

Thursday, 22nd October 2026

Dear parent/carer,

SUBJECT: Headteacher's Letter - October 2026



The first half-term of the year is always full of excitement for new classes, new teachers, new opportunities and new **RELATIONSHIPS**, particularly for our new Year 7 pupils, and this one has been no exception. I am so proud of the **RESILIENCE** our new pupils have shown and the **RESPECT** and **RESPONSIBILITY** other pupils have demonstrated in welcoming and supporting them.

The new academic year can also be a time of change for staff, and we have welcomed some fantastic new colleagues to the Risedale Family. Mr Yale (Assistant Headteacher - Personal Development), Mrs Moore (Senior Safeguarding Lead and our new DSL), Mrs Rodway (Safeguarding Support Officer) and Mrs Galbraith (Attendance Officer) have fitted in seamlessly and truly have the interests of our pupils and families at heart. Sadly, we recently said goodbye to Dr Ellis (Service

Pupil Manager) and Mrs Wharfe (Attendance & Safeguarding Officer), and we wish them well in their new posts and new locations. We are looking forward to welcoming our new Service Pupil Manager, Mr Plumb, after half-term.

Keeping Informed at Risedale

For our new families at Risedale, I would like to outline how we keep parents and pupils informed throughout the year. You will have already received a number of communications from us over the past few weeks, but as we establish our regular routines for the rest of the academic year, maintaining a strong connection between home and school remains essential to your child's happiness and success.

Your child's personal tutor and subject teachers are always your primary points of contact for any day-to-day discussions regarding academic progress or welfare.

To ensure you always have the information you need, here is how we regularly share news and updates:

MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) Portal & App: All parents and carers must use [MCAS](#), as it is our primary tool for staying connected. By logging into the app or online portal, you can view:

- **Timetables & Attendance:** Track daily lessons, room changes, and real-time attendance.
- **Behaviour & Achievements:** Stay up to date with positive points and conduct.
- **School Messages & Reports:** Receive vital communications, letters, and academic updates.
- **Payments & Bookings:** Top up dinner money, pay for school trips, and schedule Parents' Evening appointments.



- **Important: Please enable push notifications on your phone for real-time alerts!** Both parents and carers require their own separate account. If you need your login details or help getting set up, please contact our Administrative Team at enquiries@risedale.org.uk. For setup guides, visit www.risedale.org.uk/information/my-child-at-school-mcas.

Headteacher's Letter: Sent at the end of every half-term, my regular letter provides key school developments, community updates, and important dates for your diary.

'KIT' (Keep in Touch) Newsletter: Published at the start of each half-term, our [KIT Newsletters](#) celebrate the wonderful achievements of our pupils—both inside and outside of school—and highlight the inspiring work happening across our community.

Direct Messages & Social Media: You will continue to receive targeted letters, emails, texts, or phone calls regarding specific events, trips, and individual matters. You can also stay up to date with daily school news via our [website](#) and social media channels: [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#). Please LIKE, FOLLOW and SHARE.

Taking a moment to review these communications helps ensure you can plan ahead and keep your child fully prepared for all upcoming dates, trips, and events.

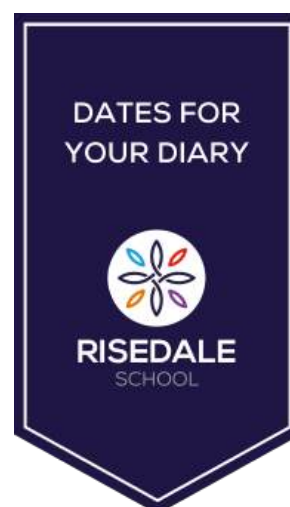
I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable half-term holiday, and thank you for your support.

Greenwood.

Mrs L Greenwood Headteacher

Dates for Your Diary

Fri 23 October	Training Day 3
26 - 30 October	Half-term Holiday
Mon 2 November	Start of Autumn Term 2 (Staff & Pupils Return)
9 - 13 November	Anti-bullying Week
Wed 11 November	Remembrance Day 🌹
	Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening
Thurs 12 November	Self-Harm Parent Information Session (4:30-5:30pm)
16 - 27 November	Year 11 Mock Examinations (PPEs)
21 Dec - 1 Jan 2027	Christmas Holidays
Mon 4 January	Training Day 4
Tues 5 January	Start of Spring Term 1 (Pupils Return)



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

Parent Governor Election 2026: Time to Vote!

