

Friday 25th October 2024

Dear parent/carer,

SUBJECT: Headteacher's Letter - October 2024

I'd like to begin by expressing my gratitude for the warm welcome I have received as the new Headteacher at Risedale School. We've had a fantastic start to the school year, and this is all thanks to our incredible pupils, supportive staff, and you the parents.

For new families at Risedale, I'd like to explain how we keep parents and pupils informed. At the end of each half term, I will send a **Headteacher's Letter** to provide important updates about the school, community messages, and dates for your diary. This will ensure that both you and your child have the information you need for success.

Throughout the year, you will also receive additional letters about parents' evenings, upcoming trips, events, and other important matters. We use various methods to communicate with parents, including post, email, MCAS, telephone, and text. You can also find lots of information on our [website](#) and via our social media links: [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [X](#) | [YouTube](#).

At the beginning of each half-term, we will also send you our **Keep in Touch 'KIT' Newsletter**. This will be packed full of good news that has happened at Risedale in the previous half term. The aim of the **KIT Newsletter** is to be 'a big shout out' for all of the great things our pupils are doing in and out of school and the fantastic support given to them by our very hard-working staff.

Can I ask you to please take the time to read these communications when they arrive and take note of all the great things we do?

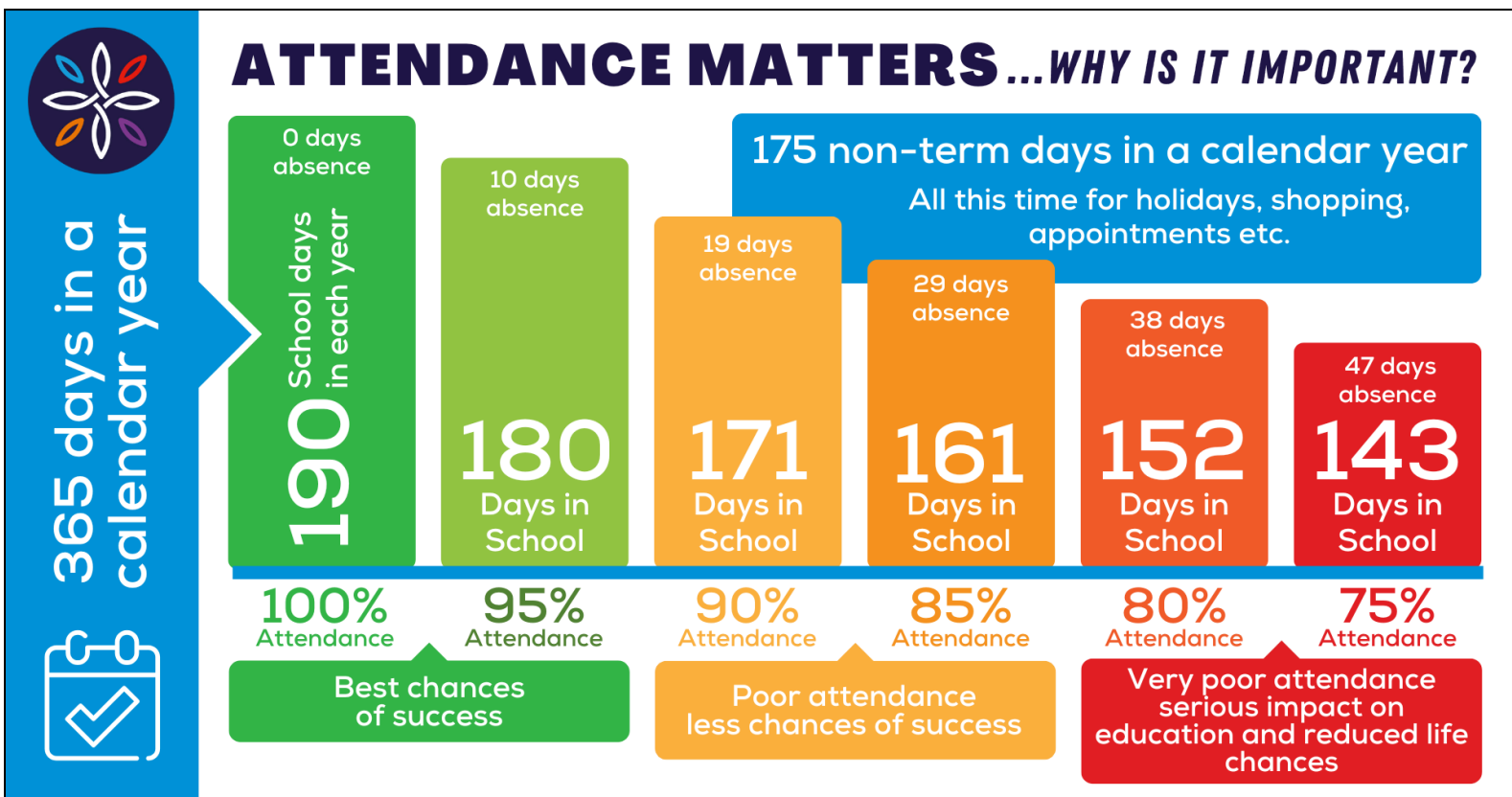
I would like to thank you for your support with improving standards of uniform - there has been a noticeable improvement in this since the summer term, and many staff have commented on the pride with which pupils are now presenting themselves. I would like to ask for your continuing support in this area so that Risedale pupils are known in the community for being smart and well-presented. I am proud of them for making this change. We have also seen improvements in punctuality since the start of term, so thanks are due to you for supporting routines by ensuring your children arrive at school on time.

