



15th December 2025

## Getting Ready for 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we head into 2026 I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for your continued support for Princes Risborough School. We have had such a great term here and I'm very proud of the wonderful students and staff who make PRS such a special place to learn and, for the staff, to work! We are particularly proud of our students for increasing the school attendance by over 3% the Autumn term compared to last year and for the over 91% of our students who have an attendance of 90% or greater this year. Just as admirable are all those students who overcome various challenges to be in school and learning when things are difficult for them.

I hope all our families have the chance to take a well deserved break over the festive period.

For the term ahead we will be welcoming our new Assistant Headteacher for Behaviour and Culture - Ms Riley. Ms Riley will be starting in January with the same high expectations as all of our PRS team. In particular, can I ask that you take the time over the holidays to have a look at your child's uniform and ensure they are coming back to school with correct uniform and equipment as per the policy.

- **School shoes:** Plain black sensible leather shoes (no logo), no high heels, no boots, no canvas shoes, no trainer style shoes. School shoes costs vary, but we have had issues this year with parents spending a lot of money on footwear which clearly does not take note of the above information as not all school shoes sold in shops match our uniform policy. We would very much like to avoid this as it puts the school at odds with the student which is not what any of us would wish for and is a negative interaction for all concerned.
- **Nails and make-up:** Students must not wear false nails or nail varnish. Please ensure students have false nails taken off before term starts to avoid any unnecessary conflict at the start of term.
- **Piercings:** One plain stud in the ear lobe is permitted, multiple ear piercings, nose studs or piercings elsewhere on the body must be removed. Please do not allow your child to get a piercing in the holiday that they will have to remove in term time as this could cause discomfort to them.
- **Hoodies:** Hoodies must not be brought into school. They are not to be worn to and from school as a substitute for a coat. Students can wear their blazer, a v neck black jumper and a coat in school. They do not need a hoodie additionally so any hoodies will be confiscated at the gates. Again, we do not want to be challenging students about hoodies at the gates as it can make them cold. Please just send them to school in a coat on top of their uniform to avoid any issues.
- **Blazers:** Blazers are a compulsory part of the uniform and should not be replaced with jumpers. Students must bring their blazer every day.
- **Chromebooks:** Please ensure your child has their chromebook charged every evening so that they are ready to start the day with a full battery.
- **Prohibited items:** Just a reminder that fizzy drinks - especially energy drinks are prohibited and should not be on school site. They will be confiscated if found. Students are also not allowed aerosols on site.

We are very proud of how smart our students look every single day around school. Students tell us that wearing their uniform gives them pride for their school and a sense of belonging. Please ensure your child is ready to start the term in their uniform as this will be strictly enforced in the new year. We want to avoid students having to miss any learning time to address uniform issues but will have to do so in the unfortunate event that a child is not following [school policy](#) on this. We very much appreciate your support in this matter.



### Support for families over the holidays

For the majority of our students, the Christmas holidays are an exciting time. However, many of our students (and families) also have personal struggles at this time of year. Over the holiday period whilst we are not in school to support you, there are a range of agencies who you can reach out for if you are in need of support.

The best place to start for general advice and to access many council-run services is the [Buckinghamshire Family Information Service \(BFIS\)](#).

- **Telephone: 01296 383293**
- **Email:** [familyinfo@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:familyinfo@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)
- **What they offer:** Information, advice, and signposting to services for families.

If you have an emergency our advice would always be to call 999. If your child is suffering from mental health concerns please seek advice at your GP, A&E or CAMHS Crisis 01865 901 951. If you are concerned about a child's welfare you can also contact First Response at the Council on 01296 383 962.

For families struggling with the cost of living, debt, or financial emergencies there are links [here](#) to various charities and community funds which can support you.

Sadly for many families in our community, there will be an increase in domestic violence over the Christmas holidays. Here are some [links](#) to reach out if you need support or you can call the National Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000 247. Children can call [Childline](#) on 0800 11 11.

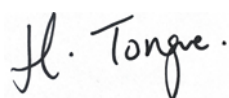
### Mobile Phone Use

On a positive note we are really pleased to update you on the progress of our mobile phone pouch initiative at PRS. We have seen a really positive impact on the students from using the pouches. The vast majority of students and staff report that they are able to focus in lessons more readily, have less compulsion to check their phone in school time and do not see concerning content therefore whilst in school. **We have had a 96% decrease in incidents in school about misuse of technology.**

I would ask that you continue to monitor your child's use of technology over the holiday period. We know that, even in school holiday time, children still benefit from limits on their screen time. The school does not monitor chromebooks in the same way over the holidays so please monitor all devices. In particular we would advise good sleep hygiene with phones/chromebooks not in children's rooms at bedtime and limits on the use of social media for young people as we know this is closely correlated with increases in anxiety and depression, particularly in girls. The NSPCC has some links to information for parents [here](#) on age ratings (mostly over 13 at least) for social media platforms. If you'd be interested in PRS putting on some information events about e-safety please could you fill in this [form](#).

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to seeing all our wonderful students (in their smartest PRS uniform!) in January.

Yours faithfully,



Hannah Tongue  
Deputy Headteacher

