



HANDFORD HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter – February 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,

Somehow, we find ourselves halfway through the half term already—2 more weeks and we will be having our half term break.

You will have noticed that the weather has been colder recently, although we did manage to avoid the worst of Storm Eowyn. We are keen that children get fresh air by playing outside every day, so please make sure that children bring a warm coat, hat and gloves to school and that these are clearly marked with their name in case they get lost. Remember we expect children to wear black school shoes whilst at school and not boots for safety reasons, as well as to make sure they are comfortable when in class. Thank you for your ongoing support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Blake
Headteacher

January 2025 Attendance figures

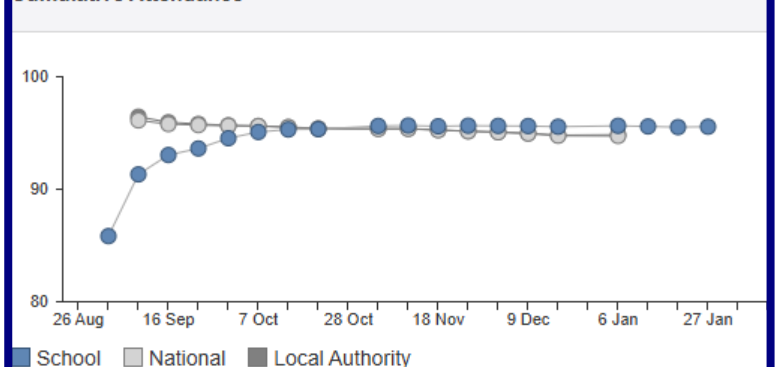
RC 98%	RB 91%	1L 97%
1M 92%	2B 93%	2SM 97%
3A 95%	3B 95%	4S 96%
4W 98%	5B 95%	5G 95%
6H 96%	6P 92%	School end of year target 97%

Whole school attendance so far:

Attendance percentage

School	94.9%
National	94.8%
Local Authority	94.9%

Cumulative Attendance



January 2025



Our local area

HH Year 1 students are exploring our local area and clearly enjoy exploring maps and investigating features of our town. Look at their fabulous models!

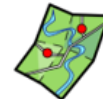
Key Questions:



What are the features of our local area?



What does Ipswich look like from above?



What are the features of a map?

Chinese New Year - The Year of the Snake

Last week, in one of our assemblies, we learnt about a very important celebration.

Lunar New Year is spectacular, loud, and for many cultures across Asia the most important festival of the year. The festival begins on the first day of the first lunar month in the calendar, and ends with the 'Lantern Festival' on the 15th day.

The date of Lunar New Year differs every year. **In 2025 it occurs on 29 January.**

In many cultures, each year is also associated with an animal from the zodiac. Often the animals are the same across different Asian countries, including China, South Korea, North Korea, Singapore and Cambodia.



Active Planet

Year 3 children are enjoying their new topic, Active Planet. They are learning about volcanoes and their impact on people and their communities.

And of course, making them was a lot of fun!



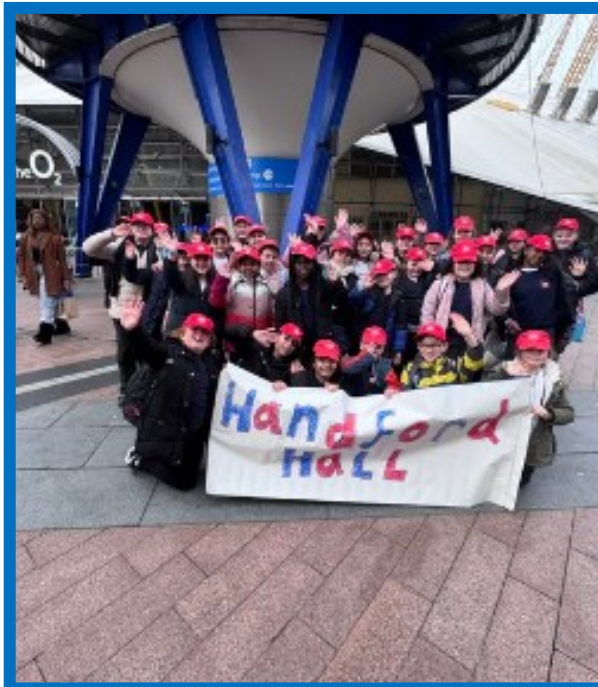


Young Voices 2025

HH choir enjoyed rehearsing and taking part in the largest choir, Young Voices 2025.

