their potential, innovative (creative/outdoor) curriculum design that allows for pupils to constantly share and reflection their own experiences.

Attendance target – 97%; to improve whole school attendance and PA (focus: identified groups and pupils between 92%-95%)

Oracy, Phonics, Reading,

- Mobile and poor attendance pupils and new arrivals
- Phonics/Early Reading
- Greater Depth pupils

- Phonological awareness and RWI
- Early Readers in KS2
- Reading Fluency
- Guided Reading
- Accelerated Reader
- Dualog Readers
- Reading Conferences
- Oracy
- Lesson Study and Pupil Book Study
- Focus year groups: Years 1, 3, 4 and 5
- AFL

Writing – whole school

Spelling, Handwriting, SPAG

- Mobile and identified poor attendance pupils and new arrivals
- Borderline pupils
- Greater Depth pupils

- Lesson study
- Pupil Book Study
- Revised T4W in EYFS and KS1
- Handwriting and spellings
- Focus year groups: Y1, Y3, Y4 and Y5
- Cross curricular writing
- AFL

Mathematics – whole school

- Mobile, poor attendance pupils and new arrivals
- Girls
- Greater Depth pupils

- Lesson study
- Pupil Book Study
- Mathematical enquiry /differentiation
- Focus on basic skills and arithmetic and KIRFs - HH core skills
- Focus year groups – Reception (number patterns), Y 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6
- AFL

HH Curriculum

To continue widened exposure to high-quality Arts and career enrichment opportunities and provision through the curriculum for Music, Art/DT, PE, PSHE, Science and Oracy

- Pupils continue to have exceptional experiences and learning at HH
- Pupils Book Study

Adaptive teaching and learning for All

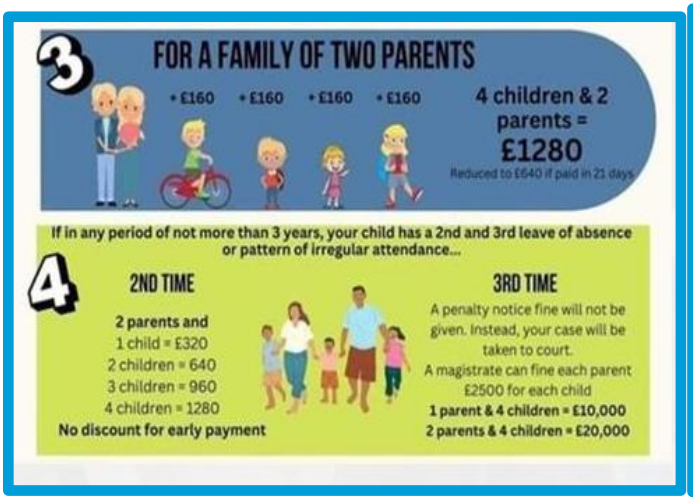
Working together in securing the best possible attendance

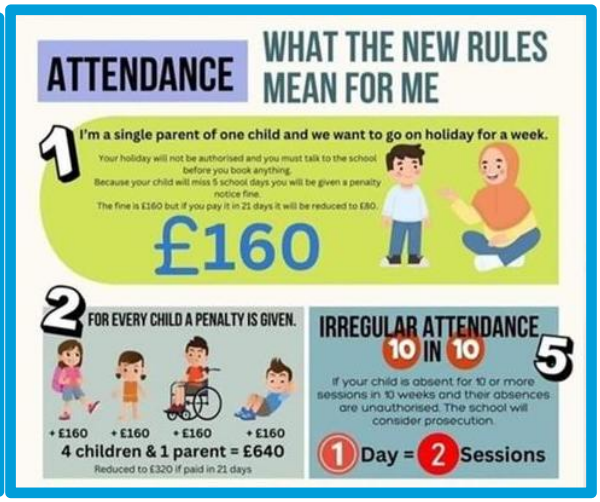
Pupil absences/term time holidays/visiting relatives abroad/renewing passports abroad

At Orwell Multi Academy Trust, we expect all children to be in school every day, unless they are too ill to attend.

Following government attendance guidelines, term time holidays, visiting relatives abroad during term time, renewing passports abroad during term time will not be authorised and will result in a fine. Unauthorised absences can also result in legal intervention.

