

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

Newsletter - September 2025



For your diary in September

Wednesday 3.09 -
school starts

Parent Workshops:

Tuesday 9.09 at 8.45 (Dome)
Tuesday 16.09 at 8.45 (Dome)
Tuesday 23.06 at 8.45 (Dome)
Tuesday 30.06 at 8.45 (Dome)
*For more information, please
see page 3 of this newsletter*

Week beginning 15.09-
Science week

Wednesday 17.09 – Fab
Science Workshops for KS2
students

Thursday 18.09 – Fab
Science workshops for KS2
students

**After school clubs start in
October – letters to follow**

Headteacher update

Dear Handford Hall Families,

I hope you had a fantastic summer break - loads of sunshine and family time! Now we are ready for another fantastic year full of amazing learning opportunities for all our pupils.

A warm welcome to the new families who are joining us this academic year. We hope your children will settle in well and will love our school as much as we do. There's something truly special about the Handford Hall community, and I know you'll feel that warmth and support from day one.

As we begin this new chapter together, I want to take a moment to celebrate our incredible achievements from last year. As every year, our pupils performed exceptionally well in all statutory tests. This doesn't happen by coincidence - it is due to our amazingly skilful Handford Hall team of professionals whose expertise is second to none. Their dedication, passion, and commitment to every single child continues to inspire me daily.

I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our fantastic parents for supporting us in improving our punctuality and attendance. Your partnership makes all the difference. When children are not in school, they miss learning opportunities, miss out on friendships, and acquire gaps in learning that will have an impact on their progress and achievements. We are not out of the woods yet - our whole school attendance target is 97% and we will be working together in achieving it. Every day matters, and together we can ensure our pupils have the best possible start to their educational journey.

In this newsletter, you will find an overview of our school priorities for 2025/26 as well as our 2025 results. There will also be a summary of the most important events in this academic year, so please do take time to read through and mark your calendars. These moments throughout the year are what make our school community so vibrant and connected. Please note changes to our End of Term Celebration assemblies - the changes can be found on page 7. We're always looking for ways to make these special occasions even more meaningful for our pupils and families.

We are all looking forward to another exciting year full of amazing learning opportunities and happy, smiley faces. Here's to making this year our best one yet!

Mrs K Blake
Headteacher

2025/26 classes and teachers:

Reception RB	Mrs Barnett
Reception RC	Mrs Cabras
Year 1 1M	Miss Manners
Year 1 1L	Mrs Larkins
Year 2 2B	Mrs Bacon
Year 2 2SM	Mrs Southgate/Mrs Morrison
Year 3 3B	Miss Bodkin
Year 3 3S	Mrs Simpson/Mrs Scales Kennedy
Year 4 4S	Ms Sterling
Year 4 4W	Miss Worley
Year 5 5B	Miss Blake
Year 5 5G	Miss Gilardi
Year 6 6H	Mr Harraway
Year 6 6P	Mrs Pearl

2025/26 School Priorities

Attendance and Punctuality

Target for the whole school attendance: 97%

Handford Hall Primary School Curriculum Priorities for 2025/2026

HH strengths: outstanding progress for all groups across the whole school, supportive, highly cohesive learning community where children reach and exceed their potential, innovative (creative/outdoor) curriculum design that allows for pupils to constantly share and reflection their own experiences.

Attendance target – 97%; to improve whole school attendance and PA (focus: identified groups and pupils between 92%-95%)

Oracy, Phonics, Reading,

- Mobile, poor attendance pupils and new arrivals
- Phonics/Early Reading – Years 1, 3, 5 and 6
- Greater Depth pupils

- RWI
- Early Readers in KS2
- EYFS – non - negotiable Literacy through play incl. T4W
- Reading Fluency
- Guided Reading
- Accelerated Reader
- Duolog Readers
- Reading Conferences
- Oracy
- Lesson Study and Pupil Book Study
- AFL

Writing – whole school

- Mobile, identified poor attendance pupils and new arrivals
- Greater Depth pupils

- Lesson study
- Pupil Book Study
- Handwriting
- EYFS – non - negotiable Literacy through play
- EYFS/KS1 and Years 3, 5 and 6
- Cross curricular writing
- Writing Conference
- AFL

Mathematics – whole school

- Mobile, poor attendance pupils and new arrivals
- EYFS – number and number patterns
- Greater Depth pupils

- Lesson study
- Mathematical enquiry /differentiation/maths in context
- Focus on basic skills and arithmetic and KIRFs - HH core skills
- Non - negotiable Maths through play in EYFS (focus: number and number patterns)
- AFL

HH Curriculum

To evaluate non-negotiable knowledge, vocabulary and skills in HH Expressive Arts Curriculum and RE (Focus: building blocks and retention of Key Facts)

- Prior knowledge and progression of knowledge, skills and vocabulary
- Lesson Study
- Pupil Book Study
- Retrieval and recall
- AFL

Adaptive teaching and learning for All

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

4 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...

