

Thursday, 16th July 2026

Dear parent/carers,

SUBJECT: Headteacher's Letter - July 2026



As we reach the end of the academic year, I wanted to highlight some of the progress we have made as a school over the last 10 months to improve learning for our young people. Our teachers have been working hard on their classroom practice, honing their explicit instruction skills using the 'I Do, We Do, You Do' approach and developing subject curriculum plans with this approach in mind. We introduced our weekly DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) lesson back in September, and recent pupil feedback suggests that around a third more of our pupils now read for pleasure. We now have an expanded pastoral team, including a dedicated Service Pupil Manager and an extra Pupil Support Manager - pupils have benefited from enhanced pastoral support this year and over 30% more than last year said that they have a trusted adult in school they can talk to.

Attendance has risen across the school overall when compared with last year (though not as much as we hoped - a dip in recent weeks has been seen nationally). We have also completed various works to improve the school buildings and environment, including installing new windows and flooring in different areas, creating and opening a Year 11 common room, installing a new kitchen in Lawrence House and sink area in the Risedale Centre, painting and decorating, and installing new blinds. Finally, we have implemented new, exciting rewards for positive behaviour and attendance.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the parents/carers of all new pupils joining us in September. We look forward to helping your child have an exciting and rewarding time at Risedale.

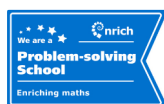
Before we finish for the holidays, we wanted to provide you with some important information and reminders (below) to ensure a smooth end to this academic year and transition into the next one.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our staff who have worked hard, as always, to support the effective running of the school. This term we say goodbye to Mrs Cox (Senior Safeguarding and Attendance Lead), who has served the Risedale community for 25 years, Mrs Niblett (Pupil Support Manager), and Ms Hudson-Frost (Interim Assistant Headteacher). We thank these colleagues for their service, and wish them all the best in their future endeavours. We will miss them greatly.

I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable summer holiday, and thank you for your support.

Greenwood.

Mrs L Greenwood Headteacher



Arrangements for the Last Day of Term

A reminder that our last day of term is tomorrow, **Friday, 17th of July**, and school will close early at **12.30pm**.

You will therefore need to ensure your child can be collected/make their way home at this time. Transport providers have been informed, so if your child gets the school bus or a taxi, they will still be able to use this to get home.

An extended range of food will be available at breaktime (10:55am) so that all pupils will be able to eat and drink whilst at school and those entitled to a free school meal can take this.

End of Term Celebration Non-Uniform Day ★★ ★

As a massive well done to everyone for their hard work this year, **ALL** pupils can enjoy a **NON-UNIFORM DAY** on the last day of term!

Arrangements for the Start of the New School Year

To ensure a supportive return, pupils will return on a slightly staggered start in September. Specific details for each year group are as follows:

The first day of term for **Year 7 and Year 11** pupils is **Wednesday, 9th September 2026**.

Year 7 pupils should arrive outside the school, ready for 8:20am when the gate will open. They will go straight onto the Bottom Yard where their tutors will meet them. Staff will be on hand to assist and guide them. Please note that Year 7 will have an early lunch (15 minutes early at 1:00 PM) on Wednesday and Thursday of the first week to support them getting used to the lunch system. Timetables and planners will be handed out to Year 7 during their first day. Please make sure your child has their **bag**, pencil case, pens, etc.

Year 11 will be welcomed onsite at 8:20am as normal and should go straight to their tutor room for an extended tutor time session.

Years 8, 9 and 10 will return on **Thursday 10th September** and will be welcomed onsite at 8:20am and should go straight to their tutor room for an extended tutor period.

Formal teaching will commence from period 3 on both Wednesday and Thursday.

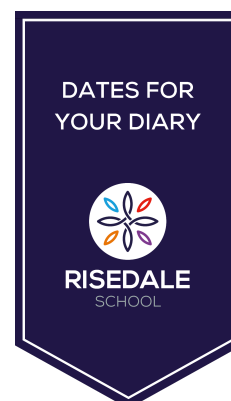
The school bus and taxis will run at their normal times, so any pupils who use these services will need to travel at their usual time.