Attendance

Attendance continues to be a national priority in schools, and Risedale is no exception. Simply put, young people who do not attend well gain lower grades than pupils who do, and this affects their chances of secure employment and success in the future. Good attendance (higher than 95%, which equates to no more than a few days off each year) also influences young people's social



development and mental health positively. It is important to establish good routines around attendance and punctuality early with children and young people, so we would recommend trying to do this at home ideally during primary school, but, in our context, as soon as children start Risedale.



DID YOU KNOW? A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance you can achieve is 94.7%

Mobile Phones

As you may have heard, there is much media coverage about mobile phones in schools and the damage these can do to learning and pupil wellbeing. Risedale has a 'no mobile phone' policy. Please remind your child that there will be firm consequences for having a phone out at school and that they should not be using their phone to contact parents or anyone else during the day. If a pupil needs to contact home due to an emergency, they should go to the school office or their pastoral lead for support. We appreciate your support with this.

Safeguarding

At Risedale we place great importance on safeguarding our young people. We appreciate that parents and carers can have a tricky job navigating the safeguarding issues present in society and that it is sometimes difficult to find useful information about current trends and issues of concern. You may find [this webpage](#) useful, as it contains advice, guidance and brief information on key areas of safeguarding. The [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) also has lots of good tips for parents concerning online. Additionally, we have a dedicated school website page on [Child Protection & Safeguarding](#).

If you have a safeguarding concern about a young person at Risedale, please email Mrs Cox, the Designated Safeguarding Lead, at dslsafeguarding@risedale.org.uk.

Road Safety & PE Lesson Reminders

In June, we sent a [letter](#) to parents highlighting essential health and safety guidelines, particularly for PE lessons. We are re-issuing this letter to remind all parents, and to inform those of our new Year 7 pupils, to review this information and discuss it with your children to ensure a safe and

enjoyable learning environment. We particularly want to bring attention to the issue of road safety and to remind all pupils to be cautious in the school car park and always stay on the pavements and pedestrian areas.

Key Points:

- **Safe Travel to the Jaffa Playing Field:** Always follow designated paths and pavements, especially when walking to the Jaffa Playing Field. Exercise caution at Hipswell Church and cross roads only at designated crossings. Follow all instructions from the member of staff in charge.
- **Jewellery:** The National Guidance is that no jewellery, including earrings, studs, and sleepers, should be worn during physical education classes, including swimming and other physical activities. It is not safe to cover earrings/studs/sleepers with tape. Religious bracelets may be worn if securely covered with a sweatband and tape.

For more details, please refer to the letter: [Important Health & Safety Information for PE Lessons](#)

Visitor Protocol

We understand the importance of family involvement in your child's education. To ensure the safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff, we have implemented a [Visitor Protocol](#) Policy. This policy outlines the procedures for visitors to our school grounds.

By following these guidelines, we can maintain a secure and positive learning environment for all. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we work together to create a safe and welcoming school community.

