

May 2026

## Principal's Termly Update to Parents and Carers

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to take a moment to share something with you. I have recently passed the two-year anniversary of my appointment as Principal of The Prescott School, and it has given me the opportunity to reflect on the journey we have been on together.

Looking back, there is a great deal to celebrate. Attendance has improved by almost 5%, which is a significant shift and reflects the importance we are all placing on children being in school, every day. Behaviour has also improved markedly, with over a 50% reduction in negative behaviour incidents. This has allowed us to create a school environment that is calm, warm, respectful and purposeful. Visitors regularly comment on how different the school feels, and that is something we should all be proud of.

Most importantly, our young people are benefiting from these changes. They are learning more, they feel safer, and they are experiencing the education they deserve.

A phrase I often share with students and staff is: 'If I let you off, I let you down.' This underpins our approach. We are becoming known as a school with high expectations, where children are challenged, supported and cared for in equal measure.

We are also seeing a real change in how the school is viewed within the community. Two years ago, Year 7 admissions had dropped significantly and confidence in the school was low. This year, applications have increased by over 200 in just one year. That is a remarkable shift and a clear indication that families are once again placing their trust in The Prescott School.

Whilst there is still more to do, I am incredibly proud of how far we have come in such a short space of time.

This progress has only been possible through a shared commitment between school and home.

### Newsletter:

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/AKaL2yKThAl7Gs80?ref=Link>

### Phone-Free School Policy – September 2026

I am informing you of an important development in our approach to supporting the learning, wellbeing and safety of all students. From September 2026, a phone-free policy will be in place throughout the school week.

#### OUR VISION

WE ARE COMMITTED TO NURTURING WELL-ROUNDED INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ACADEMICALLY PREPARED, SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE, AND EQUIPPED WITH THE SKILLS TO THRIVE IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD

## **Why are we making this change?**

This decision follows national guidance and the clear direction of travel in education. The Department for Education (DfE) states that schools should be “mobile phone-free environments by default” (DfE Mobile Phones in Schools Guidance, January 2026). There are also proposals within the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill which are likely to strengthen these expectations further.

## **Research consistently shows that reducing phone use during the school day can:**

- Improve focus and academic outcomes
- Reduce distractions in lessons
- Support positive behaviour and relationships
- Improve wellbeing and reduce online risks

Our aim is simple: to create a calm, focused and supportive environment where every student can thrive.

## **What this will mean in practice from September 2026**

Students may still bring a mobile phone to school if parents wish. However, phones are brought into school at the family’s own risk. The school cannot accept responsibility for loss, damage or theft. Phones must not be used during the school day.

### **Start of the day (registration)**

- Students must switch off their phone and hand it to their form tutor
- Each phone will be placed in a secure, numbered lock box

### **Storage during the day**

- Lock boxes will be collected and stored securely for the duration of the school day in a room under CCTV surveillance

### **End of the day**

- Phones will be returned to students in their form rooms during a short dismissal registration period.
- School start and finish times will not change.

### **Late arrivals**

- Students arriving after morning registration will hand their phone in on arrival at school.
- Phones will be stored securely during the school day.

### **Early departure (e.g. medical appointments)**

- Students who need to leave site during the school day will collect their phone from Reception when signing out.

### **Detentions**

- Students attending detention will receive their phone at the end of the detention.

### **Medical and individual needs**

- We recognise that some students may need access to a mobile phone for specific medical or individual needs. Where this applies, we will work closely with families to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place.

### **Expectations and consequences**

- Students who refuse to hand in their phone will receive consequences in line with the school's behaviour policy.
- If a student claims not to have a phone but is later found with one, it will be confiscated.
- Confiscated phones must be collected by a parent or carer from Reception between 3:30pm and 4:00pm.

### **Communication during the school day**

- If you need to contact your child urgently during the school day, please contact the school via Reception and we will ensure messages are passed on promptly.

### **Working together**

We recognise that this represents a significant change. Our priority is to protect learning time, support student wellbeing, and maintain a safe, calm and positive environment for all. We will work closely with families to ensure a smooth and successful implementation.

If you have any feedback to share regarding the first proposal, please can you complete the survey (the link is within the newsletter).

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr. M. Reynolds**  
**Principal**