They had an opportunity to sing alongside special guests MC Grammar (remember him from last year?!), Tommy Blaize (vocalist on Strictly Come Dancing) and 14-year-old singing superstar Souparnika Nair (semi-finalist on BGT and star of the UK touring musical School of Rock).

Well done Team HH!



HH Word Count Millionaire

Our first AR Word Count Millionaire of 2024/25 is Rehan (Y6) - 1, 185, 471 and 34 quizzes passed.

Well done!

HH Attendance and Punctuality

We're making significant strides in improving our whole school attendance and punctuality. It's crucial to remember that every day at school counts.

Just one day of absence means missing out on nine learning sessions, including vital Maths, English, and foundation subjects.

Five days away from school equates to approximately 39 missed lessons. Beyond academics, regular attendance also plays a pivotal role in nurturing peer relationships, which are fundamental to your child's social development.

1 day absence	Your child would have missed 9 lessons: 1x morning Maths practice (a sequence of 5 lessons) 1X Maths lesson 1x Phonics lesson/Guided Reading lesson 1X English lesson 1X Accelerated Reader session 3X foundation subjects 1X Reading for Pleasure session
5 days absence	Your child would have missed approximately 39 lessons: e.g. 5 X Maths lessons 5 X English lessons 5 X Reading lessons Etc.

Punctuality - benefits of your child arriving on time each day and ways you can help.

Why is it important to be on time every day?

- Every moment a child is late = missed learning.
- Children that are on time start the day settled, relaxed and ready to learn. Children that arrive late are often stressed and embarrassed and take a while to settle into their day.
- Late arrivals cause disruption within the class which has an effect on everyone.

To help make mornings run smoothly and ensure punctuality:

- Be positive about going to school.
- It is a good idea to prep and lay out uniform, shoes, lunches and water bottles the night before.
- Have a list your children can see, of tasks they need to complete in a morning such as get dressed, shoes on, water bottle filled, teeth brushed etc so they know what they need to do to be ready to leave on time.
- Set an alarm in your phone or on Alexa when there are 10 minutes left to leave the house so your children have a reminder that it is almost time to go.
- Turn off TV and screens during breakfast and get ready time.
- Whether you drive your children to school or walk with them make sure that you leave the house in good time to arrive for 8.30am
- If your child walks to school alone, ensure they are out of the house in good time to get themselves to school.

Internet/social media at home

The world around us has changed very quickly and whilst new technologies offer so many opportunities and exciting new knowledge and ways of communicating than ever before they also hold risks, particularly to children.

We work hard to ensure that children understand how to stay safe while using the internet; whether through a computer, telephone or game, and the risks of sending images or being in contact with people they do not know online.

You can also help to protect children from putting themselves at risk by monitoring their use of online technologies and restricting access to social media. A gentle reminder that the recommended age for using Whatsapp is 16+. Teachers cannot supervise children's access to social media/internet outside the school hours so please ensure you put relevant safety measures at home.

There are many places to seek further advice and information on the ever-changing world of online technologies and the risks to young people. A particularly useful source of information, which contains information as well as activities for parents and children of all ages is www.thinkuknow.co.uk

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.

Handford Hall Primary School
(Jewellery should not be worn)



Concerns

As always, we are fully committed to the well-being of all children in our care. If you have any concerns about your child, please speak to **their class teacher** at your first opportunity. Appointments can be made by speaking to the teacher on the playground at the end of the school day. We ask parents to avoid speaking with class teachers at the start of the day as this takes them away from looking after the children. Please ask senior leaders on duty every morning on the playground to pass on a message if necessary. Thank you.

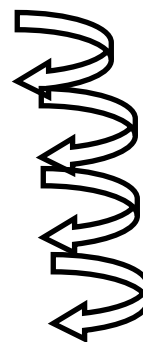
Class teacher

Phase lead (Mrs Cabras, Mrs Hilton, Miss Worley, Mrs Blake*)

Assistant Headteacher (Mrs Hilton)

Deputy Headteacher (Mrs Caston)

Headteacher (Mrs Blake)



TERM DATES

2024-2025

September 24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



April 25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July 25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

 School holiday closures
 PD days

Term dates for 2024/25

Spring Term 2025

Half term - 17.02-21.02. 2025

Monday 24th February—OMAT PD day (additional)

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)

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