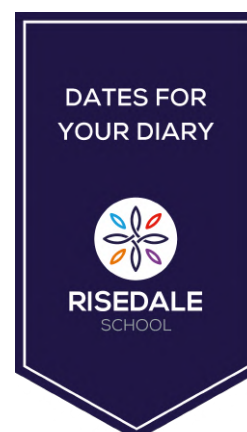
Uniform Bank


We are excited to announce the upcoming launch of the Risedale School Uniform Bank, which aims to provide good quality, used uniform items to those in need. We kindly ask for your support by donating unwanted uniform items, including all aspects of school uniform, PE kit items, and footwear. More information about this new venture will be provided soon. In the meantime, please drop off any unwanted, clean items at the reception. Thank you for your support!



Dates for Your Diary

Monday 4 November	Start of Autumn Term 2 (pupils return)
Wednesday 6 November	Y11 Parents: Preparing For Your Child's Exams Event 5-6pm (Link to Letter - no booking)
Friday 8 November	Book Fair
Tuesday 12 November	Y8-11 Online Reading Test
Wednesday 13 November	Flu Immunisations (Consent Here)
Monday 9 December	Flu Immunisations (Consent Here)
Thursday 12 December	Year 8 Consultation Evening from 3:30pm
23 Dec - 3 Jan 2025	Christmas Holiday
Monday 6 January	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 7 January	Start of Spring Term 1 (pupils return)



 **Festive Activities:** We will also have lots of festive activities, events and reward opportunities for pupils taking place during Autumn Term 2 in the run-up to the Christmas Holidays. Watch this space!

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

Book Fair

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting a book fair on Friday 8th November. This is a new venture for Risedale School and a wonderful opportunity for your child to explore a wide range of books and purchase them at affordable prices.

Payment Options:

- **Cash:** Pupils can bring cash to the fair to purchase books directly.
- **Vouchers:** Parents/carers can pre-order vouchers from Scholastic for their child to spend on the day.
- **Wish List:** Pupils can place an order via a wishlist on the day and then parents/carers can pay Scholastic directly after the event.
- **Please note:** We cannot accept card payments on the day.

Please view the following link below for payment options: [Free Resources – Everything you need for your Secondary School Book Fair](#)



Please note that the event will be held during lesson time and is only accessible to our pupils.

We are looking forward to Friday 8th November and would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to purchase books and engage them in the event.

Many thanks,

Miss Sellers (Librarian)

Y8-11 Online Reading Tests

On Tuesday 12th November, all pupils in Years 8-11 will be completing an online reading assessment during their English lessons. Please make sure your child brings their Chromebook to school, **fully charged**, and in its protective case for this lesson.

Thank you!

Miss Roberts (Senior Teacher & Head of English)



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.

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.



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 Senior Teacher, Mr Sherwood, at Sherwood.R@risedale.org.uk.

Flu Vaccinations

The Vaccination UK team will be visiting Risedale School to administer flu vaccinations to pupils in Years 7-11 on 13th November and 9th December.

For your child to receive their Nasal flu vaccination in school, please give consent using this [LINK: Flu Immunisations 2024/25](#).

If your child cannot have the Nasal spray, the injectable flu vaccine is available, and you will be able to choose that method on the consent form.

If you DO NOT wish for your child to have a flu vaccination, please complete a NO consent via the same link.

The Flu information [leaflet](#) contains the consent link and other useful information regarding flu vaccinations.

Job Vacancies at Risedale

1) Head of Faculty - Expressive Arts

- **Salary:** Main/Upper Pay Scale + TLR1.
- **Job type:** Full Time, Permanent
- **Start date:** After February half term 2025
- **Apply by:** 17 November 2024

APPLY TODAY: [Head of Faculty - Expressive Arts, North Yorkshire - Tes Jobs](#)

2) Food & Art Technician

- **Salary/Grade:** Pay Grade CD (Points 3-6) £11,932.80 - £12,595.60. Pro Rata (£23,150.16 - £23,893.00 FTE).
- **Contract Type / Term:** Permanent/Term time only - 38 weeks, plus 5 training days. 22-22.5 hours per week, 3 days per week (days to be negotiated).
- **Start date:** As soon as possible
- **Apply by:** 17 Nov 2024

APPLY TODAY: [Food & Art Technician, North Yorkshire - Tes Jobs](#)

