



# HANDFORD HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Newsletter – October 2024

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## Headteacher Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we settle into the new school year, I'm delighted to share some of the exciting happenings at Handford Hall Primary School. Our pupils have been diligently honing their essential skills, with a focus on confident reading, comprehension, and building writing stamina. In mathematics, we've been reinforcing times tables knowledge and key skills such as number bonds. Your support at home is invaluable, so please encourage your children to practise these skills, including the use of Times Tables Rockstars.

### **October — Black History Month**

October marks Black History Month, and this year's theme, 'Reclaiming Narratives', offers a wonderful opportunity to highlight untold stories and histories of Black people in the UK. Rather than solely focusing on past events and achievements, we're looking forward and exploring how we can make positive changes through action. Throughout the month, we'll be running a series of assemblies and workshops to celebrate this important event.

### **October Parent Consultation Day**

I'm pleased to announce our annual Parent Consultation day on Wednesday 9th October. This is a crucial opportunity for you to meet with class teachers, discuss your child's progress, and celebrate their hard work by looking through their books. You should have received letters with details of our online booking system via the Arbour App. If you're experiencing any difficulties making an appointment, please don't hesitate to contact the school office for assistance. We're keen to ensure all parents can participate in this valuable event.

### **Fab Science — Inspiring young scientists**

Recently, our Year 3, 4, 5, and 6 pupils had the fantastic opportunity to participate in Fab Science workshops. Our Year 6 pupils delved into the 'All About Me' workshop, investigating what makes us unique - from DNA and fingerprints to visible and invisible features. This fascinating session perfectly complemented their Evolution and Inheritance topic. Meanwhile, Year 5 pupils tackled the Construction Challenge, utilising teamwork and engineering skills to build a giant tetrahedron. This impressive 4-metre high structure was large enough to fit the entire class inside for a photo - carefully, of course! These workshops have been incredibly inspiring, nurturing our young scientists' curiosity and practical skills. It's been wonderful to see our pupils so engaged and enthusiastic about their learning.

### **School Attendance and Punctuality**

Regular attendance at school promotes pupils' well-being, maximises progress in learning and helps pupils reach their potential. We are very proud of the achievements and progress of our pupils and are passionate about a child's right to an education. Attendance for all children is monitored weekly with the school seeking to work in partnership with parents to achieve **above 97%**.

As we continue through the term, I'm excited to see the progress our pupils will make and the new experiences they'll encounter. Thank you for your ongoing support in your child's educational journey. Together, we're creating a vibrant and stimulating learning environment where every child can thrive.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Blake  
Headteacher

## September 2024 Attendance figures:

Attendance figures for September—all pupils on school roll.

Attendance figures excluding pupils re-  
turning late from summer holidays.  
Please note we do not authorize any  
term time holidays, including late returns.

<b>RC</b> 91%	<b>RB</b> 91%	<b>1L</b> 95%
<b>1M</b> 93%	<b>2B</b> 89%	<b>2SM</b> 92%
<b>3A</b> 90%	<b>3B</b> 94%	<b>4S</b> 99%
<b>4W</b> 91%	<b>5B</b> 94%	<b>5G</b> 91%
<b>6H</b> 94%	<b>6P</b> 93%	School end of year tar- get <b>97%</b>

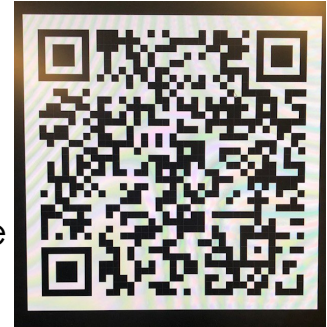
<b>RC</b> 92%	<b>RB</b> 91%	<b>1L</b> 97%
<b>1M</b> 97%	<b>2B</b> 97%	<b>2SM</b> 98%
<b>3A</b> 99%	<b>3B</b> 98%	<b>4S</b> 99%
<b>4W</b> 99%	<b>5B</b> 97%	<b>5G</b> 96%
<b>6H</b> 98%	<b>6P</b> 98%	School end of year tar- get <b>97%</b>



For weekly updates, please visit our Twitter feed

link below

<https://twitter.com/HandfordHallPS>



Or scan this QR code on your phone

# October Workshops for Parents

Day, time and place	Workshop
<b>Tuesday 22.10.2024</b> at 8:45 (Dome)	How do we teach Phonics at HH? Come and see what Phonics session looks like at our school.  <b>For Reception, year 1 and Year 2 parents.</b>
<b>Wednesday 23.10.2024</b> at 8:45 (Dome)	Guided Reading at HH—how we teach comprehension in school. Come and see what Guided Reading session looks like at our school.  <b>For Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 parents.</b>

## 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



**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)

The image shows a grid of uniform items: a navy long-sleeved shirt, a navy cardigan, a white polo shirt, a white long-sleeved shirt, a navy jumper, a white dress, a white skirt, a navy skirt, a navy pair of trousers, and a pair of black shoes.



### 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
		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

#### 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 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)

## Summary of 2024/25 dates:

<b>October 2024</b>
<b>1st October</b> —Individual school photos <b>9th</b> - Parent Consultation Day (9.00-6.00) 25th - Celebration assembly <b>HALF TERM (28.10-1.11.2024)</b>
<b>November 2024</b>
<b>4th</b> - PD day 12th - 9.15am Reception open mornings (new intake 2025) 13th - 9.15am Reception open afternoon (new intake 2024)
<b>December 2024</b>
16th - Christmas production 2.30 17th - Christmas production 2.30 20th - Celebration assembly 10.00 20th - Christmas lunch <b>20th - Term 2 ends</b> <b>CHRISTMAS BREAK (21.12- 5.01.2025)</b>
<b>January 2025</b>
<b>6th</b> - school starts 15th - Primary School Application deadline
<b>February 2024</b>
14th - Celebration assembly 10.00 <b>HALF TERM (17-21.02.2025)</b>
<b>March 2025</b>
6th - World Book Day <b>17th</b> - PD day <b>25th</b> - Parent Consultations 4.00-6.00 <b>26th</b> - Parent Consultations 4.00-7.00



<b>April 2025</b>
4th - Celebration assembly <b>EASTER BREAK (7.04- 21.04.2025)</b> 22nd—school starts
<b>May 2025</b>
<b>5th</b> - Bank Holiday 12th -15th - Year 6 SATS week <b>HALF TERM (26.05-30.05.2025)</b>
<b>June 2025</b>
<b>2nd</b> - school starts 2nd - Year 4 Multiplication checks (two weeks) 9th -13th - Phonics Screening Year 1 18th—SPORTS DAY
<b>July 2025</b>
TBC - Year 6 production  17th - Reports home to parents (electronic/ paper copies on request) 18th - Y6 Leavers' assembly 10.00 and last day of school

### After school clubs

Handford Hall After School clubs start week beginning 30th October.

Years	Day	Sport
Years 5 and 6	Monday 3.30- 4.30	Netball/Multi-skills
Years 4, 5, 6	Wednesday 3.30-4.30	Performing Arts/Choir
Years 3 and 4	Thursday 3.30-4.40	Multi-skills

Please note that each club will run for 8 weeks.

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

### 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

