



RISEDALE
A family of learners

RISEDALE SCHOOL

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www.risedale.org.uk | @RisedaleSchool @RisedaleFamily

Thursday 19th December 2024

Dear parent/carer,

SUBJECT: Headteacher's Letter - December 2024

Phew - what a term! Our Risedale Family has really shown me what we are all about in my first term as Headteacher. Charity fundraising, fantastic rewards trips, an inspiring awards evening, sporting successes, auditions for our next school production 'Little Shop of Horrors', wonderful clubs, super work on the part of our pupil leaders (School Council, Ambassadors, Mental Health Ambassadors and Librarians), visitors to school and fantastic house competitions, all topped off with a 2-day Ofsted inspection! I am sure all pupils and staff are ready for a well-deserved Christmas break.



I would like to thank parents/carers, staff and pupils for the thought they have put into discussing and sharing their thoughts on Risedale's vision and values over the last few weeks. I will be taking all of this feedback to our governors in January so that we can shape our final vision statement and select the values that our stakeholders feel are the most important. We will then share these with the whole school community and start to thread them through everything we do at Risedale so that everyone has absolute clarity on what we are all about and what is important to us.

It is crucial that all our pupils and staff can work and learn free of distraction in order to maximise progress and help us to provide the highest quality of education. With that in mind, leaders have been working hard this term on a refreshed approach to behaviour with an emphasis on behaviour for learning. Our staff training day on the 6th January will have a focus on this and on changes we will be making to the way we manage behaviour in school. Changes will be made explicit to pupils in assemblies on the first day back (7th January) and some of the basic changes for parents/carers are outlined below.

As a reminder, we recently sent out an important letter regarding road safety earlier this term. Please revisit this letter for key safety tips and reminders, particularly as the days are now shorter and darker. Your continued support in keeping the car park and drive safe and reinforcing key messages with your child is greatly appreciated. LINK TO LETTER: [Road Safety \(Sent 28/11/2024\)](#).

Wishing you and your family a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas holiday,

Greenwood

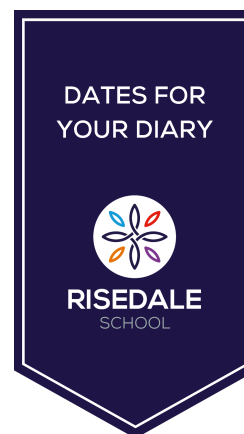
Mrs L Greenwood
Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary

23 Dec - 3 Jan 2025	Christmas Holiday
Monday 6 Jan	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 7 Jan	Start of Spring Term 1 (pupils return)
Wednesday 15 Jan	Y11 Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form Interviews
27 Jan - 14 Feb	Y11 PPEs/Mock Exams (Timetable)
Thursday 6 Feb	Y11 Consultation Evening
17 - 21 Feb	Half Term Holiday
Monday 24 Feb	Start of Spring Term 2 (staff & pupils return)

Website Link >> [Calendar & Term Dates](#)



Attendance

As we approach the new year, we want to emphasize the importance of good attendance for your child. This term, we have noticed an increase in one-day absences due to headaches and colds. Missing just one day of school means losing 5 hours of valuable learning. If a pupil misses a day every two weeks, that adds up to 15 hours over half a term, 30 hours in a term, and around 90 hours over the entire academic year.

Regular attendance not only enhances your child's learning but is also essential for developing their social skills. In January, we will be launching a comprehensive Attendance Strategy for the whole school, and we will be receiving additional support from an Education Welfare Officer to help improve attendance. More details will be shared in January. Please see the information below about winter illness and guidance from the Government.

Winter Illnesses in Children

If you haven't done so already, please read the following leaflet from the UK Health Security Agency which provides information about [Winter Illnesses in Children](#) which we sent on 13/12/2024.



UK Health
Security
Agency

Reporting an Absence at Risedale: If your child is unwell and cannot attend school we ask that you inform the school and leave a message before 8:30 am on each day of absence. To do this, you can either telephone the school on 01748 833501 and select option 1 to report an absence OR send an email to absence@risedale.org.uk.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Behaviour for Learning

At Risedale, we are absolutely committed to creating a positive, safe learning environment for all pupils. To support your child's success, we now have clear lesson expectations to encourage respectful behaviour and a focus on learning. Additionally, we will be emphasising praise for positive behaviour.

