



Thursday, 12th February 2026

Dear parent/carer,

SUBJECT: Headteacher's Letter - February 2026

I would like to begin this letter with words of praise and encouragement to our Year 11 pupils who have, this half-term, shown great dedication during their PPEs (Pre-Public Examinations). The vast majority of the year group approached the exams with amazing maturity and commitment - so much so that our invigilators (members of staff administering and supervising the exams) commented that they were the best year group they had encountered in recent years. Well done, Year 11 - this is great preparation for the real exams!

The half-term seems to have flown by, with parent consultation evenings, our Year 9 options process, sports fixtures, the new peer reading scheme, a new history club, non-uniform days and rewards events (which will culminate in the attendance cinema trip on Friday) all contributing to a real buzz around school. I cannot believe we are almost halfway through the year already!



At Risedale, we are always seeking out and sharing best practice, and this term, we have begun working in partnership with Carr Manor Community School in Leeds, who are widely celebrated for their work on attendance and school culture. I visited the school last week, and they have also visited us; I believe there is much we can learn and share. This partnership can be added to the other organisations we are now working with, such as the Leeds Learning Partnership, Whole School SEND and Teach First, to ensure that collaboration and seeking out best practice are central to our ways of working. I am also very proud that Miss Burke (SENCO) and Dr Ellis (Service Pupil Manager) both shared their expertise at the recent Service Pupil SEND Conference in York.

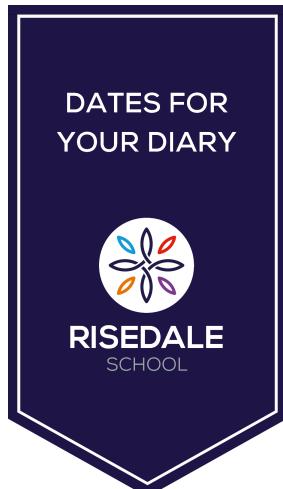
I must pay tribute to two amazing staff members who are leaving us at the end of this week. Mrs Blood, our Business Manager, has worked at Risedale for almost 9 years and will be sorely missed. Her professionalism, dedication and kindness are her defining qualities, and parents, pupils and staff have experienced these consistently during her time at the school. Mrs Young, our Food Technology and Art Technician, has only been with us for around a year, but has made a lasting impression on pupils and staff alike. Her patience, humour and willingness to embrace all aspects of school life have endeared her to us all. I wish these two colleagues all the best for the future and sincerely hope that they will stay in touch with us, their Risedale Family. I am grateful for their hard work and commitment to the school.

Mrs L Greenwood
Headteacher



Dates for Your Diary

Monday 23 February	Start of Spring Term 2 (staff and pupils return)
Wednesday 25 February	Careers Day (Years 7-11)
Wednesday 25 February	PTA Meeting (4:30pm) - Everyone welcome!
2 - 6 March	World Book Week
Wednesday 4 March	Year 11 Parent Information Evening (6-7pm)
Friday 6 March	Year 10 York St. John University Visit (Group 1)
Friday 13 March	Year 10 York St. John University Visit (Group 2)
Wednesday 25 March	Year 7 Consultation Evening (3:20 - 5:20pm)
Thursday 26 March	Year 9 DTP/MenAcwy Vaccinations
Thursday 26 March	KS3 Movie Night (PTA event 6-8pm)
30 March - 10 April	Easter Holidays
Monday 13 April	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 14 April	Start of Summer Term 1 (Pupils return)



Website Page: [Calendar & Term Dates](#)

Important Reminder:

Online payments are moving from ParentPay to MyChildAtSchool (MCAS)

After the half-term holiday, Risedale School is moving all online payments from ParentPay to MCAS.

Key Dates

- **Thursday, 26th Feb (4pm):** ParentPay will close. This is the final deadline for all ParentPay transactions.
- **From 4pm on Thursday, 26th Feb to 10am on Friday, 27th Feb:** No online payments can be made during this window while balances are transferred.
- **Friday, 27th Feb (10am):** The online payment facility goes LIVE in your MCAS app.



