



HANDFORD HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter — March 2025

57, Gatacre Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 2LQ
 Headteacher: Mrs K Blake BA (Hons)
 tel: 01473 251 603 website: www.handfordhall.omat.org.uk

Headteacher Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had a restful half term break and are ready for the second half of the Spring Term. Whilst reading, writing and counting will always be a central part of what we teach, we are also keen that our pupils receive a wide and rich curriculum which inspires learning in other areas and teaches life skills too. We have a busy half term coming up with a number of events planned including Parent Consultation Evenings (more details will follow).

If you are not yet following our social media account (X/Twitter), you can use the link in the newsletter to find us and see the broad range of learning experiences undertaken as part of our curriculum and enrichment offer (<https://x.com/HandfordHallPS>).

At the end of last term, we said our good-byes to Mr Holmes who is emigrating to the USA and is getting married there. We would like to thank him for all his hard work and support and wish him all the best for the future. Good luck, Mr Holmes! We also would like to welcome Miss Bryan, our new teaching assistant, who has joined us this week.

Yours sincerely,
 Mrs Blake
 Headteacher

February 2025 Attendance figures

RC 98%	RB 93%	1L 90%
1M 96%	2B 96%	2SM 95%
3A 92%	3B 95%	4S 96%
4W 94%	5B 96%	5G 91%
6H 94%	6P 95%	School end of year target 97%

Spring Term Parent Consultation Evening



Tuesday 1st April—4.00-7.00
 Wednesday 2nd April—4.00-6.00

End of Spring Term Celebration Assembly

Friday 4th April 2025 at 10am

Dear Handford Hall community,

We are thrilled to share with you an extraordinary experience that our Year 5 pupils have been part of this half term. It's moments like these that truly showcase the vibrant, creative spirit of our school and the incredible opportunities our children are embracing.

Our Year 5 pupils have been immersed in the Thomas Wolsey 550 Project, a captivating dance initiative that has brought a spark of creativity and expression to our halls. For five weeks, we've had the privilege of welcoming talented DanceEast artists into our school. These artists have been working closely with our pupils, guiding them through a collaborative journey to create a unique piece of dance work.

The theme of their project, 'Migration', has allowed our children to explore profound concepts such as belonging, identity, and individuality. It's been heartwarming to see how they've engaged with these ideas, translating them into movement and expression.

The culmination of this project was nothing short of magical. In the sixth week, our budding dancers were invited to DanceEast to showcase their work in one of their professional studios. The excitement was palpable as our 5B and 5G pupils performed at DanceEast on Friday, 14th February. To say they had an amazing time would be an understatement - the joy and pride radiating from their faces was a sight to behold.

But the experience didn't end there. Our pupils were also treated to a performance of 'Fish Boy' by 2Faced Dance, adding another layer of inspiration to their dance journey.

Projects like these are invaluable. They not only nurture our pupils' creativity and physical skills but also boost their confidence, encourage teamwork, and provide a platform for self-expression. The memories created and the skills developed will undoubtedly stay with our Year 5s for years to come.

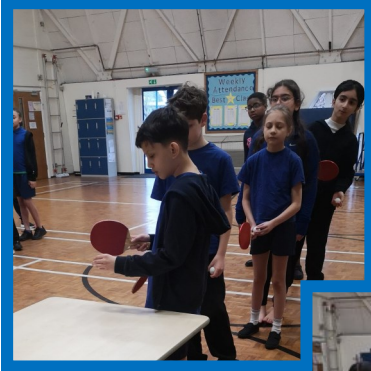
We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Wolsey and DanceEast for providing this incredible opportunity for our pupils. Their commitment to nurturing young talent and bringing the arts into our school is truly appreciated.

As we continue through the academic year, we are excited to see how experiences like these will shape our pupils' growth and learning. It's a reminder of the diverse and enriching education we strive to provide at Handford Hall, going beyond the classroom to inspire and challenge our young learners.

Here's to many more opportunities that allow our pupils to shine, explore, and grow!

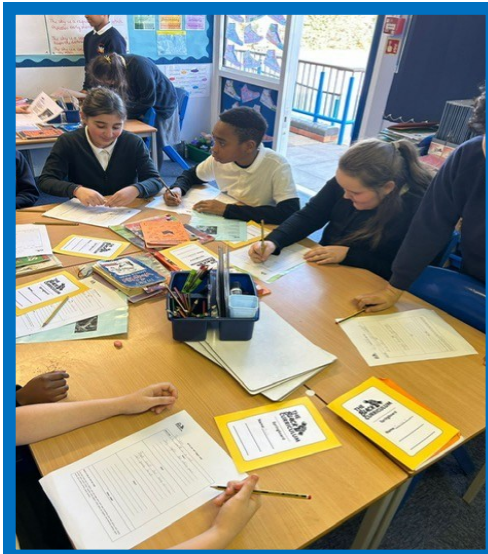


February 2025



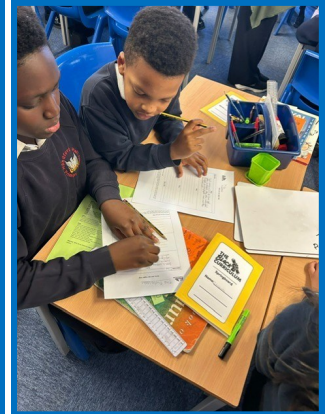
Learning new skills

KS2 children were taking part in Table Tennis Enrichment Day in the last week of term.