Key Lesson Expectations:

- Arrive on time to all lessons and line up respectfully at the classroom door
- Enter quietly and begin work without delay (starter task/reading, as directed by the teacher)
- Use break/lunch times for bathroom visits (unless you have a medical pass/it is an emergency)
- Wait to be called on before speaking in class - this gives everyone a chance to contribute
- Leave the classroom calmly after standing behind your chair and being dismissed.

Praise and Rewards: starting in January, pupils will receive:

- Stamps for positive classroom contributions, which earn Epraise points
- Epraise points for outstanding work, 100% attendance, and positive behaviour, which can be exchanged for rewards
- Celebration events will be held linked to Epraise points, and these contribute to termly rewards and prize draws.



Culture of Safety and Pride - we expect pupils to:

- Be polite and respectful to all
- Wear full uniform
- Eat and drink at appropriate times and in designated places
- Move calmly and quietly around the school
- Be punctual and follow their timetable.

Sanctions: from January, we are adopting the following clear system for addressing disruption to learning:

1. **RS1 verbal warning:** pupil needs to amend their behaviour in line with the teacher's instruction
2. **RS2 formal warning:** a warning is recorded on the system - pupil still expected to change behaviour
3. **RS2 seat move:** teacher will ask the pupil to move seats to support their behaviour
4. **RS2 'Buddy Room':** pupil is sent to a designated partner classroom for the remainder of the lesson and is issued with an after-school detention
5. **RS3:** time in the Reflection Room for persistent disruption, with possible extension of this isolation period or suspension if the behaviour continues.

Any sanction from RS2 onwards will be recorded on our system and will come to parents through the MCAS app.

Punctuality: pupils must arrive on time for school and lessons. Lateness will be recorded, and repeated lateness (6 times in a half-term) will result in a day in the Reflection Room.

We appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations with your child to ensure a positive learning experience for everyone at Risedale.

Safeguarding

Wellbeing and Support: Christmas can be a challenging time for families and we would like to guide you to the following website for support [Useful contacts - Christmas and mental health - Mind](#).

Our Safeguarding Team In School: Any concerns relating to Child Protection and Safeguarding should be referred to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Sarah Cox immediately at DSLsafeguarding@risedale.org.uk. If Sarah is unavailable, James Yates, Andrea Benson, Jade Clarke and Simone Meades are the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Meet the Safeguarding Team

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DSL)
Senior Teacher: Mrs Sarah Cox
DSLsafeguarding@risedale.org.uk

DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS

- Mr Yates
Deputy Headteacher
- Ms Benson
Pupil Support Manager KS4
- Mrs Clarke
Pupil Support Manager KS3
- Mrs Meades
Pupil Support Manager KS3

If you have any concerns over the festive break, there is further information available on our website with contact details if necessary www.risedale.org.uk/information/safeguarding

Snow Day Guidance

As the winter progresses, we can expect heavy snowfall at any time. While we make every effort to keep the school open, there may be times when we have to close, either for a full day or during the day. We understand that the majority of our pupils live within walking distance of Risedale and can get to school in most circumstances. However, many of our staff team live further afield and would have difficulty getting in during heavy snow, potentially making it difficult to maintain our staff-to-pupil ratios.



In the event of a school closure, we will inform you via:

- Text / Email / MCAS
- School [website](#)
- Social media ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#))

We will also notify North Yorkshire Council (NYC), who will update their [School Closures](#) webpage. Additionally, we will inform local radio stations that regularly announce school closures due to severe weather.

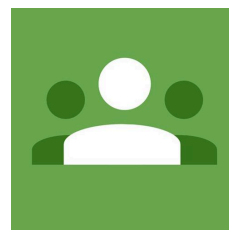


In coordination with our local Catterick primary feeder schools, we will strive to make collaborative decisions regarding school closures and reopenings. However, in certain circumstances, individual schools may need to make independent decisions.

