

# Handford Hall Primary School

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

Headteacher: Mrs K Blake BA (Hons)

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## Newsletter - November 2025



### For your diary in November:

Week beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Science week

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>  
Fab Science workshops

#### Fab Science workshops:

**Y3 Skeletons and nutrition and 'Sweetie' Science**

**Y4 Classification and food chains**

**Y5 Forces**

**Y6 Evolution**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November – New Reception Parents Open Morning

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Year 2 cinema trip

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November - New Reception Parents Open Morning

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November – Year 2 cinema trip

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November – Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 cinema trips

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November – Flu immunization 'catch up' afternoon (1.00-3.00pm)

## Headteacher update

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a relaxing half term and are returning to school full of energy and enthusiasm for learning.

### AUTUMN STARS

At the end of last half term, we celebrated the successes of all our children. The Headteacher Awards were received by pupils who excelled in their learning, made exceptional progress, and always displayed outstanding behaviour for learning. For more details, please see the second page of this newsletter.

### FILM FESTIVAL

This November, our pupils will be participating in the National Film Festival. The 2025 Into Film Festival offers an incredible programme of screenings and events, featuring over 75 films across more than 3,000 screenings in over 600 venues throughout the UK. The festival's programme is wonderfully diverse. Beyond popular blockbuster hits from the past year, our children will explore animation from around the world, including the Oscar-winning Flow. They will also enjoy thought-provoking documentaries ranging from South Pole expeditions to unique mashups like Shakespeare and Grand Theft Auto, along with literary and stage adaptations that celebrate the joy of cinema.

### STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

I would like to share two important staff updates. At the end of October, we said farewell to Mr Wilthsire, our office assistant, and we would like to wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

I'm also pleased to introduce and welcome our new office manager, Mrs Buckle.

We are all looking forward to the exciting seven weeks full of amazing learning opportunities and enriching sessions.