New MCAS Users: If you haven't activated your account yet, please contact the school office.

For More Information and FAQs: Please read the letter that was sent to parents on 06/02/2026, [>> Online Payments Moving from ParentPay to MCAS \(Letter to Parents\)](#)

Attendance, Absence and Punctuality:

From Senior Teacher and Attendance Lead, Mrs Cox

We have been thrilled to see a real drive to improve attendance this term from pupils, parents/carers and staff. 180 pupils have achieved 100% attendance since the start of term - this is a fabulous achievement! Our overall school attendance for this half term stands at 90%, which is an improvement on the Autumn Term. Can I ask that you continue to support the school with conversations about the importance of maintaining high attendance at school? We will be sharing the rewards for 100% attendance and most improved attendance in the next couple of days.

We would like to see an improvement in lateness to school. Our gates close at 8.30am, and this is when all pupils should be in tutor time. Your support in encouraging your child to attend school on time is appreciated.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please contact the school and leave a message before 8:30am on each day of absence.

To do this, parents/carers can either telephone the school on 01748 833501 and select option 1 to report an absence OR send an email to absence@risedale.org.uk. By phone or email, please include the following information:

- Parent/carer's first name and surname
- Pupil's first name and surname
- Pupil's tutor group
- Nature of illness
- Approximately how long the illness may last

Website Page: [Attendance, Absence and Punctuality](#)

Child Protection and Safeguarding

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils is our top priority. If you have any concerns regarding Child Protection or Safeguarding, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Mrs Cox, immediately at DSLsafeguarding@risedale.org.uk.

In Mrs Cox's absence, please contact one of our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs): Mr Yates, Miss Burke or Lisa Smith.

Out-of-School Support

We understand that concerns may arise outside of school hours, including during the holiday times. For access to important information and contact details for relevant agencies, please visit our dedicated website page.

Website Page: [Safeguarding](#)



Health & Wellbeing Spotlight: Be Kind to Your "Old" Self This Year

From our School Counsellor, Lisa Smith

The start of a new year often brings a lot of pressure to "reinvent" ourselves. But does a new year really have to mean a "new you"? In our latest Health & Wellbeing Spotlight, we're sharing a great piece from the Mental Health Foundation about moving away from high-pressure resolutions and focusing on small, sustainable, and flexible habits instead. Remember: you don't need a total overhaul to be "good enough."

Read the full article here: [New year, but does it have to be a new me?](#)



Year 11 Revision Sessions

We are running a full programme of daily revision sessions during registration, lunch, and after school to help Year 11 pupils prepare for their exams. These sessions are vital for exam success, so please encourage your child to attend as many as possible. A massive thank you to our dedicated staff for volunteering their time to support our pupils.

Please note that when we return after the February half-term holiday, it will be a **Week 2**.

Any changes to the timetable will be published here >> **Website Page: [Revision](#)**

Any questions, please contact Mr Kirkbride (Senior Teacher, KS4 Standards) at Kirkbride.M@risedale.org.uk.

Come on, Year 11 - let's get REVISING!



Year 11 Revision and Intervention Sessions					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Registration	Geography	Maths Science	English Maths Science	Geography Maths Science	Y11 Assembly
Lunchtime	History IT	Sport Studies	GCSE PE	Art, Craft & Design Religious Studies	IT
After School		Geography Maths Science	Art, Craft & Design English (targeted) History	Art, Craft & Design French German Media	



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Registration	Geography	Maths Science	English Maths Science	Geography Maths Science	Y11 Assembly
Lunchtime	History Religious Studies	Sport Studies IT	GCSE PE	Engineering	
After School		Geography Maths Science	Art, Craft & Design English (open) History	Art, Craft & Design French German Media	

BBC Bitesize Launches New GCSE Revision Resources

Big news for the spring term! **BBC Bitesize** has just launched a fresh wave of resources to help pupils feel exam-ready. Whether they are tackling French, Maths, or Religious Studies, there is something new for every learner to explore.