Black Curriculum workshop

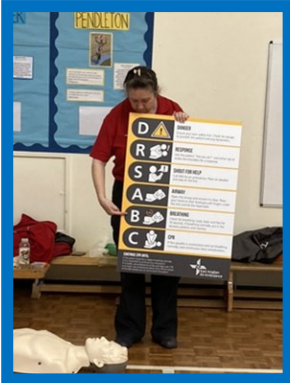
Writing lyrics to our own reggae songs - well done Year 5!



Sharing learning with parents—Medical heroes of the past

Year 2 children painted their favourite medical heroes and displayed these for their parents to see. They were able to tell our guests why these people were important in our history.





Growing future doctors, nurses, paramedics, health professional of the future

A successful exit point event for our Year 2 pupils linked to medical Heroes.

"We learnt how to help a poorly person with CPR training from The East Anglian Air Ambulance".



Roblox and Child Safety: What Parents Need to Know

Roblox is one of the most popular online platforms for children, with millions of active users creating, sharing, and playing games. While it can provide endless hours of creativity and fun, it also raises questions about safety. As a parent, you might wonder: is Roblox safe for my child?

Age Limits on Roblox

Roblox is officially rated 7+ by PEGI (Pan European Game Information) and 10+ on the Apple App Store. However, it's ultimately up to parents to decide whether their child is ready for the platform. While Roblox features games designed for younger children, it also contains content that **may be inappropriate or unsafe**, particularly in user-generated games or during social interactions.

Roblox Content Categories:

- ◆ All ages: Suitable for everyone. Games in this category are considered "safe" for kids, featuring only mild violence or small amounts of unrealistic blood.
- ◆ 9+: Suitable for ages nine and older. These games may include more mild violence or heavy amounts of unrealistic blood.
- ◆ 13+: Suitable for ages 13 and older. Games in this category often include more serious violence and small amounts of realistic blood.
- ◆ 17+: Suitable for players over 17. Content may feature strong violence, heavy realistic blood, strong language, and moderate crude humor.

Is Roblox safe for children?

Parents should be aware of several risks associated with Roblox:

1. **Inappropriate Content.** Despite Roblox's moderation efforts, some games or user interactions may include inappropriate language, themes, or behavior. Children might encounter games that are not age-appropriate, such as those containing simulated violence, or engage with players who don't have their best interests in mind.
2. **Online Predators.** The platform's social features, including chat and friend requests, can expose children to strangers. Predators may use these tools to contact children, posing as friends or fellow gamers to exploit their trust.
3. **In-Game Purchases.** Roblox's economy relies on Robux, a virtual currency that players purchase with real money. Children may not fully grasp the value of money, leading to unplanned or excessive spending.
4. **Cyberbullying.** Like any online platform, Roblox is not immune to cyberbullying. Children may face rude or aggressive players, which can impact their enjoyment and emotional well-being.
5. **Phishing Scams** Scammers often target children through fake links or messages, tricking them into sharing account details. These phishing scams can result in account theft or the loss of Robux. Fraudsters may also promise free Robux in exchange for personal information or actions, exploiting children's interest in earning the currency.
6. **Account Takeovers and Hacking.** A community of individuals known as "beamers" specializes in gaining unauthorized access to accounts. These hackers steal valuable virtual items and resell them on illicit marketplaces for real money or cryptocurrency.
7. **Malware and Viruses** Scams targeting children have included malicious websites promising free Robux. These sites may ask children to download apps containing malware or share personal information, allowing criminals to compromise their accounts or devices.

How to Protect Children on Roblox

Here are steps you can take to help ensure your child's safety on Roblox:

1. **Set Up Parental Controls.** Use Roblox's parental controls to limit what your child can access. Enable the "Account Restrictions" feature to ensure games and interactions are age-appropriate. Additionally, take advantage of Bitdefender Parental Control to monitor and manage your child's online activity on Roblox. This tool allows you to track how much time they spend on the platform, block inappropriate interactions, and create a safer digital environment for your child.
2. **Set Time Limits for Gaming** Roblox's engaging design can make it easy for children to spend excessive time online.

How to set time limits:

- Create a family media plan with clear rules about gaming.
- Encourage regular screen breaks and reward time spent on offline activities.
- Use Bitdefender Parental Control to manage internet time more effectively. This tool allows you to:
 - Set healthy boundaries by limiting the amount of time your child can spend on specific devices.
 - Customize daily routines like Focus Time, Family Time, and Bedtime to ensure their internet usage aligns with your family's schedule.
- 3. **Protect Your Child's Account with a Strong Password and 2FA** to secure your child's account against hacks.
- 4. **Set up a Parent PIN.** This adds an extra layer of security to protect their account.

TERM DATES

2024-2025

September 24						
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April 25						
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 School holiday closures
 PD days

Term dates for 2024/25

Spring Term 2025

Monday 24th February—OMAT PD day

Monday 17th March - PD day

Friday 4th April—Last day of term

Easter break - 7.04-18.04.2025

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)

TERM DATES 2025-2026

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April 26						
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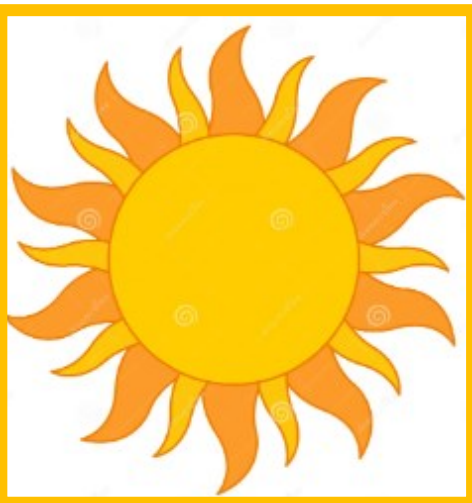
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 School holiday and PD days - no school for children



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

5

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

