



HANDFORD HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter – September 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/Carers,

Welcome back to school! I hope you all had an enjoyable summer break filled with sunshine, family time, and new experiences. We're delighted to extend a warm welcome to our new pupils and families joining our Reception classes this academic year.

The past six weeks have been a wonderful opportunity for our school community to recharge, spend quality time with loved ones, explore the outside world, and learn new skills. As we step into the new academic year, we're thrilled to embark on another exciting learning journey together.

Our dedicated staff have been busy preparing for the year ahead. We devoted two professional development days to training, ensuring we're well-equipped to make 2024/25 a successful academic year. We're eagerly looking forward to reuniting with our children and families.

The summer break was also a productive time for enhancing our school environment. Our classrooms and corridors received a fresh coat of paint, the Sports Hall wooden floor was varnished, and both KS1 and KS2 play-grounds now boast new markings to make playtime even more enjoyable. Our teachers have put great effort into preparing their classrooms, creating inspiring displays and bespoke resources to support independent learning.

I'm delighted to share that our Key Stage 2 results from the end of last term once again place Handford Hall's achievement well above national averages. This success is a testament to the hard work of our pupils and teachers, as well as the invaluable support you provide at home. Your commitment to ensuring children read nightly, learn times tables, complete homework, and arrive ready to learn makes a significant difference.

As we begin this new year, I'd like to draw your attention to some important notices. You'll find details of our whole school staffing structure for this academic year within this newsletter. Remember to check our school website and social media accounts for additional useful information, including diary dates and news. The details for these platforms can be found overleaf.

We're also excited to announce two upcoming workshops in September:

- 10.09.2024 at 8:45 (Dome): **Communication - Learn how to access information about the school, events, and your child's learning.**
- 25.09.2024 at 8:45 (Dome): **Reading - Discover how to support your child's reading and get guidance on suitable books for home reading.**

Together, let's make this year one of growth, discovery, and success! We're looking forward to another fantastic year at Handford Hall Primary School.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Blake
Headteacher

Handford Hall priorities for 2024/25

Attendance and Punctuality

School target for 2024/25 is 97%

Why regular school attendance matters - Present, Engaged, and Accounted For

National and international research suggests that being in school consistently is important to ensuring children gain a strong foundation for subsequent learning. Research shows that children, regardless of gender, socioeconomic status or ethnicity, lose out when they are regularly absent or have poor punctuality. As a school, we provide a rich and balanced curriculum with clear sequences of learning for each subject. Poor pupil attendance provides a real barrier to a child as they may struggle to catch up with their peers. Their absence may have a negative effect on their self-esteem and create unnecessary and avoidable friendship issues.

Handford Hall Primary School Priorities for 2024/2025

HH strengths: outstanding progress for all groups across the whole school, supportive, highly cohesive learning community where children reach and exceed their potential, innovative (creative/outdoor) curriculum design that allows for pupils to constantly share and reflection their own experiences.

Attendance target – 97%; to improve whole school attendance and PA (focus: identified groups and pupils between 92%-95%)

Oracy, Phonics, Reading,

- Mobile, poor attendance pupils and new arrivals
- Phonics/Early Reading – Years 2, 3, 4 and 5

- RWI
- Early Readers in KS2
- EYFS – non - negotiable Literacy through play incl. T4W
- Reading Fluency
- Guided Reading
- Accelerated Reader
- Duolog Readers
- Reading Conferences
- Oracy

Writing – whole school

- Mobile, poor attendance pupils and new arrivals
- Greater Depth in KS1, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

- Lesson study
- Handwriting
- EYFS – non - negotiable Literacy through play
- EYFS/KS1 and Years 3 and 4 Talk for Writing
- Cross curricular writing
- Writing Conference
- Pupil Book Study

Mathematics – whole school

- Mobile, poor attendance pupils and new arrivals
- EYFS – number area and independent skills

- Lesson study
- Mathematical enquiry /open differentiation/maths in context
- Focus on basic skills and arithmetic and KIRFs - HH core skills
- Non - negotiable Maths through play in EYFS (focus: number and number patterns)

HH Curriculum

To revise and evaluate non negotiable knowledge, vocabulary and skills across all subjects (Focus: building blocks and retention of Key Facts)

- Prior knowledge and progression
- Lesson Study
- Targeted planning including pre-teaching and overlearning
- Developing focused attention through analytical skills
- Independent learning and cognitive performance
- Retrieval and recall

Adaptive teaching and learning for All

September Workshops for parents

Day, time and place	Workshop
Tuesday 10.09.2024 at 8:45 (Dome)	Communication - Learn how to access information about the school, events, and your child's learning.
Wednesday 25.09.2024 at 8:45 (Dome)	Reading - Discover how to support your child's reading and get guidance on suitable books for home reading.