3) Exam Invigilators/Readers

- **Salary:** £12.38 per hour
- **Job type:** Part Time, Casual
- **Start date:** As soon as possible
- **Apply by:** 17 Nov 2024

APPLY TODAY: [Exam Invigilator, North Yorkshire - Tes Jobs](#)

Wishing you and your family a fantastic half-term holiday,

Greenwood

Mrs L Greenwood
Headteacher



RISEDALE
SCHOOL
A family of learners



Job Vacancies
at Risedale School
APPLY TODAY

Community Messages from External Providers

Eye Tests For Children

North Yorkshire Council has asked us to share the following information with parents/carers about FREE eyes test for children. **Key Messages:**

- Please take your child for a FREE eye test.
- Check this website to find your local opticians: [Sight Tests - NHS](#)
- Encouraging children & young people to manage their screen time and get outdoors more often can help their eyesight.

Let's Talk Active

Let's Talk Active wants to hear from you about how active you are and if there are any barriers you might face that hinder you from being active.

Please fill in the following survey before 4 November: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/LetsTalk>

If you would prefer, you can pick up a paper copy of the survey from your local library, leisure centre or council office and return it in the envelope provided.

You can also email letstalk@northyorks.gov.uk or call 0300 131 2 131 (please say 'Let's Talk' when prompted) to request a survey.

Additionally, if you'd like to find out more about the campaign, you can watch a video here: https://youtu.be/nBG5FRZGw_0

Residents Urged To Check They Are Registered To Vote

Residents across North Yorkshire are being reminded to check that they are registered to vote at their address so that everyone who has the right to take part in upcoming elections can have their say on decisions that affect them.

Like all UK local authorities, every year North Yorkshire Council's elections team is required by law to confirm whether the details held on the electoral register are correct. This is known as the annual canvass.

Households with teenagers should be aware that the electoral register can be important for getting a credit rating, which is required when applying for a mobile phone contract or credit card. From age 16 British citizens and qualifying Commonwealth or EU citizens living in the UK can be added.



NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

Has your child had their eyes tested yet?

This leaflet provides important information on looking after your child's eyes and booking an eye test for children

Children in North Yorkshire should visit an optician for a free eye test

When should you get your child a free eye test?
Ideally children should start having regular eye tests from the age of 4. But they can be tested at any age, even if they can't read or speak.

How do you book a free child's eye test?
Please book your child an eye test at an opticians, even if you have no concerns about their vision. To do this contact your local opticians - use this link for local practices [Find an optician - NHS](#).

What will it cost?
Children under 16 are entitled to NHS-funded (FREE) eye tests. If your child needs glasses, they will receive a voucher to **help with the cost.**

Why should you get your child's eyes tested?

- ✓ Being able to see clearly will mean your child is able to learn and develop at school and socially.
- ✓ Eyes are still developing in early childhood. An eye test helps pick up and treat any problems. This can help to **avoid** or **prevent** longer-term eye problems.
- ✓ Even if you think your child has normal vision it is still important to get their eyes tested.
- ✓ They are no longer tested in school.



NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

Take part in our survey about being active - tell us what's important to you, and what we can do to help.

Let's Talk... Active

Visit [northyorks.gov.uk/LetsTalk](https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/LetsTalk) or scan the QR code to take part online before the survey closes on 4 November 2024.

Paper copies of the survey are available - please ask at the help desk.

100% recycled
L1924 LE1 A4 poster 63402581 06/24

The letter or email people receive from the council will set out what they need to do, and recipients are asked to respond as soon as possible to prevent costly reminders being posted out.

Households that have not responded before mid-October should expect a visit from someone to get the information needed in person.

Anyone concerned about the risk of scams should be reassured that the council will never ask for bank details as part of the annual canvass. There are also examples of the forms online, so people know what questions to expect.

A revised register will be published on December 1. Find out more about the annual canvass in North Yorkshire and registering to vote at www.northyorks.gov.uk/annualcanvass

Product Safety Alert – Water Beads

Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has issued a safety alert for a product commonly known as ‘water beads’ ([Product Safety Alert: Water Beads \(PSA7\) - GOV.UK](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/product-safety-alert-water-beads-psa7)), alongside a news story ([OPSS issues Safety Alert to warn of the risks of water beads - GOV.UK](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/opss-issues-safety-alert-to-warn-of-the-risks-of-water-beads)).