If you have any questions regarding these arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact the school before we break up for the summer holidays.

Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 20 August	GCSE Results Day (Open at 9:30am to pupils)
Monday 7 September	Training Day 1
Tuesday 8 September	Training Day 2
Wednesday 9 September	Year 7 & 11 return only
Thursday 10 September	Y8, Y9 and Y10 return (whole school in).
Friday 11 September	Year 7 & 10 School Photographs
Wednesday 30 September	Year 6 Open Evening (6pm -7:30pm)
26 - 30 October	Half-term Holiday

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



Times of the School Day

A reminder that the school day starts at 8.30am and all pupils should be in registration by this time. The gates open at 8.20am, and pupils should be entering at the latest by 8.25am to ensure they are on time.

We will maintain our relentless focus on punctuality in the new academic year, and a pupil will be marked as late if they are not in registration by 8.30am. Thank you for your support in this matter.

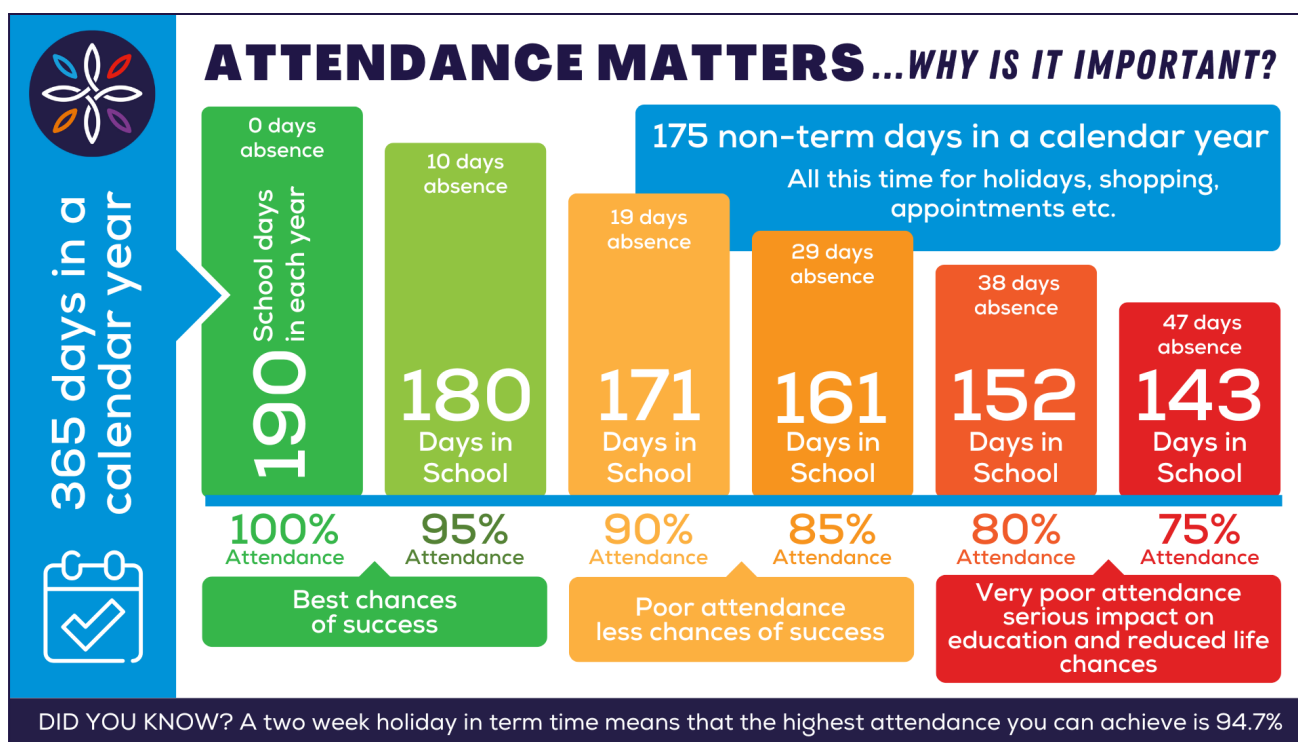


Website Link >> [Times of the Day](#)

