



Thursday 26th October 2023

Dear parent/carer,

## SUBJECT: Headteacher's Letter - October 2023

It's been an absolutely fantastic start to this school year! Your children have come back with an incredible amount of positivity and enthusiasm that's truly inspiring. It's been so heartwarming to see how eager they are to catch up on everything they've missed out on during the pandemic. I'm immensely proud of all of them and want to extend a huge thank you to you as parents and carers for helping us create such an encouraging and uplifting atmosphere at school.



We all know how difficult the last few years have been for our young people, with the endless disruptions to their learning. However, we are slowly but surely getting back on track, thanks to the unwavering support of our pupils, staff, and parents. Speaking of which, I'd like to take a moment to thank you for your continued efforts to improve attendance. It's a crucial factor in ensuring that our pupils get the most out of their education, and your dedication to ensuring that your children are in school every day is much appreciated.

You are all aware of the importance of good attendance in school. Our attendance team sends out frequent communications to support improving attendance below national expectations. We all have a responsibility to make sure children are in the classroom and ready to learn. At Risedale, we believe that providing excellent pastoral care is just as important as delivering quality education. That's why we're so proud of our pastoral team, form tutors, and our access to external agencies and our own fully qualified counsellor, Lisa Smith. We strive to provide all the support necessary for our pupils to overcome anxiety and other challenges so that they can develop the resilience and independence they need to succeed later in life. And we couldn't do it without your support and partnership.

Finally, I'd like to express my deepest gratitude to our amazing staff. They are the backbone of our school and have worked incredibly hard to make sure that your children have the best possible experience in our care. Their dedication, passion, and commitment to their work are truly inspiring, and I feel incredibly lucky to work alongside them. With their help and your continued support, I'm confident that we can make this school year the best one yet!

### Future events / Save the date

30 Oct - 3 Nov	Half-Term Holiday
Monday 6 Nov	Start of Autumn Term 2 (pupils and staff return)
Thursday 23 Nov	Year 8 Risedale Family Coffee Event ( <a href="#">Reserve your place here</a> )
27 - 28 November	Flu Immunisations (Y7-11) ( <a href="#">Letter and Consent</a> )
28 Nov - 1 Dec	Y11 Art NEA 1 Practical
28 - 29 Nov	Y11 Drama NEA 1 Practical (Devising)
4 - 15 December	Y11 PPE Mock Exams ( <a href="#">Exam Information</a> )
25 Dec - 5 Jan 2024	Christmas Holidays
Monday 8 January	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 9 January	Start of Spring Term 1 (pupils return)





>> **Please visit our website for more information on important [Calendar and Term Dates](#) and [Exam Information](#)** <<

## Uniform Information and Reminders



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, and there will be a concerted focus on **blazers** and **ties** after half-term, which should be worn at all times. **Please be aware that tracksuit bottoms and leggings are not part of the uniform. Plain black footwear is acceptable.** If you have any questions or concerns about the uniform, please contact your child's form tutor as the primary point of contact.

## Keeping Kids Healthy This School Year - Attendance Matters

The North Yorkshire Public Health team are promoting "A parent's guide to keeping kids healthy this school year," a post published on the blog of the UK Health Security Agency. It covers useful hints, tips and guidance around avoiding and dealing with infections that could affect a child's schooling. You can read the post [HERE](#).



We would also like to remind you about the [Attendance Letter](#) that Mrs Cox sent to you in September highlighting the importance of good attendance. Within the letter we shared lots of helpful information and links including, NHS "[Is my child too ill for school?](#)", which can assist you in deciding whether or not your child should stay home.

For more information regarding [Attendance, Absence and Punctuality](#) please visit our dedicated school website page where you'll find lots of helpful information, including a link to our [Attendance Policy \(Pupil\)](#) and guidance from the [DfE Working together to improve school attendance](#).

## Flu Immunisations (all pupils)

The North Yorkshire Immunisations Team will be visiting Risedale School on **Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th November 2023** to offer all pupils the **Nasal Flu Vaccine**.

Please read the [Flu Immunisation Letter: To parents/carers and E-consent](#) and then give your **Consent online [HERE](#)**. Please complete one form per child.

Even if you do not wish for your child to have the vaccine, please complete the online form so that your wishes can be recorded.

## 5 reasons to have the nasal flu vaccine

1. **Protect yourself.** The vaccine will help protect you against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia.





- 2. Protect your family and friends.** Having the vaccine will help protect more vulnerable friends and family.
- 3. No injection needed.** The nasal spray is painless and easy to have
- 4. It's better than having flu.** The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions worldwide and has an excellent safety record.
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- 5. Avoid lost opportunities.** If you get the flu, you may be unwell for several days and not be able to do the things you enjoy.

Further information can also be found by reading [Flu Immunisation Leaflet: Protect Yourself Against Flu \(secondary school\)](#) or by visiting [Child Flu Vaccine - NHS](#)

## Year 11 Revision Sessions

All Year 11 pupils are encouraged to attend the revision sessions that started this half-term. These sessions are divided into small-group interventions and open-to-all sessions. While the small-group sessions are by invitation only, the open-to-all sessions are available to all pupils who are studying the respective subjects. Please take a look at the following timetable to see which subjects have open sessions and encourage your child to attend them. We have already seen a positive impact from these sessions and hope that your child will benefit from them as well. If you have any questions please contact Senior Teacher, Mr Sherwood, at [Sherwood.R@risedale.org.uk](mailto:Sherwood.R@risedale.org.uk).