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

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

September Workshops for parents

Day, time and place	Workshops
Tuesday 9.09.2025 at 8:45 (Dome)	School priorities for 2025/26 Communication - Learn how to access information about the school, events, and your child's learning.
Tuesday 16.09.2025 at 8:45 (Dome)	Unlock your child's reading potential - Discover how to support your child's reading and get guidance on suitable books for home reading.
Tuesday 23.09.2025 at 8.45 (Dome)	Phonics and Reading – for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents Sparking Joy: Reading with your child.
Tuesday 30.09.2025 at 8.45 (Dome)	Navigating Handford Hall Curriculum. How do you know what your child is learning at the school? – HH Curriculum Unlocked.

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														26	27	28	29	30	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 

Dear Parents,

Changes to our Celebration Assemblies

I am writing to share some exciting changes to our celebration assemblies that will take effect from this academic year onwards.

I must begin by expressing how absolutely delighted we have been with the tremendous turnout of parents at our end of term celebration assemblies. These special occasions truly are the highlight of our term, providing us with the most wonderful opportunities to share your children's successes and celebrate their remarkable achievements together as a school community. The enthusiasm and support you have shown by attending these very important sessions has been tremendously encouraging, and it speaks volumes about the strong partnership we have built together.

However, we are very much aware that our increased popularity has created some challenges. The constraints posed by the small space in the dome have become increasingly apparent, and we want to ensure that every family has the best possible experience when celebrating their child's achievements.

Therefore, we will be implementing new arrangements designed to enhance the experience for all our families. From this term onwards, there will be two separate assemblies at the end of each term. The first assembly will begin at 9.15am and will be dedicated to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents. The second assembly will commence at 11.00am for parents of pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Each child will be allocated two spaces for their adults, ensuring fair access for all families.

To ensure the safety and enjoyment of all attendees, we will also be introducing some important guidelines. Due to health and safety requirements, buggies will not be permitted in the building, and no food or drinks will be allowed during the assembly. We ask that mobile phones be switched off for the duration of our celebration assembly to maintain the special atmosphere these occasions deserve. Should any small children become disruptive, the corridor will be available for parents to use.

As punctuality and attendance remain our absolute priority, I must emphasise that lateness will not be tolerated. Any parent who arrives late will sadly not be able to attend the event. Parents will receive a text invitation to the celebration assembly, and attendance will need to be confirmed due to health and safety requirements.

We hope that these new arrangements will significantly improve your experience of our celebration assemblies, making them less crowded and ensuring that you are better able to see and hear your children during these very important school events.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support in this matter. I will be sending an additional letter with the summary of changes in the next few days.

We look forward to celebrating your children's achievements with you under these improved arrangements.

Mrs Blake
Headteacher

Handford Hall results 2025/26

HH mobility is a significant factor for all statutory results

EYFS results:

EYFS whole cohort	61.9%
HH EYFS pupils	69%

Year 1 Phonics:

Y1 phonics – whole cohort and HH children comparison	Phonics result	PP pupils
Year 1 cohort (47 pupils)	74%	70% (10 pupils)
HH Year 1 children (23) (pupils that were with us in reception)	87%	83% (6 pupils)

Year 4 Multiplication Test:

Multiplication Tables Check	School	National
25 marks out of 25	66%	39%
HH pupils 25 marks out of 25	81%	39%

Year 6 – whole cohort:

Year 6 SATs results	School	National
Reading, Writing and Maths combined - Expected	62%	62%
Reading, Writing and Maths combined – Greater Depth	19%	8%
Reading Expected	66%	75%
Reading Greater Depth	32%	33%
Writing Expected	66%	72%
Writing Greater Depth	26%	13%
Maths Expected	70%	74%
Maths Greater Depth	23%	26%
SPAG Expected	47%	73%
SPAG Greater Depth	13%	30%
Science	72%	82%

Year 6 attainment for Handford Hall children (36 pupils out of 55)

SATs results:	Expected for HH children	Greater Depth for HH children
Reading	28 out of 36 = 78% (national 75%)	16 out of 36 = 44% (national 33%)
Writing	27 out of 36 = 75% (national 72%)	13 out of 36 = 36% (national 13%)
Maths	29 out of 36 = 81% (national 74%)	11 out of 36 = 31% (national 26%)
RWM	27 out of 36 = 75% (national 62%)	10 out of 36 = 28% (national 8%)
Science	29 out of 36 = 81% (national 82%)	
SPAG	25/37 = 69% (national 73%)	7 out of 36 = 19% (national 30%)

2024/25 attendance

Attendance	Present	Auth. absence	Unauth. absence	Persistent absence
All students	95.01%	2.93%	2.06%	15.22%

The whole school attendance excluding multi-lingual pupils with term-time holidays:

Attendance	Present	Auth. absence	Unauth. absence	Persistent absence
All students	96.85%	2.99%	0.16%	4.08%