

# Handford Hall Primary School

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

Headteacher: Mrs K Blake BA (Hons)

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## Newsletter – May 2026



### For your diary in May

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May – Bank Holiday  
(school closed)**

**Week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> May – Year  
6 SATs**

**Half Term 25.05 – 29.05.2026**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 - PD Day  
no school for children**

### Headteacher update

Dear Parents and Carers,

**May is a very important month for our Year 6 pupils**, as they will be taking part in the national statutory tests during the week beginning **11<sup>th</sup> May**. The children have been amazing, attending additional morning sessions every day since February, and they continue to strive to show their fantastic abilities. This is their time to shine, and I know they will make us all extremely proud.

**Please may I remind you** that after half term we will be holding a **PD Day on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026**. On this day, **the school will be closed to pupils**.

Mrs K Blake

Headteacher



**Want to stay updated with  
what's happening at our  
school each week?**

Follow us on X for regular  
updates about our school  
life.

<https://x.com/HandfordHallPS>

### April 2026 attendance

RB - 92%	RC - 87%	1M - 94%
1L - 93%	2B - 95%	2SM - 95%
3B - 97%	3S - 95%	4S - 96%
4W - 96%	5B - 96%	5G - 95%
6H - 95%	6P - 96%	<b>Target 97%</b>

## Supporting Good Attendance at Handford Hall

"Missing school means missing out!"

### Why attendance matters to our children

**Bright Futures** - Improves further opportunities and academic success by securing the best possible outcomes for our pupils

**Confidence Booster** - Teaches resilience and independence

**Building good habits for future jobs** - creates positive routines and sense of responsibility

**Friendship and Community** - teaches our children to be part of something bigger - preparing future leaders and team players

### Authorised absence

- Illness
- Religious observance (1 day per academic year)
- Medical appointments

### Unauthorised absence

- Holidays during term time
- Birthdays, shopping or days out
- Renewing passports in home countries
- Seeking medical assistance in home countries
- Visiting families in home countries
- Illness of another family member

### Punctuality – Be on time

- Arrive at school 8.30-8.40 every day
- If your child arrives **after 8.40** it will be marked late

### Send your child to school



- A mild cough, cold or runny nose
- A sore throat
- A headache
- Painful tummy/tooth/leg
- Feeling tired

### Keep your child at home



- A very high temperature
- vomiting or diarrhea (24 hours since last episode)
- a contagious illness (measles, chicken pox – see our website for more details)

Handford Hall is a place where everyone loves to be!

**Why Handford Hall is a place to be!**  
**Importance of Enrichment opportunities and our amazing Curriculum**

**Supporting a local team**



**Ipswich Town Football Club**

**Women** is a women's team affiliated with Ipswich Town Football Club. The club currently competes in the Women's Super League 2, the second tier of women's English football.

And we were there supporting them!

**Handford Hall and the Universe! Dome inside our Dome..... inspiring future space explorers and scientists with Wonder Dome!**



Our KS2 pupils had the most amazing time exploring space today! They were discussing the sheer scale of the Universe and learning how the Moon moves through its phases. A truly inspiring experience!

**Growing future doctors and scientists!**



Our Year 6 pupils were learning about the circulatory (cardiovascular) system that is a vital network comprising the heart, blood vessels, and blood, responsible for transporting oxygen, nutrients, hormones, and waste products throughout the body.



Future doctors,  
scientists,  
researchers – all  
home-grown at HH!

### Years 3 and 4 at the Trinity Park Farm Fair



## Spring Term at HH

### World Book Celebrations



**World Book Day** was a fantastic celebration with children and staff dressed as their favourite word, participating in reading-themed activities and visiting our local Waterstones.

The enthusiasm was infectious as children immersed themselves in storytelling and literacy challenges, reinforcing their love for books.

### History at HH



#### **The Last Days of Pompeii**

The Immersive Exhibition transported our Year 6 pupils back to 79 AD, blending dramatic storytelling with cutting-edge technology to bring the doomed Roman city to life.



#### **Ancient Egyptian experience**

Year 4 have explored the fascinating culture of the Ancient Egyptians in Virtual Reality and explored Ancient Egypt by participating in a historical workshop.

### Religion and World Views Days at HH



As part of our **RE curriculum** in Spring 1, pupils have been learning about Hinduism. In line with our planned annual Places of Worship visits for each year group, Year 4 visited the Ipswich Hindu Samaj. During this time, our Year 1 pupils were learning about Holi, the vibrant Festival of Colours, which celebrates spring, love and the triumph of good over evil. In Spring 2, our whole-school RE focus day explored Christianity, Judaism and Buddhism, further enriching pupils' understanding of different world faiths and beliefs.