Every school in the Trust has staff who can support you with your child's attendance, so we ask that you work with us to ensure that your child is in school, on time, every day.





Parent Workshops

Day, time and place	Workshops
Tuesday 15.09.2026 at 8:45 (Dome)	**School priorities for 2026/27** **Communication - Learn how to access information about the school, events, and your child's learning.**
Tuesday 29.09.2026 at 8:45 (Dome)	**Phonics and Reading – Year 1 parents** **Sparking Joy: Reading with your child.** **Unlock your child's reading potential - Discover how to support your child's reading and get guidance on suitable books for home reading.**
Tuesday 6.10.2026 at 8.45 (Dome)	**Maths at HH – what we teach, how the sessions are structured, what the expectations are, how parent can help at home.**

A polite reminder regarding birthday cakes, treats and party bags

Please note that we do not share birthday cakes, treats or party bags. Staff will not be able give these out.

Some of our children have very severe food allergies and must avoid certain foods. This makes these children very vulnerable, and it is important that they do not consume foods that may contain items that may cause an allergic reaction.

We are hoping that some of you may feel you wish to support an alternative solution. If you would like your child to donate a book for your child's classroom library, we would be happy to accept a donation of £5, and we will purchase a high-quality book to be added to the book nook. We will include a book plate (note inside a book) showing who donated the book and which birthday they were celebrating with the date.

We look forward to celebrating your child's birthday safely.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Earrings and PE sessions at Handford Hall

AfPE guidance states that:

"Schools have a duty of care to ensure students can participate actively without unnecessarily endangering themselves or those working around them. A clear and consistently applied policy for the removal of personal effects should be in place. The Association for Physical Education (AfPE) strongly recommends the practice of removing all personal effects at the commencement of every lesson to establish a safe working environment. This applies to all ear and body piercings, including retainer and expander earrings."

It has therefore been stated in our policy for several years that pupils should not participate in any form of physical activity whilst wearing earrings or jewellery. This helps ensure all students and teachers are safe and leaves no grey areas. We accept that piercings take time to heal, and this can be up to 6 weeks. We would therefore always advise that if a pupil is considering piercing their ears, this is undertaken at the beginning of the summer holidays to maximise healing time. Any piercing that cannot be taken out at school will ultimately be detrimental to your child's physical education.

Earrings at Handford Hall Primary School:

- If a pupil arrives to a PE lesson wearing earrings, they should take them out and place them safely with their belongings.
- Pupils should not tape up earrings.
- If a pupil is unable to remove a piercing, parents must provide their class teacher evidence of when the piercing took place and provide an estimate as to when they can remove the piercing and take part fully in PE.
- Once pupils can remove their studs, we recommend that on the days they have PE session they do not wear them for the full day.
- For consistency, this policy applies to all practical PE lessons, fixtures and extracurricular sports activities.

Teachers and support staff cannot take responsibility for earrings or other valuables at any point.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to strive to give all pupils at Handford Hall Primary School the best experience possible in PE.

When it is OK to bring your child to school

Absence will only be automatically authorised when a child is too unwell to attend school.

Please find below information regarding when children can attend school as we are able to give out medicine with your permission.

Condition	Action	Attendance
Cold/cough	Please bring medicine to school	In school
Painful tummy	Please bring medicine to school	In school
Headache	Please bring medicine to school	In school
Painful leg/arm	Please bring medicine to school	In school

Toothache	Please bring medicine to school	In school
Slight temperature	Please bring medicine to school	In school
Upset tummy/diarrhea/vomiting	24 hours before returning to school	After 24 hrs*
Chickenpox	For five days from onset of rash	After 5 days

Tonsillitis	Please bring medicine to school	In school if child is well enough
Sore throat	Please bring medicine to school	In school