Attendance, Absence and Punctuality

As we look forward to the new academic year beginning in September, we want to renew our shared commitment to excellent attendance. Every day in school counts, and every lesson forms a building block for future learning. Consistent attendance is crucial for academic success, social development, and personal wellbeing. Our motto is ★ **Be Here, Be Ready, Be Your BEST!** ★

Our school-wide attendance target for the 2026-2027 academic year will again be **96% or above**. Reaching this goal is a partnership, and we need your help to ensure your child has every opportunity to thrive.



A Reminder of Our Attendance Procedures:

- **Reporting Absence:** if your child is too unwell to attend school, please telephone the school office or email the absence email attendance@risedale.org.uk **before 8.30am** on the first day of absence.
- **Medical Appointments:** please try to schedule routine appointments outside of school hours. If an appointment during the school day is unavoidable, please inform the school in advance.

- **Holidays:** please remember that, in line with government policy, holidays taken during term time cannot be authorised. Unauthorised absences may result in a penalty notice being issued by the local authority.

We understand that circumstances can sometimes make regular attendance difficult. If you are facing challenges, please contact us. We are here to offer support and work with you to find a positive solution.

We do see attendance rates fall as pupils get older, and we ask for your support with this. Please, as parents/carers, be aware that this is a national trend and support us in getting your child(ren) into school on time each day unless they are too ill to function in school.

Website Page: [Attendance](#)

Uniform Information

IMPORTANT: To guarantee delivery for September 2026, please order all school uniform online at [SchoolShop](#) before Wednesday, 29th July.

A high standard of uniform is expected from all pupils, fostering a sense of pride and belonging within our school community. Please ensure your child adheres to the [Uniform Policy](#).



Here is a summary of the key uniform requirements:

Blazer: a black blazer with a patch pocket embroidered with the school badge. This must be purchased from Schoolshop only, as it is branded. Blazers should be worn at all times, except on designated non-blazer days (decided by the Headteacher during excessively warm weather) or if a teacher grants permission to remove it within a classroom due to temperature. As a reasonable adjustment, blazers will be optional for all pupils during the final half of the Summer Term (from June onwards).

Tie: pupils wear a tie in their specific house colour ([Attenborough](#), [Pankhurst](#), [Seacole](#), [Turing](#)), which helps to generate a strong sense of identity and belonging. These can be bought directly from Schoolshop online. Replacement ties are available to purchase either via [MCAS](#) from the school reception or by bringing £7.00 cash into the school.



Shirt: a formal plain white shirt or fitted blouse (worn tucked in) with the neck fastened for the tie.

Skirts or Trousers:

- **Skirts:** must be plain black and of appropriate length – short skirts above mid-thigh are not acceptable in a school environment at any time.
- **Trousers:** must be tailored, plain black and full-length to the shoes. Leggings, jeggings, jeans, and joggers are not allowed.
- **Shorts (optional and seasonal):** plain black trouser-type/tailored shorts may be worn instead of skirts or trousers in the hot summer months. Sports shorts of any type are not permitted.

Jumper (optional): a plain black jumper may be worn under the blazer. No logos should be visible. Hoodies are not to be worn on the school site, including in playgrounds.

Coats (optional): if worn, coats must be worn over the top of the blazer and not instead of a blazer. No outdoor coats should be worn inside the school building. Hoodies are not permitted.

Shoes: flat-heeled, plain black leather, leather-look shoes or plain black trainers are to be worn. Footwear must not have coloured logos, stripes, or designs. Converse, Vans (or similar canvas pumps), high-heeled shoes, platform shoes, or tall boots are not permitted.

Socks or Tights: plain black/dark socks or black/neutral-coloured tights.

Belts (optional): plain black or brown single-colour belt with a simple small plain buckle.

