

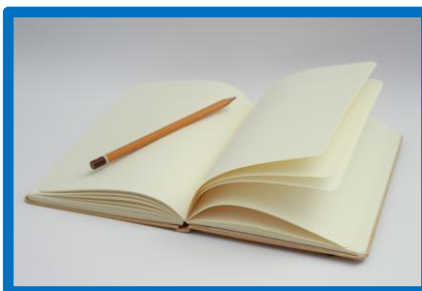
# Handford Hall Primary School

57, Gatacre Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 2LQ

Headteacher: Mrs K Blake BA (Hons)

Tel: 01473 251 603, [www.handfordhall.omat.org.uk](http://www.handfordhall.omat.org.uk)

## Newsletter – January 2026



### For your diary in January:

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January – PD Day,  
school closed to children

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January – children are  
back at school**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>  
January – Fab Science workshops

Week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> January – after  
school clubs restart

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January – HH Choir to  
attend Young Voices in London O2

### February 2026

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February- Parent  
Consultation Day (school closed for  
the children)**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February – RE day**

**Week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> February – ART  
and DT day**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February – last day of  
school**

**Week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> February – half  
term**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – OMAT PD  
day (school closed for children)**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February – children are  
back at school**

## Headteacher update

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we commence the spring term of 2025/26, I extend warm greetings and best wishes for the new year. I am grateful for your continued support and engagement with our school community.

Our first week will feature Science Week, highlighted by Fab Science workshops that will provide enriching scientific learning experiences for our pupils. Additionally, our choir is preparing for an extraordinary performance at the Young Voices event at the O2 Arena on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> January, representing our school with dedication and enthusiasm.

Important dates for your attention include:

- Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February: Parent Consultation (School closed)
- Week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> February: Art and Design Technology Week

I must emphasise the critical importance of pupil attendance and punctuality. Research consistently demonstrates that consistent school attendance is fundamental to academic progress and social integration. Each day of absence significantly impacts learning continuity and pupil achievement.

Term dates for 2026/27 are enclosed for your advance planning. Please note that, in alignment with Department of Education guidelines, term-time holidays, visits to home countries to see relatives, renewal of passports or seeking medical assistance abroad will not be authorised.

We look forward to a productive and inspiring spring term.  
Yours sincerely,  
Mrs K Blake

### December 2025 attendance

RB - 90%	RC - 90%	1M - 94%
1L - 90%	2B - 90%	2SM - 96%
3B - 94%	<b>3S - 97%</b>	4S - 96%
4W - 96%	5B - 92%	5G - 96%
6H - 95%	6P - 95%	<b>Target 97%</b>

Class with the best attendance:

**3S - 97%**



**Working together in securing the best possible attendance**

### Pupil absences/term time holidays/visiting relatives abroad/renewing passports abroad

At Orwell Multi Academy Trust, we expect all children to be in school every day, unless they are too ill to attend.

Following government attendance guidelines, term time holidays, visiting relatives abroad during term time, renewing passports abroad during term time will not be authorised and will result in a fine. Unauthorised absences will also result in legal intervention.

Every school in the Trust has staff who can support you with your child's attendance, so we ask that you work with us to ensure that your child is in school, on time, every day.

### 3 FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS

+£160 +£160 +£160 +£160     4 children & 2 parents = **£1280**  
Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days

If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

### 4 2ND TIME

2 parents and 1 child = £320  
2 children = 640  
3 children = 960  
4 children = 1280  
No discount for early payment

### 3RD TIME

A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court.  
A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child  
**1 parent & 4 children = £10,000**  
**2 parents & 4 children = £20,000**

### ATTENDANCE WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

#### 1 I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.

Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything. Because your child will miss 9 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine. The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

## £160

#### 2 FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN.

+£160 +£160 +£160 +£160  
**4 children & 1 parent = £640**  
Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

#### 5 IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE 10 IN 10

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.

**1 Day = 2 Sessions**

## 2025/26 academic year - calendar

September 2025	April 2026
<p>1.09 - PD day – no school for children                      2.09 - PD day – no school for children                      3.09- school starts                      15.09 – KS2 science week                      TBC – individual photos</p>	<p>13.04 – school starts                      13.04 – Science week</p>
October 2025	May 2026
<p>8.10 – no school for children - Parent Consultation Day (9.00-6.00)                      8.10 – Flu vaccinations for children will be available at HH 9.00-6.00                      HALF TERM (27.10 – 31.10.2025)</p>	<p>4.05 – Bank Holiday                      5.05 – school starts                      Week beginning 11.05 – Year 6 SATs                      HALF TERM (25.05 – 29.05.2026)</p>
November 2025	June 2026
<p>3.11 - PD day – no school for children                      4.11 – Science week                      5.11 - 9.15am Reception open mornings (new intake 2026)                      14.11 - 9.15am Reception open morning (new intake 2026)</p>	<p>1.06 – Science week                      Year 6 Crucial crew – date tbc                      Year 6 transition days to high schools – date tbc                      17.06 – SPORTS DAY</p>
December 2025	July 2026
<p>Trips to Theatre to see Panto</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec at 10am</li> <li>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec at 1.30pm</li> <li>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec at 10am</li> <li>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec at 1.30pm</li> <li>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec at 10am</li> </ul> <p>15.12 – Reception Share Morning and Christmas production 2.30 for Y2 parents                      16.12 – Christmas production 2.30 for Year 1 parents                      18.12 – Christmas dinner                      19.12 – 9.15 KS1 Celebration assembly, 11.00 – KS2 assembly                      CHRISTMAS BREAK (22.12– 5.01.2026)</p>	<p>1.07 – New Reception Induction meeting for Parents (6.00pm)                      14.07 – Year 6 Production                      15.07 – 'Meet your new class teacher' transitions sessions                      16.07.2026 – Leavers' Assembly – 10.00am – for year 6 parents only                      17.07. – Celebration assembly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9.15 for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2</li> <li>11.00 for Years 3, 4 5 and 6</li> </ul> <p>17.07 – the last day of term</p>
January 2026	
<p>5.01 – PD day – no school for children                      6.01 – school starts                      6.01 – Science week</p>	
February 2026	
<p>4.02 – no school for children- Parent Consultations Day (9.00-6.00)                      HALF TERM (16-02 - 20.02.2026)                      23.02 – PD day – no school for children                      24.02 – Science week</p>	
March 2026	
<p>5.03 - World Book Day                      16.03 – PD day – no school for children                      Easter break – 30.03 – 10.04.2026</p>	

School starts

# TERM DATES 2025-2026

We are here

**September 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				

**October 25**

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**November 25**

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**December 25**

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**January 26**

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**February 26**

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**March 26**

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**April 26**

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**May 26**

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**June 26**

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**July 26**

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**August 26**

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 School holiday and PD days - no school for children

## 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.

(Jewellery should not be worn)



# Next academic year

## 2026-2027

School starts

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October 26						
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November 26						
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December 26						
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January 27						
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February 27						
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March 27						
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April 27						
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May 27						
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June 27						
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July 27						
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August 27						
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 School holiday and PD days - no school for children

2025/26	HH protocols
<b>NEW</b> - Free Early Drop Off for working parents	8.00-8.30 Pedestrian gate opens between 8.00-8.10. <i>Late arrivals will not be permitted on school premises.</i>
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 family <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 