What's New for Pupils?

- **Expanded Subjects:** New materials for French, RS, Science, English Lit, and Maths.
- **New "Divided Islands" Level:** A brand-new game level specifically for pupils sitting the GCSE Maths Foundation Level paper.
- **Learning on the Go:** New podcasts on BBC Sounds featuring historian Alice Loxton (History of Medicine) and Dr Jean Menzies (English Skills).
- **Total Support:** Pupils can access over 200 podcast episodes, past papers, interactive flashcards, and video guides.
- **Top Tip:** Start with a plan. Here is the Bitesize guide on [how to create a revision timetable](#)—a study essential.

Explore all new resources here: [The Ultimate GCSE Revision Support for 2026 - BBC Bitesize](#)



Service Children's Spotlight:

From our Service Pupil Manager, Dr Ellis

It's been a busy half-term for all pupils at Risedale! We'd like to give a special mention to our service children and families. We also extend a very warm welcome to all of our new pupils who have joined the Risedale Family this half term.



It was a pleasure to meet so many of our service families during the recent Year 9 Options Evening and Year 11 Parents' Evening. As we navigate these important milestones, please remember that if you would like to book a 1-to-1 meeting to discuss your child's transition from a service perspective—whether regarding subject choices, future moves, or extra support—you can reach out via the school office or email me directly. Thank you for your continued partnership; it is a privilege to support our service pupils.

Service Pupil News and Events

We are thrilled to announce that our **Service Pupil Voice** sessions this half term have been centred around a very special cause: planning our school's celebrations for the **Month of the Military Child** this April.

Our military-connected pupils bring unique experiences and strengths to our community, and we want to make sure this year's events truly reflect that.

If you would like to make a difference to the service pupil community, why not come to one of our service pupil drop-in sessions and speak to Dr Ellis about becoming a Service Pupil Ambassador?

Key Reminders

- Service pupil lunch time drop-in sessions take place every Thursday lunchtime in Library 2.

Self-Identification of Service Families – A Crucial Request

At Risedale, we understand the unique and distinct challenges facing military pupils and their families. We are passionate about meeting our service pupils' academic and pastoral needs so they are not educationally disadvantaged.

To provide the flexible, tailored support our service pupils deserve, we ask families to inform us at the earliest opportunity if your child is a service pupil.

Early identification allows us to:

- Offer tailored pastoral support, particularly during times of family separation, including deployments.
- Better understand pupil needs and help mitigate the potential impact of mobility on their education.
- Create an inclusive, supportive environment where our service pupils are celebrated.

We ask you to identify your child if they have:

- One or more parents/carers serving in the regular armed forces (including full-time reserve service or armed forces of another nation stationed in England).
- Been recorded as a 'Service child' in any school census in the past 6 years.
- A parent/guardian who is a veteran who has served at any point in the child's life.
- A pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme.

>> To help us provide the right support, please review the [Service Pupil Support Form](#). Additionally, complete our [Deployment Form](#) to inform us of any upcoming deployments.

Leaving us?

If you are due to be posted out of the area and will be leaving Risedale, please do get in touch as early as possible so that we can facilitate a smooth transition out of the school.

Contact Information

If you have any questions, please email our Service Pupil Manager, Dr Ellis, at: Ellis.S@risedale.org.uk. More information is available on our [Website Page: Service Children](#)

Uniform Bank

The Risedale School Uniform Bank offers free, second-hand uniform to families. To request items, please email uniformbank@risedale.org.uk with the sizes needed. We also welcome donations of clean, unwanted/preloved uniform at the school reception. Our Uniform Bank is a new venture, and stock is currently limited. We hope that with your help, this service will grow and become an invaluable resource for the Risedale Family.





We Need YOU! Join Our New PTA and Make a Difference

We're putting out a fresh call for more parents and carers to join our new **Parent Teacher Association (PTA)**! We have now held our first successful fundraising events, and we are growing in number! The PTA is a fantastic way for us to work together, enriching our school community and enhancing the experience for all our pupils.

