



HANDFORD HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter – December 2024

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,

As we find ourselves in the midst of December, it's hard to believe how quickly time has flown. The last week of November saw our pupils engaged in various assessment sessions, preparing for our upcoming Pupil Progress meetings.

I'm incredibly proud of our children's dedication and hard work in showcasing their learning since September – a heartfelt well done to each and every one of them.

As we move forward into the festive season, I'm filled with pride at the achievements and spirit of our Handford Hall community. Thank you for your continued support in making our school a vibrant place of learning and growth.

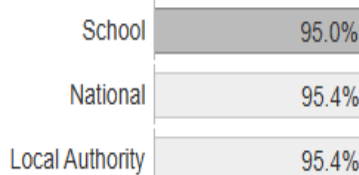
Yours sincerely,
 Mrs Blake
 Headteacher

November 2024 Attendance figures

RC 94%	RB 96%	1L 94%
1M 95%	2B 99%	2SM 93%
3A 97%	3B 96%	4S 94%
4W 95%	5B 97%	5G 94%
6H 96%	6P 94%	School end of year target 97%

Attendance from September till 29.11.2024:

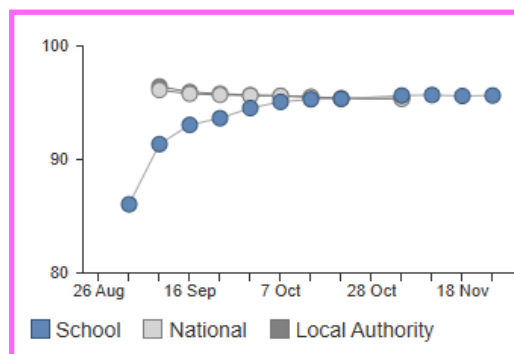
Attendance percentage



HH Attendance excluding late arrivals:

97.04%

Not starting the school on time in September and term time holidays have a huge impact on your child's 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.

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.

Into Film Festival



November was an exciting month for Handford Hall. Our pupils had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the 'Into Film' Festival, a nationwide event designed to inspire young people through the power of cinema.

The festival offered a diverse programme of films, exploring themes from fraternal acceptance to mental wellbeing, and showcasing the joy of the cinematic experience.



Fencing at Handford Hall



Our KS2 pupils have been enjoying PE enrichment sessions focused on fencing, an exciting combat sport with a rich history.

It's been a delight to see their enthusiasm and skill development in this new activity.



HH Book Show

We hosted our November Book Show for parents, providing an opportunity for our pupils to proudly share their learning across all subjects. The event was a resounding success, filled with pride and enthusiasm from both children and parents alike.



Anti-Bullying Week at HH

We also participated in Anti-Bullying Week from the 11th to 15th of November, embracing the theme 'Choose Respect'.

Our Odd Socks Day on the 14th celebrated what makes each of us unique.



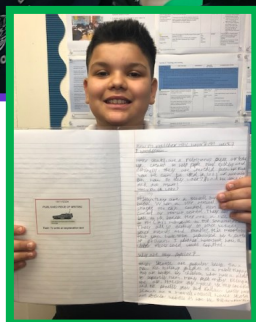
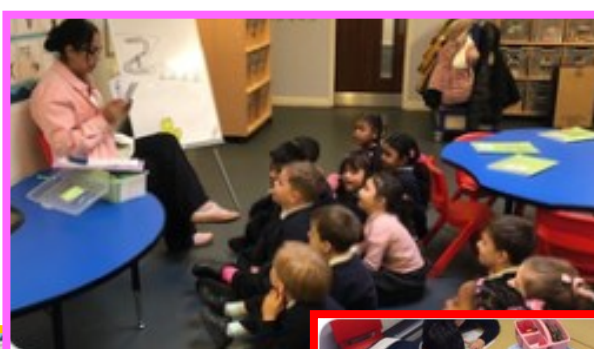
'Wear something PINK with your school uniform' day at HH.



On the 18th of November, our school community came together to support St Elizabeth Hospice in memory of our late teacher, Mrs Foskett. Our 'wear something PINK with school uniform' day raised an impressive **£230** for this important cause.

A BIG THANK YOU to our SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

Handford Hall is a place where everyone loves to be!



December at HH

December promises to be a month brimming with fantastic learning opportunities and enrichment sessions. Our pupils will participate in Diwali workshops on the 10th and 11th of December. As we enter the festive season, we're looking forward to our local Panto visit and our KS1 Christmas production on the 16th and 17th of December

- ⇒ Tuesday 10th December - Diwali workshops
- ⇒ Wednesday 11th December - Diwali workshops
- ⇒ **Panto (Eastern Angles)**
- ⇒ Wednesday 11th December and Thursday 12th December
- ⇒ Thursday 12th December—**RE day**
- ⇒ Monday 16th December - Christmas production 2.30 for Y2 parents
- ⇒ Tuesday 17th December – Christmas production 2.30 for Y1 parents
- ⇒ Thursday 19th December—Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
- ⇒ Friday 20th December – Celebration assembly 10.00 (all parents invited)
- ⇒ Friday 20th December—1.00pm Christmas cake sale

CHRISTMAS BREAK (21.12– 5.01.2025)



Thursday 19th December

It's super-simple to take part in **HH Christmas Jumper Day** to start our festive season:

- * Decorate your school jumper or cardigan (sow some baubles, stars, snowflakes and add a Christmas hat if you wish)
- * Decorate your own jumper (sow some baubles, stars, snowflakes and add a Christmas hat if you wish)
- * Use your last year's Christmas jumper
- * Add tinsel to your school uniform



**End of Autumn Term Celebration Assembly
Friday 20th December 2024 at 10.00 am**

We would like to invite our parents to the End of Year Celebration Assembly at 10.00 am (entrance via Dome).

Join us to celebrate successes of our children, end the Autumn and join us with some festive singing.

Please note:

*The pedestrian gate and our Dome door will be open between 9.45 - 10.00.
The children will start arriving at 10.00 so it is important that all adults are seated so please don't be late as due to health and safety, we will not be able to let you in after 10.00am.
Please leave buggies outside, thank you.*



Christmas wishes to all our school community

Wishing all our pupils, staff, parents and wider school community a very happy and peaceful Christmas and every good wish for 2025.

School re-opens on Monday 6th January 2025.

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.

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.

'HH is paperless'

- ◆ Our **monthly newsletters** will be emailed to our parents (link to our newsletter will also be texted to you). Paper copies will be provided by request.
- ◆ **End of Year reports (July)** will be emailed to our parents (paper copies will be provided by request).
- ◆ **Parent surveys** - Google Forms (paper copies will be provided by request).
- ◆ **Parent Consultations appointments** (via App) - more information will follow. Paper copies will be provided by request.
- ◆ **School trips**—permission slips. Paper copies will be provided by request.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

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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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 24						
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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
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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

Autumn Term 2024

Monday 2nd September—PD day (no school for children)

Tuesday 3rd September—PD day (no school for children)

Wednesday 4th September - school starts

Wednesday 9th October - PD Day (Parent Consultations)

Half term - 28.10-1.11.2024

Monday 4th November—PD day (Trust PD day)

Friday 20th December 2024—Last day of autumn term

Christmas break - 23.12-3.01.2025

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 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

