



RISEDALE

A family of learners

Keep In Touch

KIT Letter

April 2022





Dear parents/carers and pupils,

As we come to the end of this busy term, I can't help but look back as well as look forward. It is two long years since Covid entered our lives and I would like to pay a massive tribute to all in our community who have supported us through this time. As we learn to live with the infection we are also starting to think about the future. The daffodils are blooming and year 11 pupils, parents and staff are preparing for the first set of external examinations for 3 years. We have successfully run two sets of formal pre-public examinations (PPEs) in school as well as many other assessments and supportive activities including excellent revision workshops run by an exciting young company called Elevate, to help our young people get prepared. You will see from our many 'Good News' stories that life and opportunity are truly starting to open up again. In the words of the poet Christina Rossetti '*There is no time like Spring, when life's alive in everything*'



Have a super holiday, **Mrs Matthewman - Deputy Headteacher**

Future Events / Save the Date

Monday 25th April	Start of Summer Term 1 (pupils and staff return).
Tuesday 26th April	GCSE English Speaking Endorsements start
Monday 2nd May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 5th May	Careers Day
Monday 9th May	GCSE French/German Speaking exams start
Thursday 12th May	GCSE Drama Practical
Monday 16th May	Start of GCSE examinations
Wednesday 25th May	Y9 HPV Vaccinations
Monday 30th May	Half Term Holiday starts (pupils return 6th June)



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





COVID updates from 1st April 2022

On Friday 1st April the [Government set out its next steps for living with COVID](#). We would like to thank all parents/carers and pupils for the continued support you have shown the school in our ongoing pursuit for 'normality' as we learn to live with the virus.



Testing at home: Free testing for coronavirus (COVID-19) from the NHS has ended for most people in England. [Changes to testing for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in England](#). If you still want to get tested and you're not eligible for a free NHS test, you can buy a COVID-19 test from some pharmacies and retailers, in person or online.

Respiratory infections, including coronavirus (COVID-19): Respiratory infections are common in children and young people, particularly during the winter months. Symptoms can be caused by several respiratory infections including the common cold, COVID-19, flu, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). For most children, these illnesses will not be serious, and they soon recover. Children with respiratory infections can experience a range of symptoms including a runny nose, high temperature, cough and sore throat. It is not possible to tell which germ someone is infected with based on symptoms alone.

Absence from School: Children with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend school.

Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough.

If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and where possible, avoid contact with other people for **3 days** after the day they took the test. The risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower after 3 days if they feel well and do not have a high temperature.

Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.

Advice for Staff: Any member of staff who has a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home for **5 days** after the day they took the test.

All details regarding COVID-19, including symptoms, testing, vaccination and staying at home guidance can be found at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) NHS Guidance](#).

COVID-19 vaccinations for young people: The in-school COVID-19 vaccination programme has now come to an end. 12 to 15-year-olds will still be able to access the vaccine outside school, at a vaccination centre, pharmacy or walk-in centre.



Attendance Matters



We all know that good attendance at school is vital in order to achieve good educational success, and it also helps your child become a well-rounded individual. Missing one day a week equates to two years of lost education over a child's school career. We want to help you to support good attendance at school, and I ask that you contact us with any concerns you may have regarding your child's attendance. As we move into a world living with Covid, it is important to make every school day count in order to maximise opportunities and future successes.

Absence can soon add up, so please work with us to promote good attendance at school.

Mrs Cox - Senior Teacher

A new chapter of Reading at Risedale

After our return from the Easter holidays, Risedale staff and pupils will begin their journey to becoming reading aficionados. With the introduction of **Reading and Reflection (R 'n' R)** time, pupils will be provided with daily opportunities to read, have quality discussions and celebrate their reading accomplishments!



What is Reading and Reflection time?

KS3 pupils will no longer be using the Accelerated Reader (AR) program. Instead, KS3 pupils will have several opportunities to read across the school day across all of their subjects - including in form time. Pupils must always have something to read in their bags. It could be a fiction story or an autobiography, a newspaper or a non-fiction book about a topic they are particularly passionate about. The choices are endless!

There will also be opportunities for pupils to do some reflection tasks based on the texts they have chosen to read. A list of these tasks will be available on the school website and on Google Classroom for pupils to access from home as well.

Why the change?

Reading is a skill which is vital, not just for the future success of our pupils, but also for their wellbeing and health. We want pupils to become expert readers for this reason. The system we are putting in place will encourage pupils to take ownership of their reading and explore the world they interact with.



How can you get involved?