Yours sincerely,

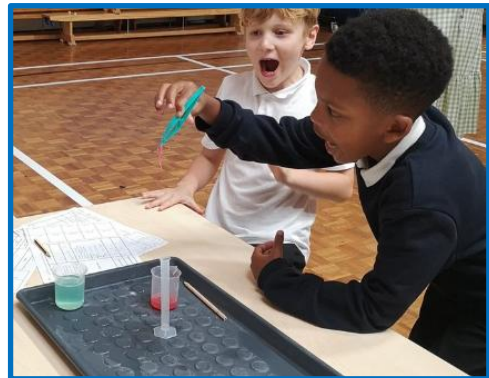
Mrs K Blake  
Headteacher

CLASS	END OF HALF TERM HEADTEACHER AWARDS:
RC	<b><u>Mia-Rey</u></b> Mia- Rey has made a fantastic start to school. She is a sensible, caring member of the class and we are proud to have her in RC.
RB	<b><u>Sade</u></b> What a great start to school Sade. You have grown in confidence this half term and we love to hear you chatting to your friends and other adults. You follow our class rules and are a very helpful member of RB. Keep it up Sade.
1M	<b><u>Mothaka</u></b> Mothaka has had an exceptional start to Year 1 this half term and has shown up to class everyday with motivation and a smile on her face! Mothaka works extremely hard in class and is always ready to challenge herself in each lesson. She is also a kind friend and cares for all of the children in her class. We love having Mothaka in 1M and we are all so proud of her. Well done, Mothaka!
1L	<b><u>Suzie</u></b> Suzie is a kind and thoughtful member of the class whose behaviour for learning is outstanding. She listens carefully and tries her hardest in all subjects. Suzie is also a kind friend to everyone. This makes her an excellent role model to other pupils in the class. Well done Suzie - you are a superstar!
2B	<b><u>Shayne</u></b> Shayne always listens carefully and is quick to follow instructions. He is focussed and is always ready to share his ideas. Shayne tries hard to succeed at a task independently and has had great success in his reading quizzes. Shayne is kind and friendly and can always be found following school rules. An excellent behaviour for learning role model. Well Done.
2SM	<b><u>Yasmin</u></b> Yasmin has had a fantastic term in Year 2! She approaches her learning with enthusiasm and curiosity, always trying her best in every subject. Well done for all your hard work this term – keep shining!
3B	<b><u>Adelina</u></b> Adelina, you are a wonderful role model to all pupils at Handford Hall. You always listen carefully, follow instructions, and inspires others through your positive attitude to learning. Your kindness, enthusiasm, and lovely smile brighten our classroom every day. You should be very proud of yourself, Adelina! Well done!
3S	<b><u>Leja</u></b> Leja is always ready to learn. She listens carefully and follows instructions straightaway. When Leja is working she concentrates and completes her best work. She is a fantastic role model – Well done Leja!
4W	<b><u>Emma</u></b> Emma demonstrates exceptional behaviour for learning in all lessons. She is always ready for learning and is determined to have a go even if she finds some tasks difficult. Emma has made great progress so far this year and I am sure that with this positive attitude to learning she will continue to fly. She is also a kind and helpful partner to her peers. Well done, Emma!
4S	<b><u>Andrei</u></b> Without fail Andrei settles to any task and works hard to complete it to the best of his ability. I cannot fault his focus in class this half term. Very well-done Andrei.
5B	<b><u>Gabriela</u></b> Gabriela is a model student who always follows the school rules and sets a great example for everyone around her. She works hard every day, doing her best in every lesson. Gabriela is kind and thoughtful, always ready to lend a hand to classmates who need help or a friend to talk to. Her positive attitude and caring nature make the classroom a happier place for everyone.
5G	<b><u>Sofia</u></b> Sofia has consistently shown a strong focus and dedication to her learning this half term through a positive attitude towards all tasks. Her curiosity drives her to always try her best and complete her work to her best ability. Overall, Sofia's positive attitude and curiosity makes her a valued member of our class. Well done and we can't wait to see you continue to shine!
6H	<b><u>Praise</u></b> Consistently, from the moment he arrives at school, through every lesson and across the curriculum, Praise has given 100% effort. He will not only reflect well on his learning and play an active part in lessons asking questions and giving opinions – but he also works collaboratively and supportively with others. An excellent start to your final year, Praise!
6P	<b><u>Emilia</u></b> Emilia has worked with great resilience and focus since the start of the year. She has pushed herself out of her comfort zone and is willing to take every opportunity - even if she finds it daunting at first glance. Keeping up this positive attitude will ensure she reaches her full potential. PERFECT Emilia!

HH Enrichment opportunities Year 1 and visit to Christchurch Mansion – Toys of the Past



FAB SCIENCE – HH future scientists





**Poor oral health is no laughing matter: Why your child's oral health is so important**



Look out for our tips to support you and your child to eat healthily and have great oral hygiene.



**Make teeth brushing regular, fun activity.**

**Brushing:**

Brush for 2 minutes in the morning and before bed.

**Supervision:**

Help your child until they are at least 7 years old.

**Make it fun:**

Play a song while they brush their teeth.

Make it a family activity.

As a parent or carer, you might be thinking about how your child's oral health can impact their overall health and wellbeing. Problems with your child's teeth can make it more difficult for them to eat, smile and socialise. It can also lead to pain and infection, resulting in missed days from school and days off work for you.

What can you do to support your child's oral health?

From the age of 7, children should be able to brush their teeth themselves, but they might still need a bit of encouragement and guidance from an adult.

These simple steps will help your child's teeth stay healthy:

- Avoid sugary foods and drinks between meals and within one hour of bedtime
- Use a fluoride toothpaste containing 1450ppm of fluoride (look for this on the ingredients of the packaging)
- Use a pea size amount of toothpaste
- Brush for about two minutes with a small, medium textured brush or an electric toothbrush
- Brush before bed and at one other time during the day
- Wait at least 30 minutes after eating before brushing teeth
- Spit the toothpaste out but don't rinse after brushing
- Try to visit the dentist regularly

As soon as teeth appear in the mouth, parents should brush their child's teeth in the morning and last thing before bed

Use this much toothpaste  
**X2 DAILY**

Use only a smear of fluoride toothpaste

Introduce drinking from a cup from 6 months and stop bottle feeding by 1 year

Provide a healthy balanced diet and limit sugary food and drinks to mealtimes only

Replace bottles with sipping cups from 6 months. Water or milk is best!

