



# HANDFORD HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Newsletter – January 2025

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

### Headteacher Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I do hope you all had a fabulous Christmas and New Year. The children started back well at school and were very quickly back to routine. At our first assembly of 2025 we discussed importance of punctuality and school attendance. Regular attendance at school is one of the keys to any child achieving their full potential and we try to encourage this at all times at Handford Hall Primary School.

This term is a short one, with the half term arriving in the week beginning 17th February, which means we have a lot to do in a short space of time (6 weeks). Our children are looking forward to their Young Voices singing experience at the O2 in London and many other enrichment opportunities. Please don't forget to follow us on X platform to see what is happening at our school every week.

Yours sincerely,  
 Mrs Blake

#### December 2024 Attendance figures

RC 95%	RB 92%	1L 94%
1M 94%	2B 95%	2SM 87%
3A 97%	3B 97%	4S 95%
4W 96%	5B 97%	5G 94%
6H 94%	6P 97%	School end of year target <b>97%</b>

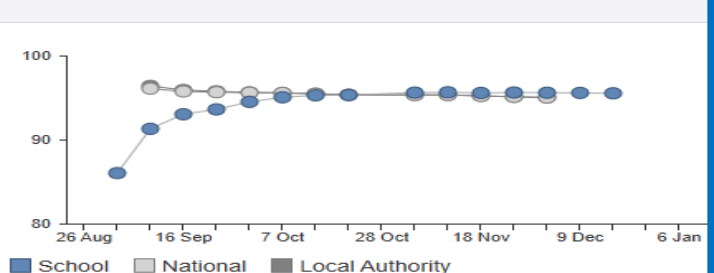
#### Whole school attendance so far

Attendance percentage	
School	94.9%
National	95.1%
Local Authority	95.1%

#### Whole school attendance excluding term time holidays

Student Group ↓	Present R/C
	Marks
All Students	97.1%

#### Cumulative Attendance



## 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.

<b>1 day absence</b>	Your child would have missed <b>9 lessons:</b>  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
<b>5 days absence</b>	Your child would have missed approximately <b>39 lessons:</b> 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.

## What's on this half term



### **Fab Science workshops for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6**

Growing future scientists at Handford Hall



### **PE Enrichment Days—Street Dance**

Street dances, are **dance styles that evolved outside of dance studios in any available open space**, such as streets, dance parties, block parties, parks, school yards. They are often improvisational and social in nature, encouraging interaction and contact with spectators and the other dancers.

## Poetry and Dance



Year 6 **Protest Poetry workshops** delivered by the Black Curriculum team



**Dance East 6 weeks Migration project** for Year 5 students



**Migration and Music workshops** for Year 5 students delivered by the Black Curriculum team



Thursday 6th February—**RE day**

## Screen time and children

With screens virtually everywhere, monitoring a child's screen time can be challenging. To complicate matters, some screen time can be educational and support children's social development. So how do you manage your child's screen time?

### The problems with screens

Too much screen time and regular exposure to poor-quality programming has been linked to:

- Obesity
- Inadequate sleep schedules and insufficient sleep
- Behavior problems
- Delays in language and social skills development
- Violence
- Attention problems
- Less time learning

Keep in mind that unstructured playtime is more valuable for a young child's developing brain than is electronic media. Avoid any screen time before bed to allow the brain to switch off and rest. Set rules for using phones/iPads in your home and stick to them. Monitor screen usage and stay in control.

## 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.

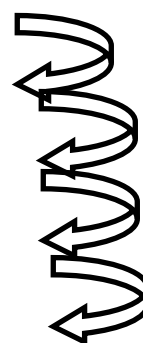
Class teacher

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
		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		

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
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				

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
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					



April 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			

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
		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		

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

Monday 6th January - school starts

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 <b>8.30</b> School gates close <b>8.40</b>
End time	School gates open <b>3.30</b> (Mon– Thurs) School gates close <b>3.45</b> (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.  <b>No home packed lunches.</b>
Pupils' mobile phones	Pupils' mobile phones will not be allowed on school premises.
Bringing/collecting pupils to/from school	Only <b>parents</b> and identified by the families <b>adults (18 years +)</b> will be allowed to bring and collect children to and from school.  <b>No under-age siblings/under-age family members</b> are permitted to bring/collect pupils to/from school.
Pupils walking to school/walking home on their own	<b>Year 6 pupils</b> 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