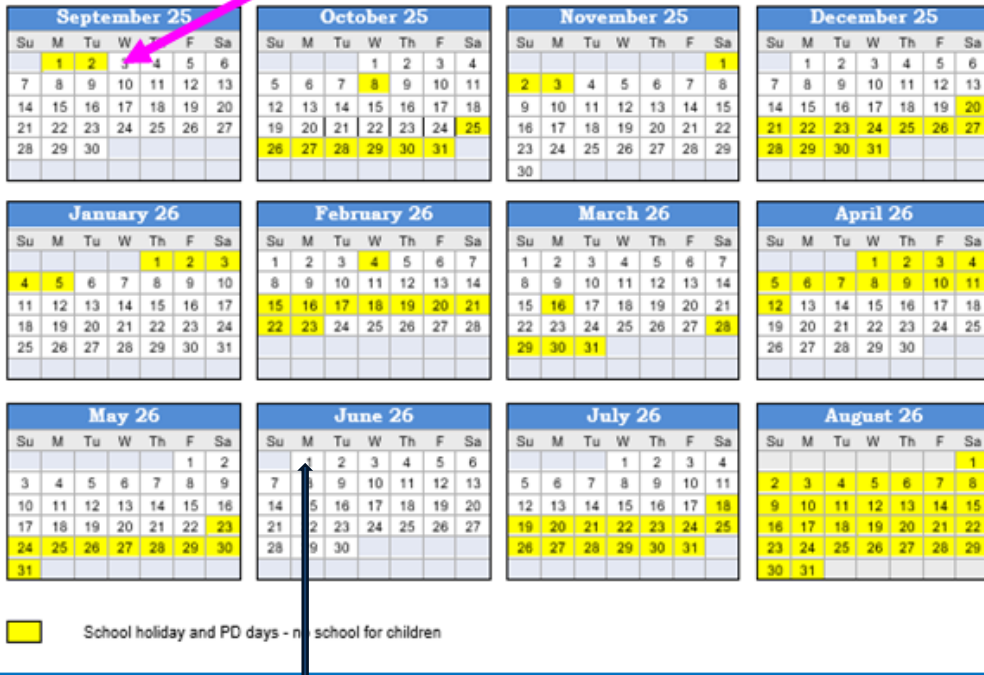
**It is true when we say that Handford Hall is a place where everyone loves to be!**

## 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><b>1.06 – PD day</b>                      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>Easter break – 30.03 – 10.04.2026</b></p>	

School starts

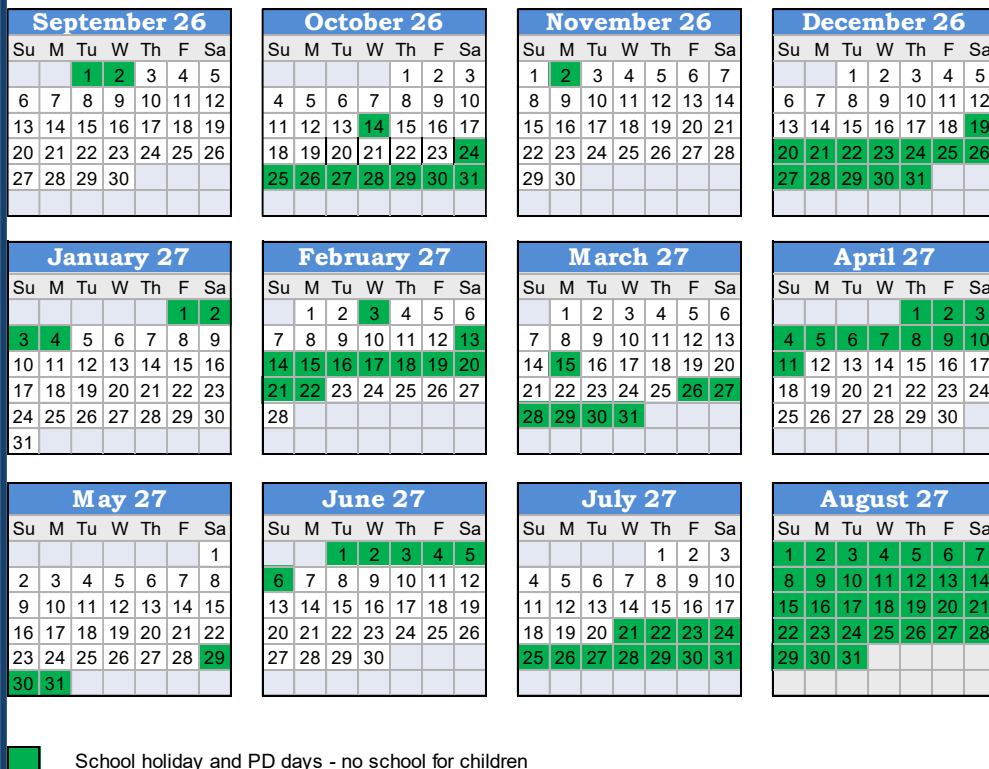
## TERM DATES 2025-2026














Rescheduled PD Day - Mon 1<sup>st</sup> June (no school for children)

## Next academic year

### 2026-2027



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 