- Make sure your child always has something to read in their school bag.
- Set aside time in the evening to do some reading or talk about reading.
- Have conversations about what they are reading. You could ask them:
 - What have you been reading today in school?
 - Which book are you taking to school with you today?
 - What is your favourite part of what you are reading?
 - What have you learnt from what you are reading?

There will be many opportunities for pupils to get involved and be rewarded for their reading in the new half term. Be on the lookout for lots of new reading inspired challenges, Epraise points, rewards and much, much more!

Could your child be eligible for Free School Meals?



North Yorkshire
County Council

North Yorkshire County Council has asked us to remind all parents/carers to check and see if your child could be eligible to receive Free School Meals (FSM). Families could save up to £450 a year, a much needed financial boost when the cost of living is increasing so significantly at the moment. Free School Meals can also save you time and provide peace of mind that your child is enjoying a healthy, fresh, and nutritious meal at lunchtime.



> > For more information and to complete your application please visit: [Free school meals North Yorkshire County Council](#).

Alternative wellbeing support options now Kooth service has ended

Kooth was introduced in April 2020 to provide additional remote support during the pandemic whilst existing Children and Young People's mental health services adapted to develop their own online options. Kooth's contract ended on 31 March 2022. Kooth will continue to work with those young people already in their service to ensure an appropriate exit plan can be found and provide access to suitable alternative provision.

In North Yorkshire and York a range of national and locally-funded support for children and young people is now embedded, including:

[The Go-To Website](#) - The home of wellbeing and mental health in North Yorkshire. The website helps young people find the right help and support to stay well, whatever happens in their lives.

[Childline](#) - Free, confidential, anonymous 24/7 service for anyone under 19 in the UK with any issue including emotional and mental health.



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Important Notices



YoungMinds - 24/7 text support for young people across the UK experiencing a mental health crisis, with texts answered by trained volunteers supported by experienced clinical supervisors.

BUZZ US - Confidential advice, support and signposting from a wellbeing worker within one working day via text for young people aged 11-18 across North Yorkshire and York.

> > **All the links above and many others are available on our school's dedicated [Health and Wellbeing](#) website page.**



Free FEASTER Activities for Families

FEAST is all about food, entertainment, arts and sport together. Children and young people in North Yorkshire who get benefits-related free school meals can book free holiday activity sessions, where each day they'll also receive a free hot meal or packed lunch. There are loads of activities to get involved in!



Packed with fun, food, arts and sport,
there's something for everyone!

Limited places, book today at

feaster.org

FREE for children and young people
eligible for benefits-related free school meals.



For more information and to book a place please visit [FEAST - North Yorkshire Together](#).

For children who are not eligible for a free place, the FEAST website provides online resources and [activity packs](#) that all North Yorkshire families can enjoy. Many providers also offer places on a paid basis - please contact them for more information via details on the [website](#).

It's hoped that the FEASTER fun sessions will provide a welcome opportunity for children to socialise, learn new skills and stay active over the Easter holidays.

The FEAST programme is provided by North Yorkshire Together, commissioned by North Yorkshire County Council and funded by the Department for Education.





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Ceramic artworks created by Risedale School's Head of Art, Ms Westwood, will feature on Grayson's Art Club, Friday 8th April, 8pm on Channel 4.

Grayson Perry's critically acclaimed [Art Club](#) is now in its third series showcasing work by artists, comedians and popular figures as well as members of the general public.

Each week Art Club focuses on a different theme accepting submissions of any type of art including paintings, sculpture, drawings and collages, from amateurs and professionals alike.



Ms Westwood's work was selected for the programme after she submitted a short video and photos of her ceramics for the upcoming programme exploring the theme 'Inside My Head'.

Since April 2021, Ms Westwood has produced an impressive collection of 100 ceramic bonbon dishes, each individually hand-made and decorated with text and images depicting a different memory or reflection on life at that moment.



Ms Westwood said, ***"I was speechless when I received the call from Grayson's production team telling me that I might be on the programme. I couldn't believe it. It was such a mix of emotions, I was so excited and absolutely terrified - but so glad that I did it."***

Grayson interviewed Ms Westwood via a Zoom call from her classroom at Risedale. He asked her about her work, what inspired her and wanted to know more about some of the stories behind her bonbon dishes.