YEAR 11 REVISION SESSIONS (Open-to-all)		
MONDAY	Lunchtime	Drama (Devising Rehearsal): Mrs Southworth-Gedye
	After School	
TUESDAY	Lunchtime	Computer Science: Mrs Rodgers Drama (Devising Rehearsal): Mrs Southworth-Gedye
	After School	Art: Ms Westwood French: Mr Miller German: Mr Gückel Science: All Teachers
WEDNESDAY	Lunchtime	Design & Technology / Engineering: Mr Kirkbride Drama (Devising Rehearsal): Mrs Southworth-Gedye English: Miss Douglas
	After School	Art: Ms Westwood Computer Science: Mrs Rodgers Design & Technology: Mr Kirkbride English: Miss Douglas and Mr Watkinson Geography: Mr Ford and Mr Sherwood
THURSDAY	Lunchtime	Drama (Devising Rehearsal): Mrs Southworth-Gedye History: Mr Houlgate Music: Mrs Cox Religious Studies: Mrs Laheney
	After School	Art: Ms Westwood Engineering: Mr Kirkbride English: Miss Roberts History: Mr Houlgate Maths: All Teachers Media Studies: Miss Douglas
FRIDAY	Lunchtime	
	After School	Art: Ms Westwood





## Advance Notice: Recording of Phone Calls

We would like to inform you that our school telephone system will soon be upgraded. As part of this upgrade, a new automatic telephone recording system will be activated. This will record all phone calls made to or from the school using external lines. All external callers calling into the school will receive an automated message that informs them of this fact. There will also be a notification on our school website. The school will be able to access such calls using the telephone management system. The system will not record internal phone calls.



**Access to Recorded Calls:** Access to calls is expected to only be made under exceptional circumstances. Only a restricted number of staff will have access to the recording system and thus any calls made. Such staff will have to obtain permission from senior school staff to access such calls. Details of access to calls will be kept along with the reason for access, which will principally be for staff training or security/safety purposes and to further improve our communications overall. Monitoring systems will be put in place in order to ensure the system is used securely and that confidentiality is maintained. Copies of calls will not be made without the permission of the Headteacher.

## Year 8 Risedale Family Coffee Events ☕💕

### Risedale Family Coffee Events

For parents/carers of Year 8 pupils

Thursday 23rd November

10:30am - 12pm or 6pm - 7:30pm



Following the success of our first Risedale Family Coffee Event in September for parents/carers of Year 7 pupils we would now like to invite **Year 8 parents** to join us for our next event taking place on **Thursday 23rd November**.

We will have two sessions on Thursday 23rd November; the first session at 10.30am - 12pm and then a later session at 6pm - 7.30pm. We hope this will be a fantastic opportunity to meet other parents in an informal setting in school, get to know one another and talk about school life.

The sessions will be run by Assistant SENCo Emma Blatch, Specialist SEND Teacher Catherine Davies and our School Counsellor Lisa Smith. If you would like to come along please complete the [Google Form](#) by Monday 20th November or email Lisa directly at [Smith.L@risedale.org.uk](mailto:Smith.L@risedale.org.uk). We look forward to seeing you there.







**RISEDALE**  
A family of learners

**RISEDALE SCHOOL**

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[www.risedale.org.uk](http://www.risedale.org.uk) | [@RisedaleSchool](https://www.instagram.com/RisedaleSchool) [@RisedaleFamily](https://www.facebook.com/RisedaleFamily)

**Year 11 SLT Tutor Chat and Year 7 Tutor Chat**

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who attended our Year 11 SLT Chat on Thursday 28th September and the Year 7 Tutor Chat on Thursday 19th October. We hope you found these events helpful and informative. If you were unable to attend, we would like to share the presentations from the events with you:

- [Year 11 SLT Chat Presentation / Resources](#)
- [Year 7 Tutor Chat Presentation](#)
- [MCAS, ParentPay and Epraise Information](#)

If you have any questions or concerns moving forward, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor or a member of the Senior Leadership Team at [enquiries@risedale.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@risedale.org.uk).



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# PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION

Carve your pumpkin and then take a picture of you with your spooky creation and upload it to the Google Slides presentation on the Risedale School: House System Google Classroom.

**Deadline: 7th November, 3pm**  
Epraise points and treats up for grabs!!

Please take extra care using sharp knives.  
Do not leave candles burning unattended.





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

**School Website**

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



**Online Parental Engagement**

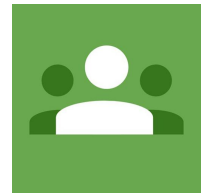
[MyChildAtSchool \(MCAS\)](#) is an online portal for parents that enables you to view your child's performance at school in real-time via the web. **Please check MCAS regularly** as this facility allows you to access your child's timetable, attendance, behaviour and reports whenever you wish to see 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 that your child is equipped with a pencil case, their fully charged Chromebook in its protective case, and their PE Kit on the timetabled day. **Please remind your child to charge their Chromebook every evening so they are prepared and ready to learn.**



Yours sincerely,

**Colin D. Scott**  
Headteacher









## WHAT IS INSPIRE 2GETHER?

Inspire 2gether is SENDIASS North Yorkshire's 11-25 years old Young people's group.

The purpose of the group is for young people in North Yorkshire to have a voice in helping us to develop our service and share their opinions on what we do.

Our group is also a space for young people with SEND to share their views and opinions on topics important to them.

Every six weeks virtually via Microsoft Teams.

You can have your camera on or off and speak directly or use the chat box to share your views.

## WHEN AND HOW DOES INSPIRE 2GETHER MEET?



If you or a young person you know would like to join, here's how you can get in touch:

Email:  
[info@sendiassnorthyorks.org](mailto:info@sendiassnorthyorks.org)

Call and leave a message on:  
01609 534983

Or Text us on:  
07970679591

## HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?



