



HANDFORD HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter – April 2025

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Headteacher: Mrs K Blake BA (Hons)
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Headteacher Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school! We hope you all enjoyed a relaxing Easter break and are ready to embrace the exciting opportunities that lie ahead this term.

As we settle into our routines, I'd like to draw your attention to some important matters that require our collective focus and support.

Our Year 6 pupils are embarking on a crucial phase of their primary education journey. With SATs on the horizon and the transition to high school approaching, this year demands significant effort and dedication from our young learners. I'm delighted to report that our Year 6 cohort has shown remarkable focus and enthusiasm towards their studies, embodying the spirit of lifelong learning we aim to instil at Handford Hall.

To further support our Year 6 pupils, we've implemented additional morning Booster Classes, which have been running since February. These sessions, starting at 8:00 am, provide extra guidance and practice to ensure our pupils are well-prepared for the challenges ahead. The commitment shown by our pupils in attending these early morning sessions is truly commendable and reflects their determination to succeed.

I'd like to remind everyone that the Year 6 SATs will take place during the week beginning 12th May 2025, from Monday to Thursday. We're confident that our pupils will approach these assessments with the same enthusiasm and dedication they've demonstrated throughout the year.

Shifting our focus to a matter that affects us all, I want to emphasise the critical importance of attendance and punctuality. At Handford Hall, we're deeply committed to ensuring every child receives their full entitlement to education. We understand that various circumstances can sometimes make regular attendance challenging, which is why we're dedicated to working closely with families to address and overcome any potential barriers.

I'm thrilled to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the families who have been supporting our ambitious drive to achieve 97% attendance and above. Your efforts in ensuring your children attend school every day, on time, are making a significant impact in reducing our persistent absence figures. This commitment not only benefits your child's education but also contributes to the positive learning environment we strive to maintain for all our pupils.

Your ongoing support and partnership in these endeavours are invaluable. Together, we're creating an environment where every child can thrive, learn, and reach their full potential.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our school community. Let's make this term another successful chapter in our Handford Hall story.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Blake
Headteacher

End of Spring Term Stars:

| CLASS | SPRING TERM 2025 HEADTEACHER'S AWARD |
|-------|--|
| RC | Daniel is a kind and focused member of RC and has made excellent progress across every area of learning. Well done Daniel, we are proud to have you in our class. |
| RB | Elisei has grown in confidence since he started at Handford Hall. He has made incredible progress in all areas of EYFS, especially in RWInc. Set 1A to Ditty in half a term, WOW Elisei. Keep up the hard work. Mrs Barnett. |
| 1M | Throughout the year so far, Attila has worked exceedingly hard in all areas of the curriculum and loves to be challenged to reach his highest potential! Attila demonstrates exceptional kindness and support to his peers and is a fantastic role model for behaviour to the whole school. Attila is a brilliant asset to 1M, and we love having him in our class because he puts a smile on our faces every day. Congratulations Attila! |
| 1L | Estera is a hardworking and talented pupil who is a kind friend to everyone. She is always curious to learn more and is making excellent progress across the curriculum. You are a superstar Estera - well done! |
| 2B | Adelina has shown great focus this term. She is curious about her learning and is keen to use an articulate voice to engage in learning. She is kind and friendly and can always be found following school rules. An excellent behaviour for learning role model. Well Done. |
| 2SM | Anna has made great progress this term. She always listens carefully, participates brilliantly, and always puts her hand up to answer questions. She consistently demonstrates an incredible work ethic and is always striving to do her best in every task. She's also shown a growing love for reading at home and at school this term which has been fantastic to see. What a superstar! We are so proud of you! Well done. |
| 3B | Eva is an absolute superstar. She has made fantastic progress across all areas of the curriculum due to her enthusiastic and curious nature. Eva is always one of the first children to raise her hand to answer a question in class. One area of the curriculum it has been a pleasure to see Eva progress in is reading. It is clear to see that Eva loves reading and is using fantastic expression when reading aloud. Well done, Eva. Keep it up into the summer term. |
| 3A | Andrei has been a star this term. He is always ready for learning and shows great focus on everything we do. He completes all his work to the highest standard with a smile on his face. He has shown resilience when he has found things challenging. Well Done Andrei - you are star! |
| 4W | Luca always demonstrates exemplary behaviour for learning. He is always ready to learn and is determined to challenge himself. He has made fantastic progress so far this school year and is working hard to improve his handwriting and presentation. Luca demonstrates excellent focus, perseverance, and a positive attitude in class. Well done Luca keep it up! |
| 4S | Alyssa has worked hard at her attendance and at her tasks in lessons, work. As a result, she did well in the end of term assessments, achieving a personal best score in Maths. She has also identified what she knows she needs to do to reach a maximum score in her times tables test in June and has shown commitment. She has also been very articulate during our Ancient Egyptian topic and has shared a lot of knowledge in lessons that have helped us learn more about them. Well done, Alyssa, we are proud of you. |
| 5B | Aya has had a fantastic year so far in Year 5. Every day, she continues to work hard in all lessons, showing that she is always the best that she can be. Aya is resilient when faced with a challenge and strives to succeed. She should be incredibly proud of all her hard work this year, especially her wonderful writing that I'm always super excited to read. I cannot wait to see what else Aya can achieve by the end of the year! |
| 5G | Sara has been nominated for making a huge improvement in her resilience for learning. Sara's resilience has continued to grow over this half term, allowing her to work independently and tackle challenges. Her positive attitude towards learning and improvement in attendance has enhanced her overall engagement and understanding in all lessons. Congratulations Sara and keep up the hard work! |
| 6H | Ayah has had an exceptional term. She has consistently pushed herself in her learning and has made outstanding progress. In lessons, Breakfast club booster classes and after school master classes, Ayah has pursued her learning with great effort and determination, whilst simultaneously being an active and helpful learning partner to whomever she works with. Very well done, Ayah! |
| 6P | Hibah has worked extremely hard this term, and her progress reflects all her hard work. She has developed great resilience moving between Mrs Blake's, Mr Harraway's and Mrs Pearl's maths groups. She shows how adaptable she is, taking on advice and ensuring that her understanding of mathematical concepts grows deeper and deeper. Hibah has attended Breakfast Club daily and our special Golden Ticket Club (she has also signed up to our Easter Masterclass!) She is the perfect example of how hard work pays off! Well done Hibah - you should feel very proud of all you have accomplished this year. Roll on summer term. |