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Ms Westwood said, *“Before the interview, I was so nervous but once I started talking with Grayson it just felt like I was chatting with a friend. I’m not sure how much of our conversation will actually be shown in the programme but even just to say that I’ve spoken with Grayson Perry is such a privilege. It was an amazing experience!”*

Mr Scott said, *“The Risedale Family is incredibly proud of Ms Westwood. It’s wonderful to see that her passion for the creative arts continues to flourish even under the pressure of lockdown and the daily challenges that teaching can often bring. I know that when our pupils see her on Grayson’s Art Club it will undoubtedly be an inspirational moment.”*

Ms Westwood has been Head of Art at Risedale School in Catterick Garrison for 9 years after graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Sunderland, followed by a PGCE in Art and Design at Northumbria University. Throughout her teaching career, Ms Westwood has continued to work as a practising artist and recently her work has predominantly focussed on contemporary ceramic sculpture and studio ceramics. She is an active member of [The Northern Potters Association](#) and is also the resident artist for [EPICH \(Eco People In Croft and Hurworth\)](#) producing artwork and installations within the parish with a focus on improving green spaces.

You can find out more about Ms Westwood’s work by following her on [Jam Westwood \(@jam.westwood\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#) or by visiting [www.jamwestwood.com](#)

Science Club

Members of the Risedale Science Club had fun creating their own catapults to find out more about energy and the transfer between potential energy to kinetic energy. The competition was fierce with Epraise points up for grabs; after all, it is Science Club and Miss Walker LOVES a competition!

Science Club is run by Mrs Johnson and Miss Walker and takes place every Wednesday after school in Lab 5; it is open to all KS3 pupils. Each week the group focuses on a different theme and explores new theories and ideas that pupils wouldn't normally cover in their Science lessons. It's a great opportunity to try something new and exciting, so why not come along!



> > For the full list of all the activities and clubs we have on offer at Risedale School please visit our school website [Activities page](#).



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Football News

Boys from Years 7-10 enjoyed a brilliant day representing Risedale at the annual Bedale 7-a-side Football Tournament on Friday 1st April.

The morning started with some challenging weather conditions, however, this did not phase our young footballers who all arrived with smiles on their faces and a positive attitude for the day ahead.

The tournament was contested by 9 schools and it was great to see our pupils back participating in sport at such a well organised and well-attended event.

All the pupils were a credit to Risedale. They all gave 100% and showed great resilience when not only battling the elements but some tough opposition as well. Well done boys!



4 Nations House Rugby Competition Results

Well done to Attenborough House who are the overall champions of the Four Nations House Rugby Competition!

Pupil turnout was brilliant; in total 92 boys and girls represented their Houses and played some fantastic matches.

The Results:

- 1st Attenborough 160pts
- 2nd Pankhurst 120pts
- 3rd Seacole 100pts
- 4th Turing 90pts.

[#TeamRisedale](#)    

> > For more information about the House System and to check out our current House Points totals click [HERE](#).





Fire Cadets Charity Car Wash 🚒💧🚗

Over £890 was raised at a charity car wash held on Saturday 2nd April at Richmond School. The event was organised by the on and off duty crew from Richmond Fire Station and was supported by several Risedale Fire Cadets.

Jon Hancock of Richmond Fire Station said, *"The Risedale pupils are always so enthusiastic and a real asset to the cadets. They all enjoyed the day and did a great job!"*

The event was held to raise money for the Ukrainian Aid Appeal, Richmond Fire Cadets and The Fire Fighters Charity (a charity that serves to support the mental and physical needs of all serving and retired members of the UK fire service and their families).



On Facebook, The Fire Fighters Charity commented, *"What a fantastic amount! Well done all and thank you for supporting us."*

Charity Cake Sale 🍰



Pupils and staff held a bake sale, raising money for two incredible charities; Papyrus Prevention of Young Suicide and The Great North Yorkshire Air Ambulance. In total, they raised a whopping **£187.76**.

Mr Meacher, Mrs Extance and Sharon would like to say a huge thank you to all the pupils and parents who baked and supplied cakes for the sale, to the team for selling and clearing up every day and to everyone who supported the charities by buying a cake and making a donation.

On Twitter, The Great North Air Ambulance Service said, *"Thank you for all of your support, you're all amazing. ❤️"*



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Risedale pupils take part in inspiring Drama workshop 🧑🎓

On Thursday 24th March, Year 10 GCSE Drama pupils took part in a theatre workshop with the [‘No Eye Deer Collective’](#).

The workshop took place in the school hall and was led by Max Ferguson and Steve Salt from ‘No Eye Deer’, a London based theatre company.

Through a series of improvised activities and creative tasks, Max and Steve encouraged the pupils to explore and develop skills to be able to devise their own original theatre performances in the future.



