



Thursday 15th December 2022

Dear parent/carer,

SUBJECT: Headteacher’s Letter - December 2022

It’s been a long term! Autumn always is but so much has been achieved. I’m incredibly grateful to parents and carers for their support with our family (their children) and for spurring them on in boosting their resilience to cope with the typical British climate!

Attendance is obviously vital. You don’t need me to remind you that just 5% absence over a school life for a child means an entire GCSE grade less than what a child could get. The government, as always, is pressuring schools to boost attendance due to the legacy of covid and typical seasonal ailments such as flu and colds. My team will be in regular contact with families to offer support and reassurance in building up a young person’s resilience to cope with what is, after all, expected in the world of work. Remember that our job isn’t only to educate young people in curriculum subjects, but also to support families with the ‘softer’ skills of preparing them for life after school. Turning up for work is just one of them! So thank you once again for all you do to help us in our work.

Sadly, we say goodbye to one of our longest-serving members of staff. Roy McCormack is leaving us for pastures new after 25 loyal years. We wish him well in his new role and thank him deeply for his service to Risedale over these many years.

However your family spends its time over the seasonal break, please do share quality time with each other and I hope the new year brings you all much happiness for years to come. Thank you all once again.

Future events / Save the date



Monday 2nd January	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 3rd January	Training Day for staff
Wednesday 4th January	Start of Spring Term 1 (pupils and staff return)
Thursday 5th January	KS3 Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 19th January	Y8 Virtual Parents’ Evening (online via School Cloud)
Thursday 9th February	Y11 Consultation Evening (in person at school)
13th - 17th February	Half Term Holiday



> > For more information on important dates for Risedale School please visit our [Calendar and Term Dates](#) website page.

Dinner money

It is the parent/carer’s responsibility to provide their child with a packed lunch or to credit their lunch money account via [ParentPay](#) so they can purchase food from the canteen. If your child has insufficient funds on their account the catering staff will ask the pupil to go to the office where we will try to contact you to top up their account. Please be assured, if contact is unsuccessful, we will never let a child go hungry, however, any outstanding debts must be settled swiftly. If pupils





repeatedly have insufficient funds on their accounts or are regularly in debt we will contact home so you are aware.



If your child is entitled to Free School Meals we do still encourage parents/carers to log in and activate your account as this will enable you to view what your child has chosen to eat each day. **For further information and to apply for a free school meal please visit: [North Yorkshire County Council's Free School Meals website page.](#)**

Electronic cigarettes/vapes

Schools in the North Yorkshire area have seen a spike in the number of young people who are vaping; this mirrors a national trend. We have spoken to several parents/carers who are concerned about their children and vaping.

This section provides some key information to help you to support your child and to alert you to the potential harms and consequences of using vapes.

What is 'vaping'?

Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapour produced by an electronic vaporiser (vape) or e-cigarette. The vapour can contain nicotine and other substances which, as I am sure you will appreciate, is very concerning. The vaporised liquids come in many different flavours and might even smell fruity or sweet.

The current situation

Vapes can come in a variety of different forms, shapes and sizes. Some common styles of vapes include ones which look like a thick pen or highlighter pen. These devices are usually very small and can be concealed on a person or blend in with normal school equipment; consequently they can be easily mistaken or missed.



There have also been reports nationally of children and young people experimenting with THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) vaping. THC is a psychoactive compound in cannabis and is illegal in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, there have been reports of young people becoming unwell and needing medical attention after using vapes.

The challenges

- We often find that parents/carers are not aware of the risks around vaping, and do not recognise the signs or the devices themselves. You may be familiar with vapes that emit a plume of smoke, however this is not the case with many devices on the market now.
- Many of the flavours of these liquid concentrates, or 'vape juices', are sweet and even have names such as cinnamon roll, marshmallow, grape, strawberry, bubble-gum, lemonade and



cookies. The flavours are designed to be appealing to children and the marketing often supports this.

