



**RISEDALE**  
A family of learners

## RISEDALE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs L Greenwood - BA (Dunelm), NPQH  
Hipswell, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire. DL9 4BD  
Tel: 01748 833501 | Email: enquiries@risedale.org.uk  
www.risedale.org.uk | @RisedaleSchool @RisedaleFamily

Friday, 5th September 2025

Dear parent/carers,

### SUBJECT: Welcome from Mrs Greenwood

I would like to formally welcome you and your children back to school following the summer break: always a wonderful opportunity for us to spend time with family and friends and to recharge. Following two days of staff training earlier this week, during which our staff focused on some new ways of working and, in some cases, aspects of leadership, we welcomed our pupils on Wednesday. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, as parents/carers, for ensuring they were so smart in their uniforms and that they came ready to learn with the correct equipment in the vast majority of cases.

I wish to extend a particularly warm welcome to any new pupils and their parents/carers, including our new Year 7 cohort; it has been wonderful this week seeing them arrive full of excitement and ready to take on the challenge of more independence! During their time here, we will be dedicated to supporting them to be the **BEST** version of themselves and to make good academic and social-emotional progress. They (and you if you are a Year 7 parent) are now part of our very special Risedale Family: welcome.



### Vision & Values

It is a good opportunity, at the start of the academic year, to remind everyone of our school's vision and values, which all staff, pupils, governors and parents were invited to contribute to:

*'Our aspiration is that every pupil and staff member is supported to be the **BEST** version of themselves.'*

*Members of our Risedale family will feel a strong sense of belonging and accomplishment as a direct result of attending our school. They will accumulate knowledge, cultural capital and social skills, such as empathy and kindness, enabling them to thrive in society and enjoy healthy **RELATIONSHIPS**. All our pupils will make good progress from their starting points.*

*At whatever stage of their education Risedale pupils leave us, they will be well-equipped to take the next steps on their journey to becoming a **RESPONSIBLE**, **RESPECTFUL** and **RESILIENT** citizen who can embrace change and learn from mistakes.'*

I hope all parents/carers will support us to enable this vision and uphold our values (underlined above).

### Staffing

We are lucky to welcome the following new staff to our school family this September: Mrs Bowness (General Teaching Assistant), Mr Daglish (Teacher of Maths), Mr Godfrey (Y11 Pupil Support Manager), Mrs Marshall (Safeguarding Support Officer), Mrs Niblett (Y10 Pupil Support Manager), Miss Oliver (Teacher of Maths), Mr Shergold (Teacher of History) and Mrs Wharfe (Attendance Officer).

Mr Hill was recently appointed as Head of History, Mrs Davies and Mrs Vizer were given additional responsibility as Positive Behaviour Leads for KS3 and 4 respectively, Mrs Porritt is joining us as one of





**RISEDALE**  
A family of learners

## RISEDALE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs L Greenwood - BA (Dunelm), NPQH  
Hipswell, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire. DL9 4BD  
Tel: 01748 833501 | Email: [enquiries@risedale.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@risedale.org.uk)  
[www.risedale.org.uk](http://www.risedale.org.uk) | @RisedaleSchool @RisedaleFamily

our KS3 Pupil Support Managers (Thursday/Friday), and Miss Douglas is working alongside Miss Roberts on teaching & learning as Classroom Practice Lead - congratulations to these colleagues on their successful appointment to these posts.

Our Senior Leadership Team has also had some changes: Mr Yates (Deputy Headteacher - Standards) is responsible for Behaviour, Culture, Outcomes and Personal Development, Mr Kirkbride is the Senior Teacher leading Key Stage 4 Standards, Mrs Lumsdon is the Senior Teacher for Key Stage 3 Standards, and Miss Roberts leads Quality of Education. As before, Mrs Cox leads Safeguarding, Attendance and Admissions, with Miss Burke (SENCo) leading Inclusion.

## Contact with School & Queries

If you have any routine 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 directly with that [staff member](#). 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 also teach pupils how to keep themselves safe through our Social Studies programme. **The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in school is Mrs Cox**, and Mr Yates (Deputy Headteacher), Miss Burke (Senior Teacher/SENCO) and Lisa Smith (School Counsellor) are our Deputy DSLs (soon to be joined by Mrs Marshall). They are assisted by our Pupil Support Managers, who are part of our wider safeguarding team. If you have a safeguarding concern or you would like to speak to a DSL/DDSL, please contact [DSLsafeguarding@risedale.org.uk](mailto:DSLsafeguarding@risedale.org.uk).

## Uniform

Please ensure that your child attends school in **full uniform** every day. Uniform details can be found on our [uniform page](#). Our school uniform is important to us. It promotes a clear school identity alongside equality. It supports safeguarding, allowing staff to identify Risedale pupils and to more easily spot those who should not be on the school site. Smartness and high standards of appearance are expected at all times. The school believes that a school uniform is important because it:

- looks smart
- wears well
- is cost-effective
- contributes to a sense of belonging
- fosters a feeling of pride
- reduces peer pressure around fashion choices and helps pupils feel at ease due to the absence of fashion competition
- prepares pupils well for similar demands in the workplace in future years.