We are pleased to announce that we have received a positive response to our request for parent governor nominations, and there are 2 candidates for the 1 vacancy. **As a result, we are now holding a ballot.**

- **How to vote:** Read the candidate statements and cast your vote via the [Digital Ballot Form](#).
- **Rules:** Each parent/carers may submit **one ballot form only** and select **one candidate**.
- **Deadline:** Voting closes at 3:00 PM on Monday, 2nd November 2026.

Your vote helps shape the future of Risedale; make sure to cast your ballot before the deadline!

Link to Letter: [Ballot for Parent Governor Election](#) | **Website Page:** [Parent Governors](#)

Attendance, Absence and Punctuality

At Risedale School, high attendance is recognised as a fundamental key to academic success, personal growth, and full participation in extracurricular activities. **Pupils are expected to maintain a minimum attendance rate of 95%, with an aspirational target of 97%.** To encourage and celebrate commitment, the school awards weekly tutor group prizes, regular incentives, and rewards trips throughout the academic year.

Punctuality is strictly monitored to ensure pupils maximise their learning potential. Pupils must **arrive on site by 8:20 AM** and be in their designated tutor rooms ready for the start of the day at **8:30 AM**. Any pupil arriving after **9:00 AM** is required to report to reception to sign in. In line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance, arrivals after 9:00 AM are recorded as an unauthorised absence (Code U), which directly affects the pupil's overall attendance record.

Strong attendance relies on a close partnership between the school, parents, and pupils. Parents are asked to support their children by encouraging daily attendance, including sending them to school during minor, manageable illnesses so they do not fall behind. For support with attendance challenges or questions regarding medical appointments, parents can contact the dedicated Attendance Team at attendance@risedale.org.uk or visit the school's [Attendance](#) webpage.

The images below highlight the significant impact of attendance on achievement.



Time out of lesson per day in 1 year equates to...

5 minutes	3 days of learning	16 lessons lost
10 minutes	5 days of learning	32 lessons lost
15 minutes	8 days of learning	48 lessons lost
20 minutes	11 days of learning	63 lessons lost
30 minutes	16 days of learning	95 lessons lost

Child Protection & Safeguarding



A message from our new Senior Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Moore:

"Thank you for the warm welcome I have received at Risedale. I am enjoying getting to know all your children and meeting as many parents and carers as possible. We have already done quite a bit of work with our young people, updating them on important information and ensuring they know where the Safeguarding Team is located in the school. You can find our contact details on the Risedale Safeguarding webpage. Please continue to share any contact information or concerns with us; our top priority is keeping everyone in our community safe."

As we approach the half-term break, please remember that the [Safeguarding](#) webpage also features helpful links and resources for external support services available during the holiday.

Upcoming Parent/Carer Information Session: Supporting Your Child with Self-Harm

We invite parents and carers to join Lisa Smith (School Counsellor) and Simone Meades (Pastoral Support Manager) for an informal guidance session.

Date & Time: Thursday, 12th November 2026.
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm.

Location: In person, at school. Please arrive at 4:30 pm in the main reception, where we will meet you.

Details: Open to all parents and carers looking to understand self-harm, common triggers, and practical ways to support young people. (Parents/carers only).

RESERVE YOUR PLACE: Please complete this short form to reserve your place:
<https://forms.gle/xdefdCv6Z42fJRV66>

PARENT INFORMATION SESSION:

Supporting Your Child with Self-Harm

A supportive session for parents and carers

- Thursday 12th November
- 4:30pm – 5:30pm
- Risedale School

What we will cover:

- Understanding self-harm
- Supporting your child at home
- Helpful resources and guidance

Parents and carers only

Scan to book your place

Session hosted by
Lisa Smith & Simone Meades
School Counsellor & Pastoral Support Manager



School Uniform & PE Kit Donations Needed!

Do you have any outgrown or unused Risedale uniform sitting in wardrobes at home?

We are currently collecting donations of uniform and PE kit to help support our pupils and families across the Risedale Family. Your contributions make a huge difference!

We are collecting:

- ✓ **Uniform:** Blazers, ties, shirts, skirts, and trousers
- ✓ **PE Kit:** All branded Risedale items and shorts
- ✓ **Footwear:** School shoes, trainers and football boots (in good condition)

📍 **Drop-off:** Clean items can be handed in at the main school reception anytime during school hours.

Whether your child has outgrown their kit or recently moved up a year group, all donations from any year group are hugely appreciated. Thank you for helping us support our pupils and promote sustainability across **#TeamRisedale** ❤️💜💛💙!