Staffing structure 2024/25

RC	Mrs Cabras
RB	Mrs Barnett
1L	Mrs Larkins
1M	Miss Manners
2B	Mrs Bacon
2SM	Mrs Southgate/Mrs Morrison
3B	Miss Bodkin
3A	Ms Atherton
4S	Mrs Sterling
4W	Miss Worley
5B	Miss Blake
5G	Miss Gilardi
6H	Mr Harraway
6P	Mrs Pearl
Mrs Reid	Y5/6 intervention teacher
Mrs Scales— Kennedy and Mrs Simpson	Y4/5 intervention teacher

Support staff structure 2024/25

EYFS	Mrs Kaur, Miss Pearl, Mrs Mott and Mrs Mann
Year 1	Miss Delgado and Mrs Rudd
Year 2	Mrs Bregadze, Mrs Brown and Miss Manning
Year 3	Miss Polley and Mrs Jefferson
Year 4	Miss Pawlowska and Mr Moore
Year 5	Mr Holmes and Miss Peilow
Year 6	Mrs Isles and Miss Brown
Speech and language	Mrs Hornsby
Family Support	Miss Kirby
Office staff	Mrs Grew, Mrs Wiltshire, Mrs Wade
Site Manager	Mrs Kaluzniak

Why Is It Important to Read to Your Child?

The benefits of reading together go far beyond learning to read. Reading to young children is an important way to help them build language skills. It exposes them to new words and ways of using language. It also helps them learn general information about the world, which makes it easier for them to learn about new subjects once they get to school.

Books also help children build empathy and learn how to handle challenging feelings. Parents can use reading time as a chance to talk about emotions and how to cope with them. For example, you might say: "Have you ever felt as angry as the girl in this book? What would you do if you did?"

Even a few minutes of reading together gives you and your child a chance to slow down and connect with each other. And the sensory experience of sitting with you and hearing your voice also engages their brain in a way that makes learning easier.

There's no one right way to read to your child. You can read to them in any language, or multiple languages. You can do it at the same time every day or change up the routine. Your child doesn't even need to be sitting with you — just sitting nearby with a book while they play can be a way to connect.

The important thing is for your child to hear words and language and to have books be part of their daily life. Any steps you're able to take can make a big difference.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

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 polo shirt, 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:

September 2024
2nd - PD day 3rd - PD day 4th - School starts 16th - KS2 science week TBC - individual photos
October 2024
9th - Parent Consultation Day (9.00-6.00) 25th - Celebration assembly HALF TERM (28.10-1.11.2024)
November 2024
4th - PD day 12th - 9.15am Reception open mornings (new intake 2025) 13th - 9.15am Reception open afternoon (new intake 2024)
December 2024
16th - Christmas production 2.30 17th - Christmas production 2.30 20th - Celebration assembly 10.00 20th - Christmas lunch 20th - Term 2 ends CHRISTMAS BREAK (21.12- 5.01.2025)
January 2025
6th - school starts 15th - Primary School Application deadline
February 2024
14th - Celebration assembly 10.00 HALF TERM (17-21.02.2025)
March 2025
6th - World Book Day 17th - PD day 25th - Parent Consultations 4.00-6.00 26th - Parent Consultations 4.00-7.00



April 2025
4th - Celebration assembly EASTER BREAK (7.04- 21.04.2025) 22nd—school starts
May 2025
5th - Bank Holiday 12th -15th - Year 6 SATS week HALF TERM (26.05-30.05.2025)
June 2025
2nd - school starts 2nd - Year 4 Multiplication checks (two weeks) 9th -13th - Phonics Screening Year 1 18th—SPORTS DAY
July 2025
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 will start in October 2024 (more details will follow).

In the Autumn Term 2024 our clubs will be focusing on Years 3,4, 5 and 6.

In the Spring Term 2025 our clubs will be available to Years 1 and 2 as well as KS2 students.

Please note that each club will run for 8 weeks.

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

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

