



Thursday 5th September 2024

Dear parent/carer,

SUBJECT: Welcome from Mrs Greenwood

It brings me great joy to write to you as the new Headteacher of Risedale School. I feel privileged to be in this role and grateful for the warm welcome I have received from staff, pupils, governors and parents in the Risedale Family - it is a very special place and I am so looking forward to working with all of you over the coming weeks, months and years to ensure Risedale provides the very best opportunities for every single young person who comes through our doors.

I would like to extend a similar warm welcome to any new pupils and their parents, particularly our new Year 7 cohort; it has been wonderful this week seeing Year 7 arrive at Risedale full of excitement and enthusiasm! During their time here, we will be dedicated to supporting them to be their best selves, and we promise to have high expectations of them as they should have of themselves - this is the key to success. They (and you if you are a Year 7 parent) are now part of our Risedale Family!



This is a good opportunity for me to remind all families of '**The Risedale Way**'. We reiterate regularly to pupils our three core expectations and we ask for your support in reinforcing these with your child(ren) as they help them to not only succeed academically but also in becoming well-rounded, responsible and kind individuals. All pupils should:

- 1) **Be ready and equipped to learn** (*this includes having a positive attitude to learning, having the correct equipment and homework, and being in full uniform as a proud member of our school community*)
- 2) **Respect themselves and all others** (*this includes high standards of behaviour, presentation and uniform, politeness, and acceptance of all others for who they are*)
- 3) **Always do their best.**

New Staff

We are lucky to welcome the following new staff to our school family this September: Mrs Dovaston (Head of Food Technology), Miss Fletcher (English Teacher), Mr Hahn (English Teacher) and Mr Reid (Geography Teacher). Mr Higham is our Assistant SENCo and Mr Lawson is now Head of PE - congratulations to both colleagues on their successful appointment to these posts.

Contact with School & Queries

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor in the first instance, as per our [Support and Communications Flow Chart](#). Their tutor can then ensure your query is dealt with by the correct person if they cannot resolve it fully themselves. If you would like to come into school to meet with a member of staff, please make an appointment either directly with that [staff member](#) or contact enquiries@risedale.org.uk and our Admin Team can arrange this. Although we will always endeavour to see parents as soon as possible, please be mindful of the fact that staff have teaching commitments and/or meetings scheduled throughout the day, so it is important to find a mutually





agreeable time to meet. In addition, for safeguarding reasons, we ask that all visitors have an appointment.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding the welfare of all our pupils is our main priority. We not only ensure support is in place in a timely manner for all pupils and families where there is a safeguarding need, but we teach pupils how to keep themselves safe through our Social Studies programme. The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) in school are Mr Yates (Deputy Headteacher) and Mrs Cox (Senior Teacher). They are assisted by Ms Benson as Deputy DSL and myself as Headteacher. If you have a safeguarding concern or you would like to speak to a DSL/DDSL, please contact DSLsafeguarding@risedale.org.uk.

Teaching & Learning

Other than our young people's safety, my priority is ensuring our pupils leave Risedale with the knowledge and skills they need to facilitate their next steps. A focus on excellent teaching and learning, and ensuring our teachers and support staff stay at the forefront of practice development will be central to my leadership. I ask for your support in encouraging your children to develop good homework and reading habits, and in having positive conversations about learning at home.

Attendance

Good attendance is crucial to your child's future success. The government has identified school attendance as a national priority as it has fallen in recent years and young people are suffering as a result. Evidence shows that children and young people who have good school attendance (the government defines 'good' as 95%+, which means very few days off per year) make more progress and gain more qualifications than those who do not. They are also more socially well-developed and have better mental and physical health. The routine that school provides, as well as the academic, social and emotional learning, are key to a young person's development.

Missing two weeks of school for a family holiday in term time will mean that your child misses 50 hours of learning new things that they will not cover in as much depth again. They will also most likely face questions on these things in exams at some point in the future. If your child misses a day here and there, each time this happens, they will miss 5 hours of learning new things. They will then struggle to understand things when they return because teachers sequence learning and build layers of learning to ensure that tasks are framed around prior knowledge. We know that some pupils may have genuine reasons for school absence; we understand this and will provide our support, but **I make a plea to you at the start of this new academic year to ensure your child is in school every day unless there are truly extenuating circumstances.** You may be aware that the government has made changes to parent penalties linked to poor school attendance - all schools are required to comply with the new guidance. More information on fines and other action local authorities take can be found [here](#).

Thank you for your support in getting our wonderful pupils back into school routines this week. Parents and school in partnership is a powerful combination and I look forward to working with you.

Yours faithfully,

Greenwood.

Mrs L Greenwood
Headteacher