Parents and Carers of Year 6 Children: Year 7 Admissions for Sept 2027

Do you have a child or younger sibling in Year 6 who will be starting secondary school in September 2027?

Applications for Year 7 places at Risedale School are now open, and we would love the opportunity to welcome the next generation of your family to Risedale!

At Risedale, we are proud to be **A Family of Learners**, where every pupil is welcomed, valued and supported to become the **BEST** version of themselves. We are delighted to be part of so many families' educational journeys, and we hope that, if you have a younger child preparing for secondary school, you will consider continuing your family's Risedale journey by making us your **FIRST CHOICE**.

Applications close on 31st October 2026.

Find out more about our admissions process and how to apply on our website:

<https://www.risedale.org.uk/joining-us/admissions>

We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 pupils to the Risedale Family in September 2027.



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.

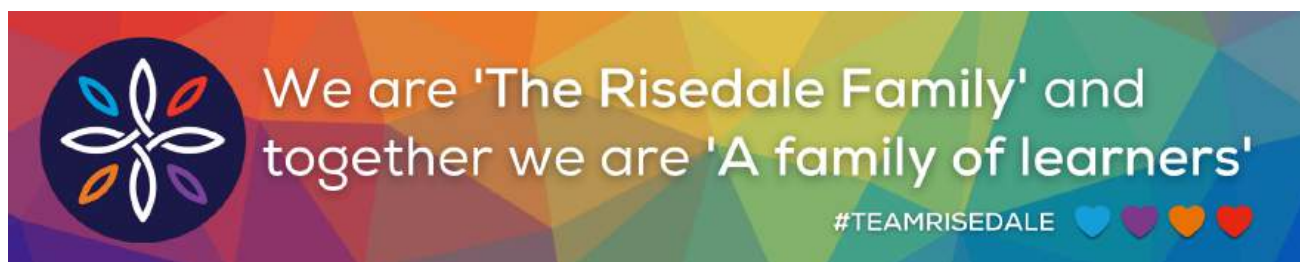
We know how incredibly busy family life is, which is why we want to reassure you that there is no fixed commitment. Whether you can spare an hour to help out at an event, have ideas you'd love to share, or simply want to stay in the loop, your support is so valuable to us.

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

Opportunities For Parents And Carers:

Adult Learning and Life Chat

Parents and carers may be interested in the following opportunities from Adult Learning North Yorkshire.

Adult Learning North Yorkshire offers a range of flexible courses, including online, classroom-based and Distance Learning options, for adults who would like to gain qualifications, learn new skills, improve their wellbeing or take steps towards employment.

Support may also be available with childcare costs, and eligible learners can access a laptop loan scheme. Around 92% of learners do not pay for their course.

Find out more about courses at: www.northyorks.gov.uk/adultlearning. Course guides are also available from local libraries.

If you're unsure what your next step might be, there's also the offer of a Life Chat – a free and friendly information, advice and guidance service. Whether you'd like to explore learning opportunities, discuss work options, or simply talk things through with someone, support is available in person or over the phone. To book a free Life Chat, email: SkillsandCareers@northyorks.gov.uk



The Rhythm and Shoes Dance Academy

Looking for local dance and gymnastics opportunities for your children? The Rhythm and Shoes Dance Academy, located at Firby Court, Gallowfields Trading Estate, Richmond, offers a wide range of classes:

🤸 Acrobatic Gymnastics 🩰 Ballet & Tap 🕺 Street & Freestyle
🎭 Musical Theatre & Contemporary Dance 🧒 Mini Movers (for under 5s)

Phone: 07745 187887

Email: therhythmandshoesdanceacademy@gmail.com

Website: www.therhythmandshoesdanceacademy.com

Celebrating Forces Families Awards 2027

Nominations are now open for the **Celebrating Forces Families Awards 2027**! These awards celebrate and recognise the incredible achievements and contributions of our Armed Forces families and community.

There are many categories open for nomination, including:

★ Inspirational Adult Family Member of the Year (Headline Award)
★ Young People's Award: Supporting the Armed Forces Community (Includes a Jacob's Medal for every nominee) ★ Overcoming Adversity
★ Volunteer of the Year ★ Armed Forces Advocate of the Year (Open to individuals, schools, or groups) ★ Public Service Award
★ Small Business Owner & Social Media Influencer



Do you know an individual, child, family, or organisation making a difference? Submit your nominations by **12:00 PM on 1st December 2026** on the **Celebrating Forces Families** website at <https://www.celebratingforcesfamilies.co.uk/awards-categories>

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](#).

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**).