We encourage parents/carers in more distant or remote locations to carefully consider the safety of sending their child to school during severe weather conditions.

IMPORTANT: Unless you receive a notification about a school closure via text, email, or an update on our website or social media, please assume that the school is OPEN as usual.

Remote learning expectations for snow days: If we do announce a snow day closure your child will be set work via Google Classroom. As with other remote learning times we recommend, as far as possible, that your child sticks to the routine of the school day.



Additional Considerations:

- **Safety:** We prioritise the safety of our pupils and staff, especially those who may need to travel long distances during severe weather conditions.
- **Weather Warnings:** We will send out weather warnings the night before if significant snowfall is forecast. However, we will not make decisions to close the school solely based on weather forecasts. We will closely monitor the situation and make informed decisions as conditions change.
- **Prompt Communication:** We will do our utmost to inform parents as soon as possible about any school closures or delays.

Hot Water Bottles Not Permitted in School

We've noticed that some pupils have been bringing hot water bottles to school. While we understand the appeal of staying warm, we want to highlight the potential safety risks associated with hot water bottles, especially if not used or maintained correctly. There is a particular risk with hot water bottles older than 2 years, as the rubber can deteriorate and increase the risk of leaks and burns.



Pupils have been informed during tutor time about the safety concerns and are kindly requested to refrain from bringing hot water bottles to school.

Please note that the school cannot take on liability for any incidents related to hot water bottles. If a pupil is found with a hot water bottle, it will be confiscated until the end of the school day.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Donate Your Pre-Loved Uniforms to the Risedale Uniform Bank

Help us build a sustainable future for Risedale School pupils.

If you have any preloved, unwanted, or outgrown uniform items like blazers, ties, shirts, trousers/skirts or PE kits, including trainers and football boots, we would greatly appreciate your donations.

Drop off your unwanted, clean items at the school reception.

Your donation will help families save money and reduce waste.

Thank you for your support!

#TeamRisedale 

Year 11 Revision Sessions

Our fantastic staff are offering lots of opportunities for extra study/revision sessions for our Year 11 pupils in the run-up to their GCSE exams. Please encourage your child to attend.



We are collecting donations for our **UNIFORM BANK**

If you have any preloved, unwanted, or outgrown uniform items like blazers, ties, shirts, or PE kits, including trainers and football boots, we would greatly appreciate your donations.

THANK YOU

By visiting our dedicated [REVISION](#) website page you will be able to view:

- [Y11 Revision Sessions Timetable](#) (Tutor time, lunchtime & after-school).
- Helpful suggested revision links.
- **Year 11 Revision Strategies Presentation:** This presentation, from the English and Maths drop-down session held on Friday 13th December, focuses on three key revision strategies: Flash Cards, Knowledge Checkers, and Past Paper Questions. It includes valuable tips on how to use these methods effectively. [Year 11 Revision Strategies Session | 13/12/2024](#)

Please note that the timetabled dates and times may be updated, so we recommend checking the [Revision](#) website page regularly for any changes.

These sessions are designed to deepen your child's understanding of the material, solidify your knowledge, and boost your confidence for the exams. Regular attendance at these revision sessions is key to unlocking your full potential and achieving excellent results.

Additionally, you can download a [FREE Revision Timetable Maker / Study Planner](#) from Get Revising to assist you with your revision planning.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Deputy Headteacher, Mr Yates, at Yates.J@risedale.org.uk.



Community Messages from External Providers

Autism Central and Home-Start Drop-In

Looking for support for your autistic child? Join Autism Central and Home-Start for a friendly coffee morning!

Next session: Tuesday 14th January, 10:00AM - 12:00PM. For more information visit [Daisy Chain](#) or email support@daisychainproject.co.uk.

Autism Training for Parents/Carers

NYC Inclusion is offering **FREE** Autism training to help you better understand and support your child. Choose the format that works best for you:

- **Convenient Online Course:** Downloadable materials and modules for self-paced learning.
- **Interactive 2-Day In-Person Course (Northallerton, 5th & 6th Feb 2025):** Deepen your knowledge through engaging sessions with experts.



