

20th October 2022

Dear parent/carer,

SUBJECT: Headteacher's Letter - October 2022

First of all, may I take this opportunity to pass on my sincere thanks to all of you for your incredible support for our family at Risedale. It has been an exciting start to the year with more than 160 new pupils and 8 new members of staff. Thank you all so very much for choosing Risedale!

We have been working on how to communicate more effectively with you all and have decided to do the following:

- towards the end of each half term, I will send you a **Headteacher's Letter**, this being the first. The purpose of this communication is to keep you up to date with key information about the running of the school and ensure you and your child know everything you need to be successful
- at the start of each half-term, I will send you our **Keep in Touch 'KIT' Newsletter**. This will be packed full of good news that has happened at Risedale in the previous half term.

The aim of the **Headteacher's Letter** is to provide you with even better communication, reminding you of important things that keep our family 'running' and working together. The aim of the **KIT Newsletter** is to be 'a big shout out' for all of the great things our pupils are doing in and out of school and the fantastic support given to them by our very hard-working staff. All of the staff, not just our teachers.

Can I ask you to please take the time to read these communications when they arrive and take note of all the great things we do?

Reminders on Uniform

At Risedale we believe that our uniform helps pupils to feel part of the Risedale Family. The school uniform and PE kit are a requirement for every pupil and are available to purchase from www.school-shop.co.uk



I am really pleased that we have been able to keep our uniform costs to an absolute minimum by reducing the need for items to have logos on them. Please shop around for general items of uniform, such as white shirts, trousers or skirts (of a reasonable length). You'll find supermarkets and other shops will often have great value items.

Having listened to many of you late last year, and given the heatwave we all endured, I asked governors at their meeting this month to allow an amendment to the uniform policy to allow pupils to wear plain black trouser-type/tailored shorts as part of their uniform instead of trousers or skirts in hot summer months, which they have agreed to. Our policy on uniform will therefore be amended to show that change.

For more information about Risedale's school uniform and PE kit please visit our dedicated website page >> [Uniform](#).



Risedale is Going Cashless

We recently sent an email to parents/carers advising that Risedale is becoming a cashless school and that we are now only using ParentPay for trip payments, school dinners, etc.

If you have any difficulty accessing [ParentPay](#) please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Please note, cash will be accepted for charitable events, such as cake sales and non-uniform days, throughout the year.



Attendance, Absence and Punctuality



Attendance and Absence: We all know that good attendance matters and that regular school attendance maximises your child's learning potential. Pupils who regularly attend school make better progress socially and academically. We want to be able to give your child every chance to be a successful adult and good attendance is key to this.

As a parent/carers, it is your responsibility to make sure your child is punctual and attends school every day. We monitor all pupils' attendance and punctuality closely every week.

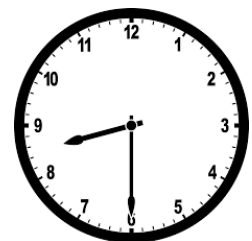
If a pupil is unwell and cannot attend school we ask that a parent/carers call the school and leave a message before 9:00 am.

To do this you 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:

- Your name (parent/carers first name and surname).
- Your child's name (pupil's first name and surname).
- Your child's tutor group.
- Nature of illness.
- Approximately how long you believe the illness may last.

Punctuality: Pupils are expected to arrive at school on time and be ready for Tutor Time at 8.30 am.

If a child arrives late they will be required to sign in at reception. Pupils arriving after 9.30 am without an acceptable reason will be marked as an unauthorised absence. 10 or more late marks could lead to a fixed penalty notice.



We will be sending a more detailed information pack about attendance after the half-term holiday. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's attendance, please contact Mrs Cox (Senior Teacher responsible for Attendance) at cox.s@risedale.org.uk

For more information about attendance and absence at Risedale please visit our dedicated website page > > [Attendance, Absence and Punctuality](#).



Chromebooks



Every pupil is allocated a Chromebook when they join the Risedale Family. When treated with care and respect, a pupil's Chromebook should last for the duration of their time with us at Risedale (5yrs).

The majority of pupils are really appreciative of this fantastic resource and are showing great maturity in looking after them properly. Unfortunately, a minority of pupils are not looking after their Chromebooks as well as they should, and as such, it is beginning to increase the number of repairs we have to undertake.

Please remind your child that it is essential for them to carry their Chromebook safely in the case it was supplied in. The charger should never be stored in the case alongside the Chromebook because if the case is bumped or squashed the plug can damage the Chromebook. Ideally, all Chromebooks should be charged every night at home so the charger does not need to be brought into school.

Chromebooks must not be written on, have stickers stuck on them or have graffiti scratched into them. Any sort of personalisation is strictly forbidden and unnecessary as every Chromebook is logged and registered from our central database.

If any Chromebook is maliciously or intentionally damaged there will be an expectation for parents or carers to pay towards the cost of repair. Of course, this will be a rare occurrence and will not affect most of the Risedale Family.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in ensuring we are able to continue supplying this important resource to your child and to other pupils in the future.

Chromebook Event for Parents - 'Get the Lowdown'

We understand that parents would like to know more about Chromebooks. To help with this, we are having a drop-in session on Thursday 10th November 2022 from 3:30 pm until 5:30 pm.

If you have any questions about Chromebooks or would like to see how they are used in class, you are welcome to drop in and **get the lowdown**. For more information contact Senior Teacher, Mr Kirkbride at kirkbride.m@risedale.org.uk

Future Events / Save the Date

- Monday 31st October Start of Autumn Term 2 (pupils and staff return)
- Thursday 10th November 'Get the Lowdown' Chromebook event
- Thursday 1st December Year 10 Parents' Evening
- Monday 19th December Christmas Holiday starts



For more information on important dates for Risedale School please visit our [Calendar and Term Dates](#) website page.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Colin D Scott Headteacher