Summary of dates for 2026/27

September	April
1.09 - PD day – no school for children **2.09 - PD day – no school for children** **3.09- school starts** 7.09 – Geography week 7.09 – ITFC SHINE project starts (promoting healthy teeth) 21.09 - KS2 science week **25.09 – new Reception parents open morning (9.15-10)** 28.09 – After school clubs start TBC – individual photos	**12.04 – school starts** 13.04 – Science week
October	**May**
5.10 – ART/DT week **13.10 – new Reception parents open morning (9.15-4.00)** **14.10 – no school for children - Parent Consultation Day (9.00-6.00)** **14.10 – Flu vaccinations for children will be available at HH 9.00-6.00 (dome)** **15.10 – RE day** **HALF TERM (26.10 – 30.10.2026)**	**4.05 – Bank Holiday** **5.05 – school starts** Week beginning 10.05 – Year 6 SATs **26.05 – SPORTS Day from Reception and years 1 and 2 (10.15-11.45)** **27.05 – RE day** **HALF TERM (31.05 – 4.06.2027)**
November	**June**
2.11 - PD day – no school for children **3.11 – Science week** **6.11 - 9.15am new Reception parents open mornings (new intake 2027)** **12.11 - 9.15am Reception open morning (new intake 2027)** 21.11 – Assessment week 30.11 – Assessment week	7.06 – Science week Year 6 transition days to high schools – date tbc **16.06 – SPORTS DAY for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 (10.15-12.00)** 30.06 – Reception induction evening **(6pm)**
December	**July**
Trips to Theatre to see Panto • Wednesday 9th Dec • Thursday 10th Dec • Wednesday 16th Dec 14.12 - Christmas production 2.30 for Y1 parents 15.12 – Christmas production 2.30 for Year 2 parents **17.12 – RE day** 17.12 - Christmas dinner 18.12 – 9.15 KS1 Celebration assembly, 11.00 – KS2 assembly **CHRISTMAS BREAK (21.12– 1.01.2027)**	5.07 – Year 6 Activities week **8.07 – RE day** 14.07 – 'Meet your new class teacher' transitions sessions 19.07 – Leavers' Assembly – 10.00am – for year 6 parents only 20.07. – Celebration assembly • 9.15 for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 • 11.00 for Years 3, 4 5 and 6 **Wednesday 20.07 – the last day of term**
January	
4.01 – school starts 4.01 – Science week	
February	
3.02 – no school for children- Parent Consultations Day (9.00-6.00) **4.02 – RE day** **HALF TERM (15-02 - 19.02.2026)** **22.02 – PD day – no school for children** 23.02 – KS2 Science week	
March	
5.03 - World Book Day **15.03 – PD day – no school for children** 24.03 – RE day **Easter break – 26.03 – 9.04.2027**	

2026/27 academic year - calendar

2026-2027

September 26						
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October 26						
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November 26						
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29	30					

December 26						
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January 27						
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31						

February 27						
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28						

March 27						
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April 27						
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May 27						
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30	31					

June 27						
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27	28	29	30			

July 27						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 27						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

School holiday and PD days - no school for children

Handford Hall School Uniform

Please ensure children do not wear PE kit on their PE days, thank you

2026/27	HH protocols
Free Early Drop Off for working parents	8.00-8.30 Pedestrian gate opens between 8.00-8.10. *Late arrivals will not be permitted on school premises.*
Start time	School gates open **8.30** School gates close **8.40**
End time	School gates open **3.30** (Mon– Thurs) School gates close **3.45** (Mon– Thurs) School gates open 1.00 (Fri) School gates close 1.15 (Fri)
School office opening hours for parents	8.30-9.30 (Mon—Fri) 3.00-4.00 (Mon—Thurs) 1.00-2.00 (Fri)
Lunches for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2	From September 2023 pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have school dinners or school packed lunches. **No home packed lunches.**
Pupils' mobile phones	Pupils' mobile phones are not allowed on school premises.
Bringing/collecting pupils to/from school	Only **parents** and identified by the family **adults (18 years +)** will be allowed to bring and collect children to and from school. **No under-age siblings/under-age family members** are permitted to bring/collect pupils to/from school.
Pupils walking to school/walking home on their own	**Year 6 pupils** can apply for permission to walk to school/home on their own. Please request forms at the school office, thank you.

What to bring to school	What not to bring to school
HH School book bag	No rucksacks if possible please
Bottle of water	No fizzy drinks or sweets please
HH PE kit in PE bag	No bikes/scooters /home toys please
Packed lunch if required (KS2 only)	No pencils cases please