

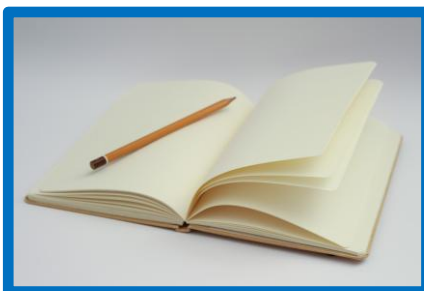
# Handford Hall Primary School

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 – December 2025



### For your diary in December:

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December – RE day

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Year 5  
Maya Workshop – all day

Trips to Theatre to see Panto

- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec at 10am
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec at 1.30pm
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec at 10am
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec at 1.30pm
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec at 10am

Fri 12.12 – Year 6 tour of New Wolsey Theatre

Mon 15.12 – Reception Christmas  
Share morning and Christmas  
production 2.30 for Y2 parents

Tue 16.12 – Christmas production  
2.30 for Year 1 parents

Thurs 18.12 – Christmas dinner and  
Christmas Jumper Day. Christmas  
parties in the afternoon

Friday 19.12 – 9.15 KS1 Celebration  
assembly, 11.00 – KS2 assembly

**CHRISTMAS BREAK  
(22.12– 5.01.2026)**

## Headteacher update

Dear Parents,

December is a very busy month at Handford Hall. Our pupils will be participating in end of term assessments across several key areas, including early reading (Phonics), reading (PIRA), writing, and Maths (PUMA). Pupils will also be completing their units across all subjects. In the middle of December, we will be analysing the data during our termly Pupil Progress meetings and preparing for the Spring Term 2026.

We have planned exciting Enrichment opportunities for our pupils. All children from Reception to Year 6 will be watching our local Pantomime in the second week of December. We're looking forward to Eastern Angles' production of Treasure Island, a voyage to the lost town of Dunwich. This adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale promises to be a captivating experience for our pupils.

Year 5 students will be completing their history learning about the Mayans with a fantastic workshop provided by an external history specialist. Many other year groups will be completing their Topic Exit Points, showcasing their fantastic learning this term.

In the third week of December, we have a special treat for parents: the KS1 Christmas production of Humph the Camel. More details will follow.

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December, we'll be having our school Christmas dinner and Christmas Jumper Day. The afternoon will feature Christmas parties, marking the start of the festive season at Handford Hall.

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December, we'll be celebrating the end of the Autumn term with two Celebration assemblies - one for Reception and KS1 children, and another for years 3, 4, 5, and 6. More details can be found on the second page of this newsletter.

I want to take a moment to thank you for your ongoing support in improving our attendance and punctuality. Being at school every day and on time is the most significant factor for your child's achievement in school.




Wishing you a wonderful December!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Blake  
Headteacher

## End of term Celebration Assembly (more details will follow)

- 9.15am for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents
- 11.00am for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 parents

End of Term Celebration Assembly for <b>Reception*, Year 1 and Year 2</b>	<b>9.15am start</b>  Gate opens <b>8.55-9.15</b>
End of Term Celebration Assembly for <b>Years 3, 4, 5 and 6</b>	<b>11.00am start</b>  Gate opens <b>10.40-11.00</b>
Lateness	<b>Gates shut at 9.15 for Rec and KS1/11.00 for KS2</b>  Any late adults will not be permitted to attend
Mobile phones 	Mobile phones will need to be switched off during the duration of the celebration assembly
Food and drink 	No food or drinks will be allowed to be brought in and consumed during the assembly
Buggies/prams 	No buggies will be permitted in the building
Small children attending with their parents	The corridor will be allocated for parents with small children if they become disruptive
More information regarding the above events will follow.	

### November 2025 attendance

RB - 94%	RC - 93%	1M - 91%
1L - 96%	2B - 97%	2SM - 96%
3B - 94%	3S - 98%	4S - 97%
4W - 99%	5B - 97%	5G - 96%
6H - 97%	6P - 98%	Target 97%

Class with the best attendance:

**4W - 98%**




## 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**  


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><b>1.09 - PD day – no school for children</b>  <b>2.09 - PD day – no school for children</b>  <b>3.09- school starts</b>                      15.09 – KS2 science week                      TBC – individual photos</p>	<p><b>13.04 – school starts</b>                       13.04 – Science week</p>
October 2025	May 2026
<p><b>8.10 – no school for children - Parent Consultation Day (9.00-6.00)</b>  <b>8.10 – Flu vaccinations for children will be available at HH 9.00-6.00</b>  <b>HALF TERM (27.10 – 31.10.2025)</b></p>	<p><b>4.05 – Bank Holiday</b>  <b>5.05 – school starts</b>                      Week beginning 11.05 – Year 6 SATs   <b>HALF TERM (25.05 – 29.05.2026)</b></p>
November 2025	June 2026
<p><b>3.11 - PD day – no school for children</b>  <b>4.11 – Science week</b>                      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   <b>17.06 – SPORTS DAY</b></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  <b>CHRISTMAS BREAK (22.12– 5.01.2026)</b></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><b>5.01 – PD day – no school for children</b>                      6.01 – school starts                      6.01 – Science week</p>	
February 2026	
<p><b>4.02 – no school for children- Parent Consultations Day (9.00-6.00)</b>  <b>HALF TERM (16-02 - 20.02.2026)</b>  <b>23.02 – PD day – no school for children</b>                      24.02 – Science week</p>	
March 2026	
<p>5.03 - World Book Day  <b>16.03 – PD day – no school for children</b>                      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**

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 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						

**December 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			

**January 26**

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 26**

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 26**

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 26**

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 26**

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 26**

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 26**

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 26**

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 and PD days - no school for children

## Handford Hall School Uniform

*Please encourage children do not wear PE kit on their PE days, thank you*

### Uniform

Children should wear:










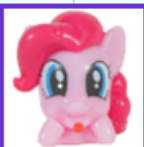

- Black/dark blue trousers or skirt
- A white shirt or polo shirt
- A navy cardigan or a jumper with the school logo (this can be purchased from PMG Schoolwear, Westgate Street)
- Black shoes

Please label EVERYTHING.

(Jewellery should not be worn)



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 