Head of Drama at Risedale, Mrs Southworth-Gedye said, ***“I was really impressed with the way our pupils engaged with the workshop leaders. They explored new ways of working with enthusiasm and skill. The energy in the room was infectious!”***

“Devising is an essential skill for all Drama pupils to develop. It forms 40% of the GCSE course, but more than that, anyone who wants to go on and become a performer will need these skills to create their own original work. Those who don’t go on to perform still learn about divergent thinking and how to respond creatively to a stimulus, skills that are vital across many career paths.”

“Max and Steve really helped the group bond and showed them that letting go and getting past any feelings of embarrassment would allow them to trust one another and perform in a more creative and confident way.”



Max and Steve reflected on the day, ***“We were met with a real appetite to learn and unending energy in equal measure at Risedale. The pupils were engaged, enthusiastic and focused on the work. As workshop leaders, we crave this kind of attitude from the students we work with and the Year 10 Drama group went above and beyond our expectations producing some very thoughtful and mature work.”***

One pupil said, ***“I really enjoyed the workshop. I am looking forward to starting our devising coursework in class and trying out some of the techniques we learned.”***



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Risedale plants tree for 'The Queen's Green Canopy' jubilee celebrations 🌳

On Wednesday 6th April, Risedale School pupils, staff and guests gathered to plant a tree as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative in celebration of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

[The Queen's Green Canopy \(OGC\)](#) is a unique tree-planting project created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 inviting people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee."



The ceremony took place in the school's wellbeing garden where Headteacher, Colin Scott and Chair of Governors, John Glahome, were joined by the Deputy Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, David Kerfoot CBE DL, Service Children's Advocate, Helen Porritt and Risedale pupils.

Mr Scott said, *"It was an honour to have the Deputy Lieutenant join us for this auspicious occasion. It's wonderful that we've been able to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by planting a tree in our school wellbeing garden. Our pupils and staff have been working so hard on making this garden a truly positive and beneficial space for the whole Risedale Family."*



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Deputy Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, David Kerfoot said, *“It was a great pleasure to visit the school and to take part in the tree-planting ceremony for the Platinum Jubilee. The passion, enthusiasm and commitment the children have given to the project is very impressive.”*

In March, Risedale received 30 sapling trees and 200 hedging plants from the Woodland Trust who are donating [free trees for schools and communities](#) to support the QGC and help boost tree planting across the UK. The Woodland Trust is supplying over three million saplings creating a “green legacy” in honour of The Queen's service. This nationwide effort also forms part of their own project ‘The Big Climate Fightback’ an initiative to get the UK involved in planting 50 million trees to help combat the climate crisis.



Risedale's tree-planting ceremony was organised by Service Children's Advocate, Helen Porritt, who has been working on the school's wellbeing garden alongside Gardener and Grounds Person, Neil Griffith, Teacher Ewan Thomson and numerous pupils, as part of the Festival of Friends project.

Mrs Porritt said, *“I am delighted that we've managed to complete phase 2 of our project with the help of the generous donation of trees and saplings from the Woodland Trust. The pupils have worked really hard to make a garden that will encourage wildlife and create a space that can be used by our school community to relax and enjoy the fresh air as well as learn about ecology and sustainability. It*



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seems fitting that the tree to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be situated in our wellbeing garden."

Year 8 pupil Callum Sankey said, *"I've really enjoyed being part of the gardening team and am looking forward to seeing how the garden grows and develops. The tree-planting ceremony was very exciting, I had a great time."*

Year 8 pupil Toby-George Clarke said, *"After the ceremony, we were able to meet Mr Kerfoot and he spoke with all of us individually. I really enjoyed talking with him. We asked each other lots of questions and he was really interested in what we had to say. It's been a brilliant day!"*

Year 9 pupil Grace Hall-Twist said, *"Today was a wonderful opportunity to showcase our wellbeing garden. We have had the opportunity to plant lots of trees of many species to make the school grounds look more welcoming and encourage wildlife."*

NEW AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY: Gardening Club 🍏🍎♻️🌻

Mr Cornforth and Mr Griffith have launched their NEW Gardening Club. The group meets every Monday after school from 3-4 pm at Lawrence House.

All pupils in Years 7-10 are welcome, so please come along. It's a great opportunity to make new friends, try something different and improve your gardening skills as the group works together on different projects around the school grounds.

>> **For the full list of all the activities and clubs we have on offer at Risedale School please visit our school website [Activities page](#).**



GARDENING CLUB

Every Monday 3-4pm with Mr Cornforth and Mr Griffith at Lawrence House.
For pupils in Years 7-10.


RISEDALE SCHOOL