PE Kit:

- **T-shirt:** Risedale PE t-shirt (Schoolshop only as branded).
- **Shorts:** Plain navy shorts.
- **Socks:** Navy sports socks.
- **Trainers:** Appropriate sports footwear.
- **Jumper (Optional):** Risedale branded zip sports top (Schoolshop only as branded).
- **Skort (Optional):** Navy.
- **Leggings (Optional):** Navy.
- Branded/designer/fashion sportswear is not permitted.



For information and guidance on purchasing Risedale School uniform please visit our dedicated [Uniform](#) website page.

Mobile Phones & Smart Devices

We have been pleased with how pupils have responded to the implementation of our Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy. The vast majority have understood the importance of these changes, and we are already seeing the clear benefits to wellbeing and learning that a phone-free school environment brings.

As we look ahead to September, we want to ensure all families, including our new Year 7 pupils joining the Risedale Family, are fully prepared for our ongoing expectations.



As a reminder for the new academic year, Risedale School remains a strictly phone-free environment:

- **The Rule:** From arrival on site at **8:20am** until the end of the school day at **3:00pm**, all mobile phones, smartwatches, and headphones/earbuds must be **switched off and stored securely inside the pupil's school bag** (not in clothing or blazer pockets).
- **Enforcement:** We operate a strict "**if it is seen or heard, it is confiscated**" policy.
- **Contacting Home:** Parents and carers should not call or text their children directly during the school day, as this will disturb the learning of others. If there is an emergency, please call the school office, and we will ensure your child is contacted. Similarly, if a pupil needs to contact home, they must speak to a member of staff who will arrange for them to use a school telephone.

For full details regarding confiscation escalation, exceptions, and safeguarding, please view our full [Mobile Phone Policy](#) on the school website.

Free School Meals: September 2026 Changes

Please remember that the rules for Free School Meals are changing this September. Eligibility is expanding to include all families on Universal Credit, but old long-term protections are ending and annual checks are now required.

Please read our full [Free School Meals Letter](#) to see how this affects you.

- **Already receiving FSM?** North Yorkshire Council will re-assess you automatically.
- **Not currently receiving FSM but might qualify?** Please apply as soon as possible via the [North Yorkshire Council Website](#).



If you need any sensitive, confidential help with your application, please email our team at finance@risedale.org.uk.

Safeguarding

If you have any concerns about a child over the summer holidays, please refer to the [Safeguarding](#) section of our website, where you will find all the information you need to refer a child. The contact number for the North Yorkshire Multi-Agency Screening Team (MAST) is 0300 131 2131. Additional information about making a referral can be found on their website [HERE](#).



Parents and carers can visit the [North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) website for more safeguarding advice and information, or call the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000. For pupils, the NSPCC Childline number is 0800 1111.

Website Page: [Safeguarding](#)

☀ Summer Support for Families:

Helping you and your family through the summer holidays

💛 You Are Not Alone...

The summer break can be a challenging time for family life. Many parents and carers are juggling extra pressures—childcare, finances, and changes in routine.

If things are starting to feel overwhelming, **you are not alone**. Support is available, and reaching out can make a real difference.



Need Urgent Help?

- **Immediate danger:** Call 999
- **Children & Families Service Safeguarding referrals:** 0300 131 2 131



Parenting Advice & Support

- 📞 **Coram Family Lives**
- Support with all areas of family life, including behaviour, mental health, and relationships.
- 🌐 www.familylives.org.uk
- 📞 0808 800 2222 💬 Online chat available

Young Minds – Parent Helpline

- Advice and support if you're worried about your child's mental health.
 -  www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-helpline
 -  0808 802 5544
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Place2Be – Parenting Smart

- Practical tips from child mental health experts to support behaviour and wellbeing.
 -  [Place2Be: Parenting Smart - Articles](#)
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NSPCC

- Advice and guidance for a wide range of family concerns.
 -  www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families
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Togetherness