Sugar or honey should not be added to weaning foods

Always ask for sugar-free medicines



# 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 5 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.**

**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.

**5** 1 Day = 2 Sessions

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

### October 2025 attendance

RB - 96%	RC - 94%	1M - 97%
1L - 93%	2B - 95%	2SM - 96%
3B - 96%	3S - 97%	4S - 95%
4W - 98%	5B - 97%	5G - 96%
6H - 95%	6P - 99%	Target 97%

Class with the best attendance:

**6P - 99%**

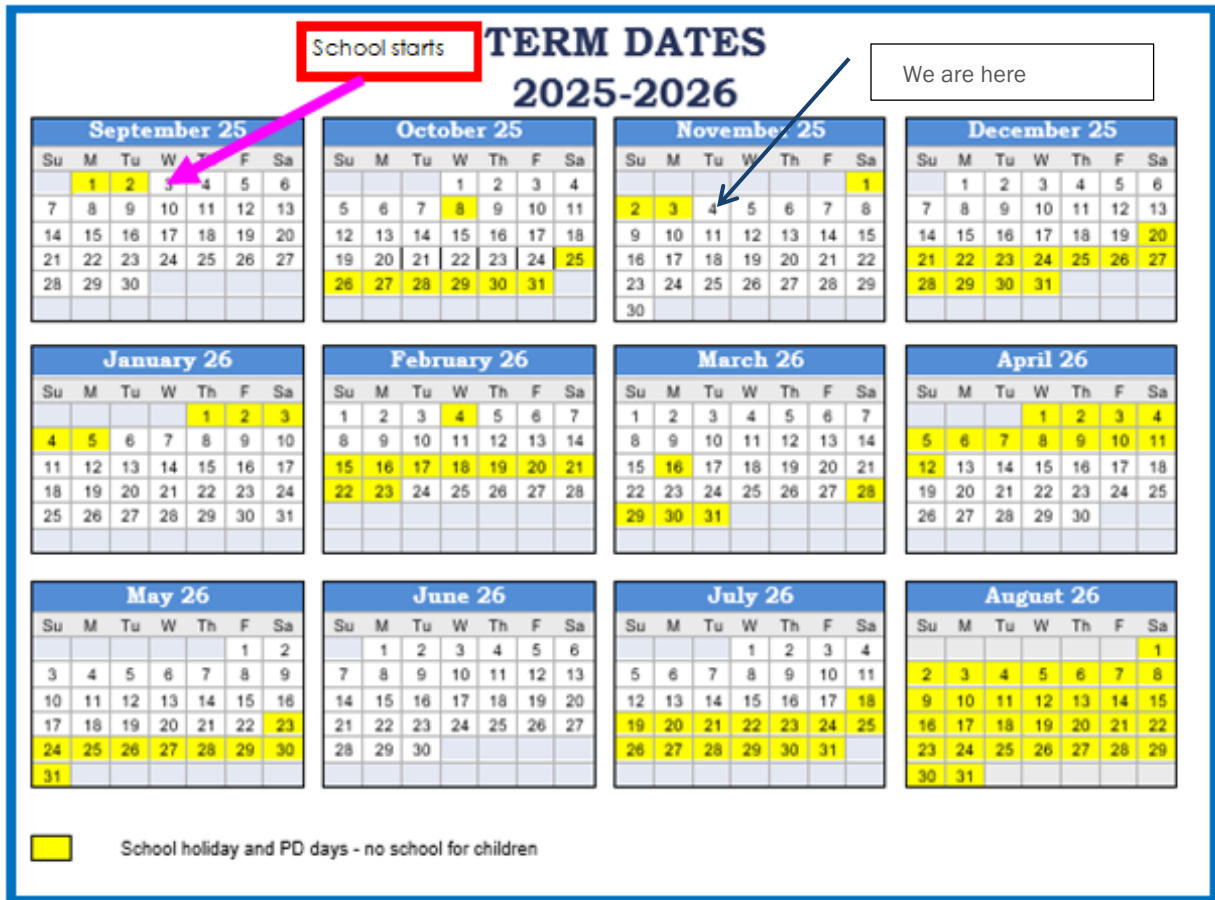


**Congratulations!**

## Summary of dates for 2025/26

<b>September 2025</b>	<b>April 2026</b>
<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	<b>13.04 – school starts</b>  13.04 – Science week
<b>October 2025</b>	<b>May 2026</b>
<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>	<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>
<b>November 2025</b>	<b>June 2026</b>
<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)	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>
<b>December 2025</b>	<b>July 2026</b>
Trips to Theatre to see Panto <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> 15.12 - 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>	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 <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> 17.07 – the last day of term
<b>January 2026</b>	
<b>5.01 – PD day – no school for children</b> 6.01 – school starts 6.01 – Science week	
<b>February 2026</b>	
<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	
<b>March 2026</b>	
5.03 - World Book Day <b>16.03 – PD day – no school for children</b> <b>Easter break – 30.03 – 10.04.2026</b>	

# 2025/26 academic year - calendar



## 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)



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><u>Year 6 pupils</u></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 