

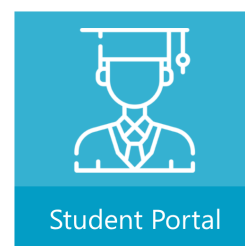


## Welcome to all our parents/carers and students,

Staff at Risedale have been trying to work out the best way to 'Keep in Touch' with our parents/carers and students during this challenging time and have decided it might be useful to publish a regular letter to do just that! The letter will take an informal style of notices with a mixture of advice and information for everyone, from practical school matters such as expectations for learning from home and Google Classroom tips, as well as thinking about positive ways to look after ourselves and our families whilst we're off school and facing so many changes. **We are all in this together so please, 'Keep in Touch' and let us know how we can continue to support your family.**

### Learning from home:

You are all now in week 2 of a rather different world and that includes school at home. Your children and you need to find a way that works for all of you so that your child keeps making progress with their learning and that you as a family keep happy.



1. **Children need routine and stability** - that's what school provides for them - so set up an agreed routine for their 'school' day. If your child is in **KS3**, try to get the day started at as normal a time as possible. Encourage your child to follow their school timetable - this will help them get a balance of what they need to cover.
2. **For KS4, there is an opportunity to be more flexible.** Your child is very used to Google Classroom and should have the independence and resilience to ask their teacher for help if needed. However, not all students will have this ability - you know your child and need to respond and praise when you see them doing the right thing.
3. **What if they get stuck?** Encourage them to do at home what we encourage at school. **Brain, book, buddy, boss.** Find the answer for themselves by **THINKING, RESEARCHING, MESSAGING A FRIEND** and only then **CONTACTING THEIR TEACHER** or **ASKING YOU**. Learning is all about finding solutions to problems and 'GETTING STUCK' is all part of the process.
4. **Google Classroom:** As a parent you can receive email summaries showing your 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. They've also created a really helpful guide to ensure that every student can access their Google Classroom. Click here to access ['Using Google Classroom - Risedale Student Guide'](#)



If you have any further IT related questions you can always email our team directly who will be only too happy to help [ItHelpDesk@risedale.org.uk](mailto:ItHelpDesk@risedale.org.uk)



5. **Rewards:** It's really important to say 'well done' for the learning that you see happening. Your child's teachers will be awarding **Star of the Week** and **Student of the Month** because we understand the power of being positive in these challenging times.



6. **Keeping a balance:** Remember, it's not all about school-learning. Keeping a balance is vitally important too. Try to focus on safety, love and fun. Being at home for a prolonged period of time can be difficult and stressful for everyone. Children may be worrying about family health, finance or food security. Remember you are still the parent and not the teacher. Use this as a time when all family members can indulge in their passion; art, coding, gardening, recording music, or creating their own computer game. As this is a situation when we are not in control, setting up projects that include planning and making decisions helps individuals to feel more in control. Over the Easter break, all students should have a well-deserved break from this routine. Teachers may set holiday projects but this is a break for them as well. If you do want to contact staff during this time it is fine but there may be some delay in response.

### **A message from Mr Scott:**

*Hi all. As we are now in our second week of our emergency provision for key workers' children, I just wanted ALL of our parents to receive a brief update from me.*

*I'll start by reminding us all that we will get through this and if we all work together by 'doing our bit' then the number of people affected and the length of time we have to endure the challenges of right now will reduce significantly and the sooner we can all get back to normal. I'd like to thank the vast majority in our Catterick community and our own school 'family' for following the advice the government has given us.*

*I'd also like to thank the many parents/carers for their efforts in keeping their children learning. I know it has been tough for some. I've even been asked by one parent; "how can I as a parent exclude a child as I don't know how you put up with them!"*

*As you know, ALL of our students have been given plenty of work they can be doing while they are at home. I'd like to thank our staff who have adapted their working practices by setting more work online than usual in order that pupils can continue to learn. Many of our pupils are succeeding in that challenge of working from home and are regularly communicating with staff for guidance in that work. Well done to them!*

*However, I would also like to remind parents to please keep checking your children ARE doing the work that's been set. When we do reach the other end of this crisis, and we will, your children will need to be in the best place possible mentally and educationally to make sure that this gap in service has not impacted on their chance of success in their final exams. I have been made aware of a few children who have done little to none of the work set and if your child is seeing this 'time off' as an extended holiday then this*



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*WILL make your child's chances suffer. I appeal to you to make sure your children are doing that work and I thank you in advance for doing so.*

*For those children we still have in school, teachers are doing their best to make the time meaningful for them and keeping them up to speed with their learning as well. I expect the number of children we are looking after to grow slightly in the coming weeks as a few more of our critical workers will be needed on the front line, particularly those military personnel who will need to be deployed to support national efforts in the crisis.*

*We have now received clarification from the government regarding 'free school meal' vouchers for those students entitled to receive them. Once we have registered the school and have this system in place, Mr Morley will be in touch with those entitled in order to issue them. In the meantime we will continue to do our own thing and issue Tesco vouchers again later this week. I hope this helps those parents affected in some way.*

*We are still, given current guidance, expecting to provide a service for critical workers' children over the normal Easter holidays too. We are not sure if that does include Good Friday and Easter Monday but we are currently assuming it does and our rota covers this bank holiday too. We'll keep you posted if that changes.*

*I know personally how difficult this 'lockdown' is and how much of a strain it can place on your own mental health. I have been "off-rota" for a few days myself and even though I am working from home, and did so over the weekend as well, it just isn't the same and I am finding it tough!*

*Again... Thank you to everyone for your support, keep safe and well.*

## Health and Wellbeing:



At this time of national crisis it is really important that we look after both the physical and mental health of ourselves and our loved ones. We have a supportive and caring ethos at Risedale and are '[committed to nurturing and sustaining a positive future for all](#)'. Check out our dedicated '[Health and Wellbeing](#)' page on our school website where you'll find lots of useful information and support available in school, locally, nationally and online.

**Stay at Home. Protect the NHS. ♥ Save Lives.**

## Mental Health Apps suggested by the NHS:

Click the link to view an A-Z of [Mental Health Apps](#) compiled by the NHS. It's reassuring to know that all products (apps) published on the 'NHS Apps Library' have to meet a stringent set of quality standards which regulate clinical safety, data protection, usability and accessibility, therefore making them reliable resources for us all to access.



**Policy Updates:** Addendums have been added to the school's 'Child Protection Policy' and 'Parent, Carers and Pupils Privacy Notice' in light of COVID-19 and are available to view on the Risedale website [Policies](#) page.