- Free online parenting courses for children aged 0–19.
 -  [North Yorkshire | Togetherness - Togetherness](#)
 -  Access code: **NYFamilies**
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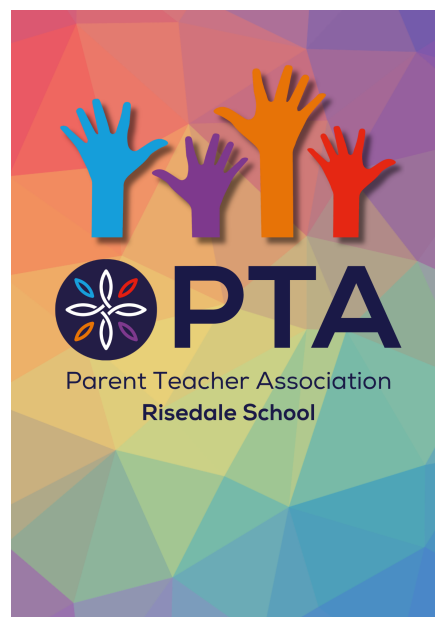
Risedale Needs YOU! Join Our PTA Team!

Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is always looking to welcome new parents and carers to the team! The PTA is a fantastic, friendly way for us to work together, enriching our school community and directly enhancing the educational journey for all our pupils.

We know how incredibly busy family life is, which is why we want to reassure you that there is no fixed commitment. Whether you can spare an hour to help out at an event, have ideas you'd love to share, or simply want to stay in the loop, your support is so valuable to us.

By joining our PTA you can:

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



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

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**.



Community Messages from External Providers

Great British Summer Savings ☀️

Looking for ways to entertain the kids this summer without breaking the bank? The Government's savings scheme is now live until 1 September 2026 to help families manage holiday costs.

Here is what is included:

- ✅ Lower prices on children's meals out
- ✅ Discounted family tickets for cinemas, theatres, and attractions
- ✅ FREE bus travel for kids aged 5-15 in England all through August!

Find out exactly where you can claim these savings near you by typing your postcode into the official finder tool at

>> <https://summersavings.gov.uk>



FEAST Vouchers:

Redeem your vouchers for free holiday activities with food this summer

FEAST vouchers should now have been issued to all families whose children/young people receive benefits-related Free School Meals. These vouchers entitle children to free places on FEAST activities this summer holiday, where they'll also receive a free healthy meal.

Parents/Carers should have received this voucher via email or text from a platform called [HolidayActivities](#). Follow the link in the email to redeem your voucher and book your child's place on some of the fantastic activities on offer in our area.

If you believe your child is eligible and you have not yet received your voucher, or you have lost it, please contact the school office.

To learn more about FEAST, and for information on activities, eligibility and how to manage your bookings, visit the [FEAST website](#).



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.



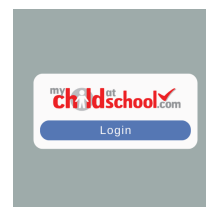
Uniform

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.



Communication - Receiving School Information

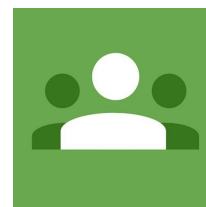
[MyChildAtSchool \(MCAS\)](#) is an online portal and app that parents/carers **must access** to receive essential school communications and **make payments for school lunches and trips**. It is vital that you check MCAS regularly and **enable notifications** to stay updated with school letters, timetables, attendance records, academic reports, and real-time updates on your child's **behaviour (including both positive achievements and negative points)**.



The MCAS App is free to download on the iOS App Store or Google Play Store; login details will be sent to you when your child joins Risedale, but if you have forgotten yours, you can quickly reset them by clicking [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 this form ['Google Classroom Summary Alerts'](#) and our IT team will set this up for you.



Equipment

Please ensure your child has everything they need for school to start the day positively and be prepared to learn.



- A **school bag/rucksack**
- A **pencil case** containing the following:
 - **Pens:** black, blue, and red biros
 - **Stationery:** pencil, ruler and eraser.
- **Planner:** Required daily (**replacement cost £2 if lost**).
- **PE Kit:** On timetabled days.
- **Reading Book:** KS3 only.
- **Chromebook:** Fully charged and in its case ([Year 11](#) / those with allocated Chromebooks only).