Click Here to Enroll: [Online Course Download](#) or [2-Day In-Person Course](#)

Registration is Easy! Simply visit the NYES website and follow these steps:

1. **Create a free account (if you haven't already).**
2. **Under "Job Title/Organisation," enter "Parent."**
3. **In the "Reason" section, select "Attend Training Course."**

If you require any help or further information please contact NYES at nyes@northyorks.gov.uk or call 01609 533222.

Garrison ASSIST Project (GAP)

As a reminder, we sent an email to parents of pupils with SEND on 2nd December 2024 regarding the Garrison ASSIST Project (GAP). This project aims to support SEND children within our local schools.

If you missed the email or would like to review the information, please click the link below.

LINK TO LETTER: [Garrison ASSIST Project \(GAP\)](#)

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please don't hesitate to contact our school SEND Team at send@risedale.org.uk or Matt Blyton directly at garrisonassistproject@gmail.com.



Support for parents to access their child's UK eVisa

The DfE has asked us to share the following information with parents/carers.

The UK Government is replacing physical immigration documents with digital proof of immigration status called an #eVisa.

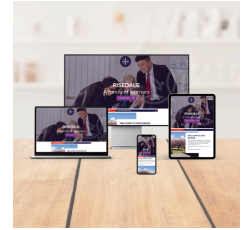
If you use a BRP, BRC or visa vignette in your passport to prove your rights in the UK, go to [Online immigration status \(eVisa\) - GOV.UK](#) to find out what you need to do.



General Reminders for Risedale School

School Website

It is recommended that all parents familiarise themselves with the school's website www.risedale.org.uk. There you can find lots of important information such as [calendar and term dates](#), [letters to parents](#), [uniform](#), [policies](#), [exam information](#), [wellbeing](#) and our [latest news](#) to name but a few.



Uniform

At Risedale, we take great pride in our school uniform and strive to make it as affordable as possible by limiting the number of branded items we offer. Our website provides guidance on the [Uniform](#) policy, which is an integral part of our school's identity. It is mandatory for all pupils to wear the correct uniform at all times. If you have any questions or concerns about the uniform, please contact your child's form tutor as the primary point of contact.



Online Parental Engagement

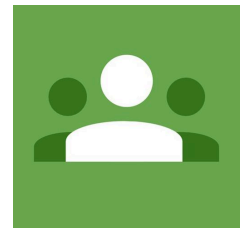
[MyChildAtSchool \(MCAS\)](#) is an online portal for parents that enables you to view your child's performance at school in real-time via the web. **Please check MCAS regularly** as this facility allows you to access your child's timetable, attendance, behaviour and reports whenever you wish to see the latest available information. Parents can access MCAS via the website or can use the MCAS App which can be downloaded from the app/play store.



When your child joins Risedale you will be sent details to allow you to access your account. If you have forgotten your Parent Login details click [HERE](#).

Google Classroom Parent Alerts

Parents can receive email summaries showing their child's progress in Google Classroom. To become a 'Google Guardian' simply complete this form ['Google Classroom Summary Alerts'](#) and our IT team will set this up for you.



Equipment and Chromebooks

Please ensure your child has everything they need for school to start the day positively and be prepared to learn.

- Chromebook fully charged and in its protective case.
- A pencil case containing the following:
A **black biro**, **red biro** and **blue biro**, pencil, ruler and eraser to enable pupils to take pride in their presentation (P.R.O.U.D) and earn Epraise points.
- PE kit (on the timetabled day).
- Reading book (KS3 only).
- Art doodle book (KS3 only, on the timetabled day).

P	Write in PEN : black for writing, red for <u>underlining</u> and blue for DIRT
R	Use a RULER for all tables, grids and graphs
O	OOPS! Draw a single line with a ruler through <u>mistakes</u>
U	UNDERLINE titles etc. with a red pen and a ruler
D	Only use a pencil to DRAW with

Always be **PROUD** of your work