How You Can Help:

The PTA is your chance to directly contribute to our school community. We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to help us with everything from **planning fun school events** to **supporting essential fundraising efforts**. By joining, you can:

- **Make a real difference** to the resources & opportunities available to our pupils/your children
- **Connect with other parents** and build a stronger network
- **Be a voice for your child** and help shape their school experience.

Whether you have a lot of time to give or just a little, your contribution would be invaluable.

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**.

Ready to Get Involved?

If you're interested in learning more or would like to be involved, please email us today at PTA@risedale.org.uk.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 25th February 2026 at 4.30pm in school.

School Closures: Snow and Severe Weather Reminder

As winter progresses, adverse weather and snowfall may require the school to close, either for a full day or during the day. While most of our pupils live within walking distance, many staff live further afield, and maintaining safe pupil-to-staff ratios during severe weather can be difficult. We must always prioritise the health and safety of everyone on site.

In coordination with our local Catterick primary feeder schools, we will strive to make collaborative decisions regarding school closures and reopenings. However, in certain circumstances, individual schools may need to make independent decisions.



Communication & Assumptions

- **Default Status:** Unless you receive a direct notification from us via the channels listed below, **please assume the school is OPEN as usual**.
- **Decision Timing:** We will let you know if school is closing for the day as early as we can.

How We Communicate a Closure

In the event of a school closure, we will inform you via:

- Text / Email / MCAS
- School Website: [Emergency Announcements](#)
- Social Media: [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)
- North Yorkshire Council: [School Closures](#)

Telephone Use

Please **DO NOT** telephone the school to check the status. We try to keep these lines open so that staff can contact us to inform us of their situation. Please ensure we have an up-to-date mobile number for you.

Mid-Day Closures

If the school closes during the day, we will send you a text message. Staff who live near the school will stay with children who cannot be picked up quickly.

Remote Learning Expectations for Snow Days

If we announce a snow day closure, your child will be set work via Google Classroom for the timetabled lessons they have that day. We recommend, as far as possible, that your child sticks to the routine of their school day.

Website Pages: [Emergency Announcements](#) | [Remote Education](#)

Job Vacancies at Risedale School

Finance Manager

- **Salary/Grade:** Pay Grade M Point 32-40 £45,154.04 - £49,149.68 pro rata'd salary (£47,181.00 - 51,356.00 full-time equivalent salary)
- **Contract:** Term time + 1 week training days + 4 additional weeks
- **Hours:** 37 Hours per week
- **Start Date:** April 2026
- **Closing Date:** 23:59 Thursday, 12th February 2026
- **Interview Date:** Tuesday, 24th February 2026

APPLY TODAY: [Finance Manager, North Yorkshire - Tes Jobs](#)

Attendance Officer

- **Salary/Grade:** Pay Grade F (Points 9-13) £23,626.41 - £25,195.49 Pro-Rata (£27,254 - £29,064 Full Time Equivalent)
- **Contract:** Established, term-time only + 1 week
- **Hours:** 37 Hours per week
- **Start Date:** As soon as possible
- **Closing Date:** 23:59 Sunday, 1st March 2026
- **Interview Date:** Week Commencing 9th March 2026

APPLY TODAY: [Attendance Officer, North Yorkshire - Tes Jobs](#)



RISEDALE SCHOOL
A family of learners

Job Vacancy

FINANCE MANAGER

APPLY TODAY

RISEDALE SCHOOL
Hipswell
Catterick Garrison
North Yorkshire DL9 4BD
01748 833501
www.risedale.org.uk
enquiries@risedale.org.uk
Headteacher: Mrs L Greenwood (BA, NPQH)
11-16 Comprehensive School



RISEDALE SCHOOL
A family of learners

Job Vacancy

ATTENDANCE OFFICER

APPLY TODAY

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Community Notices

Digital EHCP Update, Survey & New Webpage

North Yorkshire Council has partnered with CACI to launch a new digital Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) system this summer!



