

Handford Hall Primary School

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

Headteacher: Mrs K Blake BA (Hons)

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Newsletter - October 2025



For your diary in October:

**Week beginning 29th
September Art/DT week**

**Wednesday 8th October -
Parent Consultation Day**

**Wednesday 8th October
- Flu immunization for
children**

**Thursday 9th October - RE
Day**

**Friday 24th October - last
day of this half term**

**Half term - 27.10-
31.10.2025**

**Monday 3rd November -
PD Day (no school for
children)**

**Tuesday 4th November -
school starts for children**

Headteacher update

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to share some exciting updates about our school community this month. Our pupils have started the term with remarkable enthusiasm and a genuine readiness to learn. We are experiencing a significant influx of new pupils across Ipswich primary schools, and we extend a warm welcome to these new families joining our school community.

October begins with our annual Parent Consultation Day on Wednesday 8th October, running from 9.00am to 6.00pm. During this important day, teachers will be available to discuss individual targets for Reading, Writing and Maths that we have set for the end of this academic year. This is an excellent opportunity for parents to ask questions about our curriculum and explore ways to support their children in reaching their learning goals.

On Thursday 9th October, we will be holding our Religious Education Day. Each year group will be exploring different aspects of faith:

Reception will explore: Why is the word 'God' so important to Christians?
Year 1: Christianity - Why is belonging to God and the church family important?

Year 2: Judaism - Why do Jewish families discuss repentance at New Year?

Year 3: Christianity - How do Christians show reconciliation is important?

Year 4: Christianity - How does believing in Jesus inspire Christians to serve others?

Year 5: Christianity - Why is the gospel such good news?

Year 6: Christianity - How do Christians show their belief in Jesus?

Additionally, during our Parent Consultation Day, a team of nurses will be based in our dome to offer flu vaccinations (nasal spray) for children. Flu can be very unpleasant and sometimes cause serious problems like pneumonia. In the UK, thousands of children without health conditions require hospital care due to flu annually. The vaccine is given as a quick, painless nasal spray and helps protect not just the children, but also vulnerable groups like babies and older people.

I would like to thank all parents for supporting our focus on punctuality and attendance. It is crucial that pupils are in school every day and on time to ensure no learning is lost.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs K Blake
Headteacher



Thursday 2nd October 2025

Autumn is here so it is time for HH Special Dinner

Hot dog and chips - the ultimate comfort food



Chocolate cake

Or



Ice Lollies

Please note HH sandwiches will also be available.



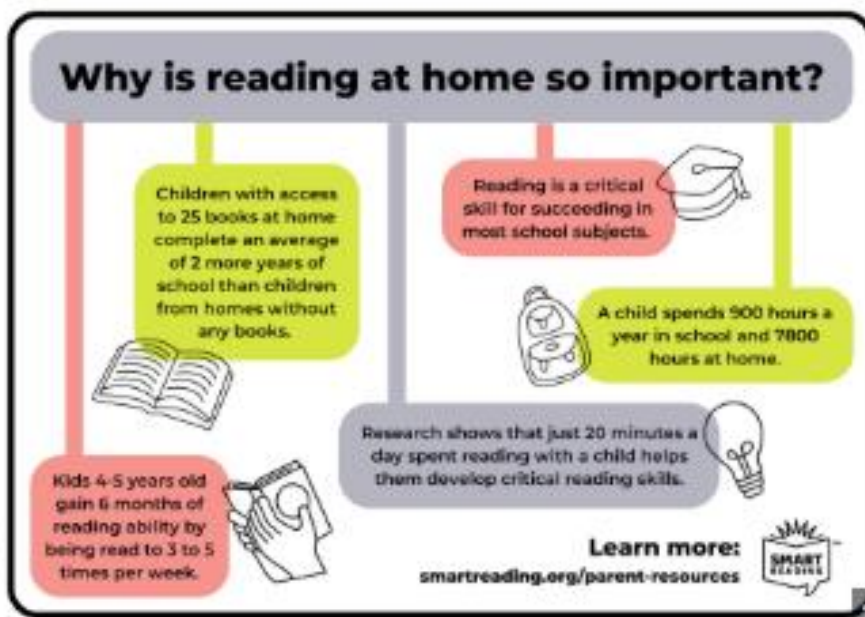
**Special Menu this
Thursday 2nd October**



Why is Reading at Home Important?

There are lots of reasons why reading at home is beneficial for your child!

Research shows that having books at home and reading just 20 minutes a day helps children develop critical reading skills.



At Handford Hall all children in KS2 are required to complete 2 reading quizzes a week.

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

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

September 2025 attendance

RB - 94%	RC - 92%	1M - 89%
1L - 94%	2B - 90%	2SM - 93%
3B - 95%	3S - 88%	4S - 93%
4W - 94%	5B - 96%	5G - 91%
6H - 92%	6P - 98%	Target 97%

September 2025 attendance excluding late returns from home countries

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

Summary of dates for 2025/26

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 afternoon (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"> • Wednesday 10th Dec at 10am • Wednesday 10th Dec at 1.30pm • Thursday 11th Dec at 10am • Thursday 11th Dec at 1.30pm • Friday 12th Dec at 10am <p>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 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"> • 9.15 for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 • 11.00 for Years 3, 4 5 and 6 <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>	

2025/26 academic year - calendar



School starts **TERM DATES**
2025-2026

September 25							October 25							November 25							December 25									
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31							
28	29	30											30																	

January 26							February 26							March 26							April 26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							29	30	31	26	27	28	29	30							

May 26							June 26							July 26							August 26								
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa		
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1			
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
31																				30	31								

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.

Approved by Handford Hall School
(Jewellery should not be worn)



2025/26	HH protocols
NEW - 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 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 family 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 