

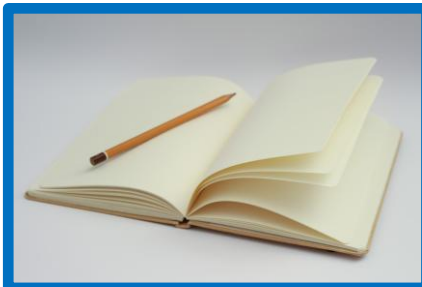
Handford Hall Primary School

57, Gatacre Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 2LQ

Headteacher: Mrs K Blake BA (Hons)

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Newsletter - October 2026



For your diary October

Thursday 1st October – Census Special Dinner (Pirate's Menu)

Wk. beginning 5th October – Art/DT week

Tuesday 6.10 – Year 3 trip to University of Ipswich Dental Clinic

Tuesday 6.10 at 8.45 (Dome)
Maths at HH – what we teach, how the sessions are structured, what the expectations are, how parents can help at home.

Thursday 8.10 – Year 2 trip to University of Suffolk Dental Clinic

Tuesday 13.10 – New Reception Parents 2027 Open Morning at 9.15am

Wednesday 14.10 – Parent Consultation Day

Thursday 15.10 – RE day

Thursday 22.10 – Fire Brigade to visit Year 2 students

26.10-30.10 – Half term

Monday 2.11.2026 – PD day – no school for children

Headteacher update

Dear Parents,
September has flown by incredibly quickly! We have been blessed with beautiful late-summer weather, and it has been wonderful to see the children make such a positive start to the new academic year.

The children have settled brilliantly into their new classes and are working hard on their exciting projects. Their enthusiasm, determination, and smiling faces have made the start of term a real pleasure for everyone.

We are looking forward to welcoming you on **Wednesday 14th October** for our annual Parent Consultation Day. This is a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and celebrate their achievements so far this year.

Please take a look at the second page of this newsletter, where you will find an overview of the agencies and support services that will be available on the day. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a range of professionals joining us to support our school community, and we encourage you to make the most of the information and guidance they can offer.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Blake

Thursday 1st October 2026

Our Special Lunch



September 2026 attendance

RB - 95%	RE - 91%	1B - 96%
1L - 96%	2M - 96%	2S - 94%
3B - 90%	3SW - 92%	4I - 92%
4S - 94%	5B - 94%	5G - 96%
6H - 95%	6W - 93%	Target 97%

September 2026 attendance excluding pupils with unauthorized holidays

RB - 95%	RE - 94%	1B - 98%
1L - 97%	2M - 97%	2S - 96%
3B - 95%	3SW - 98%	4I - 98%
4S - 98%	5B - 99%	5G - 99%
6H - 97%	6W - 97%	Target 97%

HH Annual Parent Consultation Day

Wednesday 14th October 2026

9:00-18:00

What Will Be Available in Our Dome?

Families will have access to a range of free health and community services, including:

- **Flu vaccinations for children - NHS nurses will be on hand to help complete any required paperwork and administer the flu nasal spray.**
- **Free dental appointments - The Ipswich Dentist Mobile Unit will be based on the school site. Families who return the dental consent form to their child's class teacher by 5th October will be allocated a free appointment slot.**
- **Ipswich Tooth Club - Meet the team and find out how to register your family to access dental appointments**
- **Suffolk Libraries - Speak to the Suffolk Libraries team and learn about the services and opportunities available for children and families**
- **Specsavers – Support in making an appointment to check your child's eyesight**
- **Eastern Angles Homework Club – Speak to the team about after school facility to support pupils with homework**
- **The Wellington Centre – Meet the team and learn about the sessions for younger children and support available to our families**
- **Ipswich Borough Council – Engagement Team – making our area safe and attractive**
- **ESOL – learning English (support for parents on how to access English classes)**

Year 6 Parents

Additional support will be available for Year 6 parents and carers who would like help in completing their secondary school application forms. Our team will be on hand to provide guidance and answer any questions.

See you all on Wednesday 14th October (9:00 – 18:00)

September at HH in photos:



Handford Hall PS @HandfordHallPS · Sep 15

Measures, measures, measures – we are on it! Well done 3B!



Year 3 were exploring measures in Maths – investigation and enquiry are important part of HH Maths sessions.

Decimals? It is not a problem for 5B



Year 5 were investigating decimals in their Maths sessions. "Learning about decimals is important because they help us measure exact amounts and handle everyday tasks like counting money or following recipes".

Year 2 loved having Harriet Howe visit yesterday and were amazed by her fantastic story!



Year 2 pupils loved writing their own stories following the author visit to our school. Ms Harriet Howe was very impressed with their efforts.

Handford Hall PS @HandfordHallPS · Sep 15



4S children were working very hard in their maths session! All independent work! Well done!



Year 4 students were working very hard on their independent skills.





ITFC SHINE programme in Year 3 and Year 2. The SHINE Programme is a six-week oral health initiative launched by the Ipswich Town Foundation to tackle childhood tooth decay.



Our School Prefect for 2026/27- after completing their application forms the big day finally arrived – annoucement of School Prefects for this academic year!



Fab Science workshops are back! Y5 and 6 children investigated fingerprints, footprints, DNA, chromatography, microscopes and handwriting analysis...a very busy day! Our Year 3 and 4 pupils were investigating Fantastic Forces!

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.

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

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.

+£160 +£160 +£160 +£160
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.

5 1 Day = 2 Sessions



Handford Hall PS
@HandfordHallPS

Achieve - Believe - Celebrate

A vibrant and diverse Primary School in the heart of Ipswich
Developing skills for life long learning

For weekly updates please follow us on X platform:

<https://x.com/HandfordHallPS>

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
January	<u>Wednesday 20.07 – the last day of term</u>
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	October 26	November 26	December 26
Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa
1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	13 14 15 16 17 18
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	29 30	27 28 29 30 31
January 27	February 27	March 27	April 27
Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa
1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 5 6 7 8 9 10
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18 19 20 21 22 23 24
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28	28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30
31			
May 27	June 27	July 27	August 27
Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Su M Tu W Th F Sa
1	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	27 28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	29 30 31
30 31			
School holiday and PD days - no school for children			

 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

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)



2026/27	HH protocols
Free Early Drop Off for working parents	8.00-8.30 Pedestrian gate opens between 8.00-8.10. <i>Late arrivals will not be permitted on school premises.</i>
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 