How you can help:

- Complete the [SURVEY](#) and share your experience about the current EHCP process to help shape the new system. The survey closes Friday, 13th February.
- Stay updated by visiting the new central hub [WEBPAGE](#) for all project news and progress updates.

North Yorkshire Council Cost of Living Campaign

Worried about the cost of living?

If you're struggling to pay for food and other essentials, there are local schemes and organisations in North Yorkshire which may be able to help or point you in the right direction. You'll find information about emergency support with everyday living costs, benefits, energy bills, food, free adult learning courses and managing your debt all in one place at www.northyorks.gov.uk/costofliving

North Yorkshire Council's cost of living web page also has information about schemes to help families, including free school meals, help with childcare and Healthy Start, as well as free school holiday activities for eligible families.

If you're less confident with technology and have friends or family who might be able to help you understand what support is available, please ask them to look at the web page with you. You can also go into any North Yorkshire library or North Yorkshire Council office.

If you're not sure who to turn to, you can call North Yorkshire Council's customer service centre on 0300 131 2 131, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9am to 5pm, Wednesday 9:30am to 5pm and Friday 9am to 4:30pm, asking for 'cost of living help' when prompted.

Understanding Your Child's Needs: Online Sessions for Parents/Carers

The NYC Children and Families Service is hosting free webinars for parents of neurodiverse children (diagnosis or awaiting assessment).

Upcoming dates:

- **25th February 6pm-7pm:** Emotional and sensory regulation >> [Join the meeting here](#)
- **25th March 6pm-7pm:** Supporting sleep >> [Join the meeting here](#)

Worried
about the
cost of
living?



ONLINE SESSIONS For Parents/ Carers UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS

For parents/carers of neurodiverse children
(with a diagnosis or awaiting assessment)

Presented by NYC
Children and
Families Service
Early Help



Wednesday 28th January, 18:00 – 19:00 Supporting you to support your child through shutdown, meltdown and crisis
[Join the meeting now](#)

Wednesday 25th February, 18:00 – 19:00 Supporting you and your child with their emotional and sensory regulation
[Join the meeting now](#)

Wednesday 25th March, 18:00 – 19:00 Supporting you and your child with sleep
[Join the meeting now](#)

For more information please email - CandFHubHamRich@northyorks.gov.uk

Staying Safe and Savvy Online

We want to bring your attention to a new government resource designed to help families manage online content. Beyond just safety settings, this guide focuses on helping children understand what they can trust. It includes advice on:

- How to spot misleading or "fake" news.
- Understanding how social media algorithms shape what children see.
- Practical questions to ask your child about their favourite apps.

The site offers fantastic "weekly check-in" ideas to help you talk about what your child sees on their feed in a friendly, non-judgmental way. It's a great way to help them build the confidence to question what they see and stay safe.

Visit the guide here: [Online content](#)



Dangers Of Frozen Water

Stay Wise - NY Fire & Rescue Service

Frozen water is extremely dangerous. Stay safe with these simple rules:

- Never go on the ice for any reason.
- Keep away from the edge to avoid falling in.
- Never attempt a rescue yourself—stay on the bank.
- In an emergency, dial 999 immediately.

Stay safe and stay off the ice! 

LINK TO POSTER: [The Dangers of Frozen Water Factsheet](#)



THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice. You may overbalance or trip and fall in.

ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for 'HELP' and dial 999 or 112 if you can. **DO NOT** walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue. Shout to the person to 'KEEP STILL' and offer reassurance. If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach. If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way. If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.