TERM DATES

2024-2025

September 24

| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa |
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October 24

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November 24

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December 24

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January 25

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February 25

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March 25

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April 25

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May 25

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June 25



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July 25

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August 25

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| 31 | | | | | | |

 School holiday closures
 PD days

Term dates for 2024/25

Summer term 2025

Tuesday 22nd April - school starts

Half term - 26.05-30.05.2025

Friday 18th July - last day of school (end of term)

April 2025 Attendance figures

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|---|
| RC 97% | RB 92% | 1L 93% |
| 1M 95% | 2B 98% | 2SM 92% |
| 3A 96% | 3B 97% | 4S 97% |
| 4W 94% | 5B 97% | 5G 93% |
| 6H 94% | 6P 94% | School end of year target 97% |

TERM DATES 2025-2026

| September 25 | | | | | | |
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| October 25 | | | | | | |
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| November 25 | | | | | | |
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| December 25 | | | | | | |
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| January 26 | | | | | | |
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| February 26 | | | | | | |
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| March 26 | | | | | | |
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| April 26 | | | | | | |
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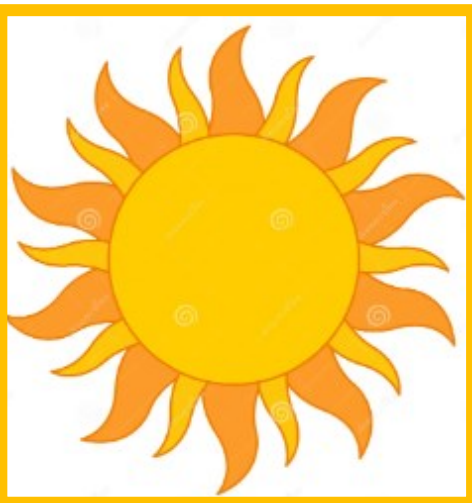
| May 26 | | | | | | |
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| June 26 | | | | | | |
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| July 26 | | | | | | |
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| August 26 | | | | | | |
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| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

 School holiday and PD days - no school for children



Planning ahead to avoid fixed term penalties

This academic year, we are finishing school on **Friday 18th July 2025 (18.07.2025)**.

In the academic year 2025/26 school starts on **Wednesday 3rd September 2025 (3.09.2025)**, therefore parent will have **6 weeks and 2 days (47 days)** of the summer holidays.

If you are planning to travel abroad, please start planning now to avoid paying high prices for your flight tickets and return to school on time in September.

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 will 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.

ATTENDANCE WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

1 I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.

Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything. Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine. The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

£160



2 FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN.

4 children & **1** parent = **£640**
Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE

10 IN 10


If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.

1 Day = **2** Sessions

3 FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS

+£160 +£160 +£160 +£160

4 children & **2** parents = **£1280**
Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days



If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

4

2ND TIME


2 parents and 1 child = £320
2 children = 640
3 children = 960
4 children = 1280

No discount for early payment

3RD TIME

A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court. A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child

1 parent & **4** children = **£10,000**
2 parents & **4** children = **£20,000**



Handford Hall School Uniform

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

Uniform

Children should wear:

- Black/dark blue trousers or skirt
- A white shirt or polo shirt
- A navy cardigan or a jumper with the school logo (this can be purchased from [PMG Schoolwear](#), Westgate Street)
- Black shoes

Please label EVERYTHING.

(Jewellery should not be worn)



| 2024/25 | HH protocols |
|--|--|
| 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 (Universal Free School Meals) | 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 will not be allowed on school premises. |
| Bringing/collecting pupils to/from school | Only parents and identified by the families 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



HH School book bag

Bottle of water



HH PE kit in PE bag



Packed lunch if required (KS2 only)



What not to bring to school



No rucksacks if possible please



No fizzy drinks or sweets please



No bikes/scooters /home toys please



No pencils cases please