- The sale of vaping equipment, liquids and devices is illegal to under 18s. Please be vigilant about local shops, older friends etc selling items.
- We are concerned that a small number of pupils may have developed an addiction to nicotine and may see the use of a vape as being a safer alternative to smoking cigarettes. If this is the case for your child, please contact us for support.

How can you support your child?

- [Talk with Your Teen About E-cigarettes: A Tip Sheet for Parents](#)
- [Fact Sheets - ASH \(Action on Smoking and Health\)](#)
- [Vaping: What Parents Should Know - Kids Health](#)
- [Quick Facts on the Risks of E-cigarettes for Kids, Teens, and Young Adults](#)

What will happen at school?

- Social Studies lessons will educate all pupils on the dangers and illegality of children vaping.
- We are currently updating our Behaviour Policy to widen the smoking section to include vaping. We will view vaping in the same way as incidents of smoking or possession of smoking paraphernalia.
- We always aim to work in partnership with parents/carers to help support our pupils in making positive decisions for themselves and their future.

We encourage you to have a conversation with your child/children about this topic. Should you have any further concerns, please contact the school and we will be more than willing to provide you with additional support and guidance.

Flu vaccinations for KS3 pupils

On 6th December we sent a letter to parents/carers of pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 regarding flu vaccinations taking place on 5th January 2023. If you haven't already done so, please remember to give consent online. If you do not want your child to receive the vaccine then you can select the 'NO' option on the consent form. > > [LETTER: KS3 Flu Vaccinations](#)

Increase in Scarlet Fever

On 8th December we sent a letter to parents/carers from the UK Health Agency regarding the increase of scarlet fever > > [LETTER: Increase in Scarlet Fever](#). Children and adults with suspected scarlet fever should stay off nursery/school/work until 24 hours after the start of appropriate antibiotic treatment. Good hygiene practice, such as hand washing, remains the most important step in preventing and controlling the spread of infection.



UK Health
Security
Agency

Resources:

- [NHS – Scarlet Fever](#)
- [Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment](#)
- [Health protection in education and childcare settings](#)
- [Hand hygiene resources for schools](#)





RISEDALE
A family of learners

RISEDALE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Colin D Scott BEd NPQH
Hipswell, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire. DL9 4BD
Tel: 01748 833501 | Email: enquiries@risedale.org.uk
www.risedale.org.uk | @RisedaleSchool @RisedaleFamily

Trainers and football boots needed

Has your child grown out of their trainers or football boots? If so, the Risedale PE department would gladly take them off your hands to use as spare kit. Any size gratefully received.

Many thanks, **Miss Brierley - Head of PE**

brierley.s@risedale.org.uk

Free Christmas activities for families

FEAST brings the fun to the school holidays, offering loads of different activities for everyone to take part in - [North Yorkshire Together](#)



All children and young people across North Yorkshire can get involved in a range of sessions, with free places and a free lunch for those on benefits-related Free School Meals, thanks to funding from the Department for Education.

To see all the fantastic activities on offer and learn more about how to claim a free place, visit the FEAST website.

There is so much to choose from so take a look at what's on! Find out more [HERE](#).

Resources to support children and young people's mental health

Life can be challenging, especially over winter. Cold weather, darker nights, poor sleep and many other things can leave you feeling stressed, sad, lonely or worried. The most important thing to remember is that you're not alone and that looking for advice and support is exactly the right thing to do. We have the support thegoto.org.uk/





A message from the Fire and Crime Commissioner

North Yorkshire’s Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Zoë Metcalfe, is asking how much you think should be invested in local policing and fire and rescue services from your council tax bills from April next year.

One of Zoë’s roles, required by law, is to set the police and fire precepts – the amounts dedicated to policing and fire and rescue services in North Yorkshire and York from every household.

As part of her commitment to ensure everyone has the chance to have their say before the amounts are decided, she wants to know your views as part of a consultation. She will then make her proposals to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel in February.

The survey is open now and runs until Monday 16th January at www.tellCommissionerZoe.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Colin D Scott
Headteacher