I would like to highlight the following points from our uniform policy:

- A maximum of two pairs of stud earrings are allowed in each ear lobe.





- One very small, discreet nose stud is allowed (no nose rings or septum piercings are permitted).
- No other jewellery is permitted.
- Nail gel, nail polish and acrylic nails are not permitted. Please make use of the school holidays if your child wishes to paint/decorate their nails.
- Fake eyelashes are not permitted.
- Hair should be one natural colour. Extreme haircuts/styles are banned in school. If, as a parent, you have any query about appropriate hairstyles, colours or cuts, please contact your child's Pupil Support Manager before going to a barber or hairdresser.

**I would politely request that you do not put staff in a difficult position by sending your child to school with any of the above. Please note that prohibited jewellery/uniform items will be confiscated until the end of the school day, and pupils will receive negative points for uniform issues, which will lead to sanctions, which we would like to avoid.**

## Equipment

Likewise, please support us by sending your child to school with the correct [equipment](#) every day:

- a pencil case containing: a black biro, red biro and blue biro, pencil, ruler and eraser
- planner
- PE kit (on timetabled day for PE)
- Reading book (KS3 only)
- Chromebook fully charged and in its protective case (Years 8-11 only).

Other items of stationery, such as colouring pencils and glue sticks, can be a useful addition to a pupil's pencil case; however, items such as pencil sharpeners, scissors and cutting knives are not permitted. If these items are required during a lesson, they will be provided by the teacher.

We are excited to announce that all pupils this year have received a planner. These planners serve multiple important purposes.

- **Rewards:** pupils will receive stamps in their planners to acknowledge and reward their excellent work and positive contributions to the school community. These will add up to result in rewards.
- **Homework recording:** the planner will be used by pupils to record all homework tasks, helping them stay organised and on track.
- **It is crucial that pupils bring their planner to school each day. We kindly request that you remind them of this and review and sign your child's planner weekly.** This will help you stay informed about their progress, positive behaviours and homework commitments. It will also be checked by their tutor every week.

## MCAS and Removal of Epraise

From this week, you will be able to access all information about your child's progress, positive stamps and behaviour through the parent portal **My Child At School (MCAS)**. You can access MCAS via the [website](#) or use the MCAS App, which can be downloaded from the Apple/Google Play store.

**We will NOT be using Epraise any longer**, to simplify and unify the systems we use to communicate.





## Free School Meals

If your child was entitled to Free School Meals last year, or they have been receiving these in primary school, we will normally have been made aware of this by the Local Authority, and they should continue to be eligible. However, if you think your child may be eligible and they have not been receiving Free School Meals or if you are unsure, please apply via the [North Yorkshire website](#). If you get certain benefits, your child could qualify. To qualify, you must be receiving:

- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to 3 of your most recent assessment periods (£616.67 per month)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are also not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual household gross income that does not exceed £16,190 (as assessed by HMRC)
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

Please note that contributions-based benefits, including contribution-related Jobseekers' Allowance, do not entitle you to claim free school meals.

**At Risedale, your child's Free School Meal allowance can be spent at lunchtime only.** This is to ensure they get the benefit of a proper two-course main meal. Our [Canteen](#) offers a wide range of healthy and delicious options, and to give pupils extra value for money, we offer a range of 'Meal-Deals'. The two-course meal deal is £2.90, and your child's daily FSM allowance will automatically cover this, ensuring they have a balanced and filling lunch at no extra cost. We kindly ask that pupils bring a **plain water bottle to school**, as drinks can be expensive and would take money from their allowance. Pupils are also welcome to bring a snack for break time.

## 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.

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 there are parent penalties linked to poor school attendance - all schools are required to comply with government guidance on these. Information on fines/action local authorities take can be found [here](#).

## Risedale Needs YOU! Join Our New PTA! Meeting on 22nd September

We're excited to announce our plans to establish a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at Risedale, and we need your help to make it a success! A PTA is a fantastic way for parents/carers and staff to work







# RISEDALE

A family of learners

## RISEDALE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs L Greenwood - BA (Dunelm), NPQH  
Hipswell, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire. DL9 4BD  
Tel: 01748 833501 | Email: [enquiries@risedale.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@risedale.org.uk)  
[www.risedale.org.uk](http://www.risedale.org.uk) | @RisedaleSchool @RisedaleFamily

together, enriching our Risedale Family and enhancing the experience for all our pupils. Joining our new PTA means you can:

- Make a real difference
- Connect with other parents
- Be a voice for your child

Whether you have a lot of time to give or just a little, your contribution would be invaluable. If you're interested in learning more or would like to be involved in forming Risedale's PTA, please speak with Mrs Cox or email [Cox.S@risedale.org.uk](mailto:Cox.S@risedale.org.uk). We will be meeting on 22nd September at 6pm to discuss plans. Let's work together to help every pupil be the **BEST** version of themselves, embodying our school's values of **RESPONSIBILITY**, **RESPECT**, **RESILIENCE**, and **RELATIONSHIPS**.

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