Water beads are marketed to fulfil a variety of different purposes, which can include being used as a toy, or in crafting, home decor and floristry.

The alert highlights the harms caused by the dehydrated bead/s when swallowed that can expand post-ingestion, causing a blockage along the gastrointestinal (GI) digestive tract requiring surgical removal. Additionally, a hydrated or dehydrated bead can cause asphyxiation from aspiration if swallowed. Ingested water beads can be very difficult to detect and do not show up on x-rays, making clinical diagnosis challenging.

Outdoor Learning Half-term Family Activity Days

North Yorkshire Outdoor Learning Service has an exciting and inspiring range of experiences planned to get young people and their families active and in touch with nature this autumn.

Activities include climbing, caving, high ropes, river scrambling and water sports such as canoeing and sailing.

Half-term holiday dates: 28-30 October at Bewerley Park Outdoor Education Centre in Pateley Bridge and 29-31 October at East Barnby Outdoor Education Centre near Whitby.

On Family Activity Days, everyone gets a go!

Get ready for an unforgettable outdoor experience like no other! Find out more and book now at www.outdoored.co.uk/schoolholidays

A fun-filled, action-packed half term

If you're looking for fun and adventure in the great outdoors, we've got an exciting and inspiring range of activities planned to get young people and their families active and in touch with nature this half term.

Bewerley Park Outdoor Education Centre
Pateley Bridge

East Barnby Outdoor Education Centre
Whitby

28 October to 1 November

From our Adventure Club to Family Activity Days, there's something for everyone!
Go to outdoored.co.uk/schoolholidays

NOLS North Yorkshire Outdoor Learning Service

£1 Bus Fares For Young People

Between 15 September and 31 December, young people aged 18 or under will pay only £1 for a single journey on most bus routes in North Yorkshire.

The £1 fare scheme is funded by the UK Government. It is available on most bus journeys within North Yorkshire and to York and the Tees Valley.

The fare scheme does not include school routes, tours and bus services closed to the public. You might be asked to prove your age when buying a ticket. More details can be found here: [Bus service changes and news | North Yorkshire Council](#)



Family Fun With Crafts - Free Half-Term Activities

This half-term, Adult Learning North Yorkshire is offering free Halloween-themed family activities at multiple locations across the county. The Family Fun with Crafts sessions are designed for parents, carers, and their children to come together and create eco-friendly Halloween decorations using basic, sustainable materials.

Session highlights:

- **Craft spooktacular Halloween decorations:** Using basic, sustainable materials, participants will create unique Halloween crafts.
- **Inclusive for all skill levels:** Everyone is welcome to join in the fun, whether a beginner or an experienced crafter.
- **Family bonding:** Spend quality time together while making eco-friendly decorations.
- **Guidance provided:** All materials will be supplied, and the friendly teachers will be on hand to assist throughout the session.

A promotional graphic for Halloween activities. At the top, three children are smiling and holding pumpkins. The child on the left is wearing a witch hat, the middle child is wearing devil horns, and the child on the right is wearing a vampire cape. Below the children is a white banner with the text 'FREE FAMILY HALF-TERM HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES' in orange. Below the banner is a black box with a list of highlights in white text. At the bottom, there are logos for 'Adult Learning North Yorkshire' and 'NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL', along with a spider icon and some green paper crafts.

Locations and Dates:

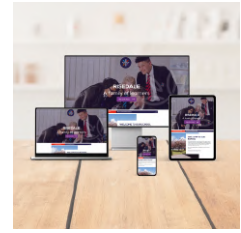
To enrol and access a comprehensive list of activities along with their respective locations, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/FamilyFunCraftsHalfTerm10>

Contact Email: adultlearningservice@northyorks.gov.uk

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

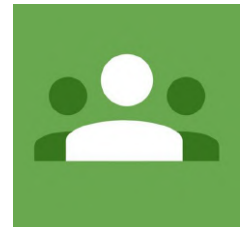
[MyChildAtSchool \(MCAS\)](#) is an online portal for parents that enables you to view your child's performance at school in real-time via the web. **Please check MCAS regularly** as this facility allows you to access your child's timetable, attendance, behaviour and reports whenever you wish to see 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 underlining and blue for DIRT
R	Use a RULER for all tables, grids and graphs
O	OOPS! Draw a single line with a ruler through mistakes
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