Stay Wise

SENDIASS Newsletters:

Parents/Carers Winter Newsletter 2026:

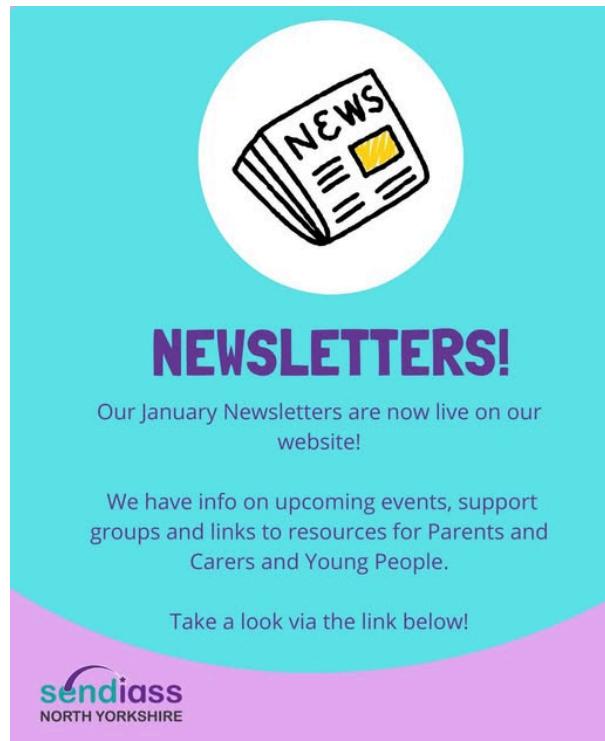
This edition provides essential guidance for families, including cost-of-living support, household energy advice, and local mental health resources to help you stay well and supported throughout the colder months.

 Read the full Parent & Carer Newsletter [HERE](#)

Young People's Winter Newsletter 2026:

A guide specifically for pupils, featuring tips on staying safe in winter, managing wellbeing, and discovering local youth activities and volunteering opportunities across North Yorkshire.

 Read the full Young People's Newsletter [HERE](#)



NEWSLETTERS!

Our January Newsletters are now live on our website!

We have info on upcoming events, support groups and links to resources for Parents and Carers and Young People.

Take a look via the link below!

sendiass
NORTH YORKSHIRE

🎵 FREE Music Workshops for Young People!

North Yorkshire Council and York Music Hub are offering two fantastic FREE opportunities this spring and summer: 🎤 Vocal Project Days (Years 4–13) and 🎵 Instrumental Ensemble Days (Grade 2+)

To Register: Scan the QR code on the posters or email Countyhall.Music@northyorks.gov.uk

North Yorkshire and York Music Hub

ENSEMBLES PROJECT DAYS



Play an instrument?
Love making music with others?

Come and be part of our Instrumental Ensemble Days

A fantastic opportunity to rehearse, perform, and develop your ensemble skills with other musicians from across North Yorkshire and York in a supportive and welcoming environment.

For more details, email: Countyhall.Music@northyorks.gov.uk



scan to register

**15 March
19 April
14 June
20 June**

10am - 3pm



The Regen Centre
Landing Lane
YO19 6PW

Ensemble Project Days are **FREE**, & open to all children and young people from North Yorkshire and York above grade 2 on their instrument.

North Yorkshire and York Music Hub

VOCAL PROJECT DAYS



Love to sing?
Want to perform with others?

Come and be part of our new Vocal Groups

A fun and inspiring space for young and aspiring singers from across North Yorkshire and York to rehearse, learn, and grow together.

For more details, email: Countyhall.Music@northyorks.gov.uk



scan to register

**7 March
18 April
16 May
20 June**

10am - 3pm



Escrick C of E Primary School
Carr Lane
YO19 6JQ

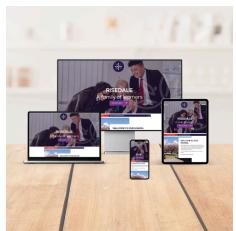
Vocal Project Days are **FREE**, & open to all children and young people from North Yorkshire and York in Years 4 to 13

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/Google 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 the '[Google Classroom Summary Alerts](#)' form, 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.



- A pencil case containing the following:
 - a **black biro**, **red biro** and **blue biro**,
 - pencil
 - ruler
 - eraser
- Planner (replacement cost £2 if lost).
- PE kit (on timetabled day for PE).
- Reading book (KS3 only).
- Chromebook fully charged and in its protective case (Years 8-11 only).

