



Christmas at Risedale



Monday, 1st December 2025

Hlo Hlo Hlo.... Dear parents/carers and pupils,



As the year draws to a close at Risedale School, the spirit of giving fills the air. We're thrilled to unveil our plans for the final weeks of term, brimming with festive cheer and opportunities to extend kindness to others. With your support, we can make this season truly memorable for all. Get ready for exciting events, reward trips, and a festive atmosphere that will make this special season unforgettable. Let the fun begin!

Christmas Giving - Parcels for the Community

We'd like to put together some food/care parcels to help as many families in the local community as we possibly can....but we need your help!

What sort of things can you donate?

- Packets, tins, sweets, jars and bottles - things that won't go off.
- Festive treats, chocolates, Christmas cake, Christmas pudding.
- Gift items, toiletries, e.g. soap, bubble bath.



Please bring in all donations by **Friday, 12th December**, so that we can organise distribution within the community.



A little extra motivation...

We hope that a desire to help others is motivation enough for our pupils, but to give them an extra incentive, there will be an element of competition, with each House earning points towards our House Competition Total.

The **BEST** House across all events will earn a reward experience in January!

Christmas Card Competition

Help share the Risedale Family Christmas spirit with our neighbouring care home communities by making them a card this Christmas.

- The **BEST** Christmas cards of KS3 and KS4 will be judged, stamps and prizes awarded!
- All pupils entering a card will receive **three stamps**.
- **All cards** will be gifted to local pensioners in assisted living communities, as a gesture of Christmas cheer.

DEADLINE:
11th DECEMBER

KS3: All entries to
MRS DAVIES

KS4: All entries to
MRS VIZOR



RISEDALE
A family of learners

Christmas Reward Trips

KS3 Reward Trip: Cinderella Pantomime

Date: Monday, 8th December. **Venue:** The Georgian Theatre Royal, Richmond.



Criteria & Selection: Selected Key Stage 3 pupils will enjoy an afternoon of fun and Christmas cheer at the pantomime, Cinderella. **Ten pupils from each year group** have been chosen for demonstrating **BEST efforts and excellent behaviour** throughout the term. Selection priority was given to the top Positive Stamp scorers for their year group who have also maintained an outstanding behaviour record with zero negative points. We hope all selected pupils enjoy the performance! "Oh no, we didn't!" "Oh yes, we did!"

KS4 Reward Trip: The Metrocentre

Date: Monday, 15th December **Venue:** The Metrocentre, Gateshead.



Criteria & Selection: Qualifying Key Stage 4 pupils will be rewarded with a special trip to the Metrocentre to celebrate their exceptional effort and exemplary conduct throughout the Autumn Term. This invitation is extended to the **top 15 pupils in Years 10 and 11**, who have achieved the highest Positive Stamp totals and maintained outstanding behaviour. The reward is also extended to **all KS4 Mental Health Ambassadors and Senior Ambassadors** as a sincere thank you for their selfless and dedicated service to the school community. This festive outing will be a well-deserved opportunity for invited pupils to enjoy a range of activities, including Christmas shopping, visiting the arcade, seeing a movie, or exploring Santa's Grotto!

♥ SEND Department Festive Support and Events

The SEND Department is pleased to offer a variety of supportive spaces and exclusive festive events during the run-up to the holidays, focusing on providing positive, low-sensory environments for pupils.



- **Christmas Cookie Baking:** Periods 3 and 4 on Monday, 15th December. Invitation only.
- **Christmas Cookie Decoration / Craft Workshop:** Lunchtime on Tuesday, 16th December, held in the Risedale Centre. Invitation only.
- **Christmas Lunch Alternative Space:** The Risedale Centre will be available on Wednesday, 17th December, for pupils who require a calm, low-sensory environment to enjoy their Christmas lunch.
- **Christmas Film Screening:** Periods 3 and 4 on Thursday, 18th December, featuring The Christmas Chronicles with complimentary hot chocolate and popcorn. Invitation only.

Christmas Jumper Day - Thursday, 11th December

On Thursday, 11th December, our school will be taking part in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day.

For a donation of £1, pupils can wear a Christmas jumper over their school shirt and tie, instead of their Risedale blazer/black jumper. All other uniform items must be correct.

A £1 donation is payable either by cash or, preferably, via [ParentPay](#). Donations can be made prior to the event.

Pupils should have all the equipment they need for their lessons that day, including their pencil case, planner, charged Chromebook in its protective case (Y8-11), and PE kit if timetabled that day.

Please be reassured that we don't want parents/carers to feel pressured into buying a Christmas Jumper, especially for the day. Our only goal is to raise some money for a deserving charity and help others at this time of year. If you don't have a Christmas jumper, why not make a £1 donation anyway - it's all for a great cause.

Christmas Charity Fair - Tuesday, 16th December

We're asking all of our pupils to help to support our Christmas Charity Fair, which is taking place in the main school hall at lunchtime on Tuesday, 16th December.

How pupils can help:

We would like as many of our tutor groups as possible to host a charity stall in the hall.

- **The Mission:** Raise money for charity and have some festive fun!
- **The Challenge:** We are asking every group to think of an imaginative, festive, or truly unique way to engage with the event. Think fun games, creative crafts, or delicious treats!

A little extra motivation...

We know the desire to help others is motivation enough; however, there will be rewards for

- The House with the greatest involvement.
- The House with the most innovative ideas (evaluated by a mystery judge).
- The House which raises the most money for charity.

Christmas Lunch - Wednesday, 17th December

Tickets:

- **£3.00** each, which includes Christmas dinner, a pudding, and entry into the raffle.
- Limited availability - only 200 tickets will be sold on a **first-come, first-served basis**.



- **Tickets will be on sale from Monday, 8th, to Friday, 12th December.** This event might sell out quickly, so don't miss out!

Free School Meals (FSM):

Pupils who usually receive a Free School Meal will need to let the Canteen staff know whether they intend to have the Christmas lunch (at no extra cost) or whether they wish to use their usual FSM allowance to buy food at break time and have this for their lunch instead.

Payment Options:

- **Cash:** Pupils can purchase tickets directly from the Canteen staff at break time from 8th to 12th.
- **ParentPay:** Parents/carers can add an extra £3 to their child's dinner money balance through [ParentPay](#) from 8th to 12th. Once the funds have been added, pupils then need to go and see the canteen staff to collect their tickets.

Dietary Requirements:

- Please let the Canteen staff know ASAP if any pupil has any specific dietary requirements (eg, halal, vegetarian or vegan).

Please Note:

- Only the Christmas lunch will be served during lunchtime on Wednesday, 17th December.
- Pupils who do not wish to have the Christmas Lunch will need to make other arrangements, such as purchasing sandwiches/snacks from the canteen at break time or bringing a packed lunch.

Early Finish - Friday, 19th December

Please note that the school will close at 1:15 pm on the last day of term. On this day, we will have an early lunch, followed by tutor time and dismissal. Buses and taxis will be rearranged and will collect pupils at 1:15 pm. For pupils who typically walk home, please make arrangements for their early arrival home. If you have any concerns or questions regarding transportation arrangements, please contact the school office.



Support from our Pupil Mental Health Ambassadors

We recognise that, despite the excitement at Christmas, it can also be a difficult time for some of our pupils. Our fabulous team of Pupil Mental Health Ambassadors are here to offer support to pupils who may be struggling. They will be wearing their blue ambassador badges, and their photos are in each tutor room and on the board opposite the Canteen. Please ask for support if you are struggling and need a listening ear.

The Risedale Family is here and ready to support you.



🎄 Merry Christmas from The Risedale Family 🎄