Monday 17th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

May I begin by saying a big ‘thank you’ for such a warm welcome to South Kirkby Academy. Over the last two weeks I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting you at the drop off and collection times and getting to know the children. Your children are a joy and I have been impressed by their polite manners and enthusiasm for school life. I have also been impressed by the care and determination from the staff team to do their very best for your children.

Mr Dickinson and I have had the opportunity to see how the school community operates day to day, and would like to make a few changes to help things run smoother for everyone. In today’s newsletter I want to share some important information about things that will change after half term and let you know about some changes for September. I apologise as this may be a lengthy one. Rest assured they won’t all be like this!

**INSET DAY – Monday 7th June**

I would like to rearrange a previously cancelled INSET day for Monday 7th June. School will be closed to all pupils on that day. I appreciate this is very short notice however would like the opportunity to work closely with the whole staff team on professional training that will mean the school runs smoother for everyone. I understand that Common Road Infant School is also taking an INSET day on Monday 7th June.

**Lyon class**

Mrs Walsh is now sharing the teaching of Lyon Class with Mrs Borthwick. Mrs Borthwick is still be available as SENCO, please don’t hesitate to make an appointment with the school office to meet with her about SEND matters.

**A fond farewell**

We say goodbye to Mr Arundel on Friday as he leaves South Kirkby to begin a new and exciting career. I am sure you will want to join me in wishing him every success in the future.

**A warm welcome**

We look forward to welcoming a new Deputy Headteacher to school in September. Mr Potter is joining the team from one of our Waterton schools in Normanton. He is thrilled to be joining the team and you will have the opportunity to meet him after half term when he begins to make regular visits.

**Headteacher recruitment**

Waterton Academy Trust and the Governors have begun the process of recruiting a new headteacher for the school. Mr Dickinson will write to you once we have news of an appointment.

**The School Day**

Mrs Walsh and I met with Mrs Maiden and Miss Atkinson from Common Road Infant school last week. We discussed how we could align the start and finish times across both schools to help families with infant and junior age children. After half term the following arrangements will be in place at South Kirkby Academy:

Arrival between 8:45am and 8:55am

* Gates and cloakroom doors open at 8:45am – designated staff will supervise the gates
* There will be a 15-minute arrival window.
* Children will enter through cloakroom doors
* Registration will open at 8:55am
* Registration will close at 9:00am. Children arriving after this time must report to the office to be registered with a L or U code, depending on the time of arrival
* Gates and cloakroom doors will be locked to secure the site and building.

Please ensure children do not arrive earlier than 8:45am.

The gate which leads onto Broad Lane will be reinstated at drop off and collection times. SKA staff will be on supervisory duties to ensure pupils can cross the road safely. Mrs Maiden has said the car park at Common Road Infant School can be used by SKA parents if needed. We continue to have an agreement with the cricket club for parents to use this car park too. Could we remind all parents to be respectful of our neighbours when parking and not cause obstructions to any property.

Collection at 3:20pm

* Gates will open at 3:15pm
* School will finish at 3:20pm
* Children will exit through cloakroom doors
* Parents can collect children from cloakroom doors.

COVID 19 safety - We ask that parents and carers continue to wear a face covering on the school site and keep a safe distance at all times. I’ll send out more information over the coming two weeks including a site map (I am aware you might not know where your child’s cloakroom door is). We will also teach the children about the changes in school.

**Uniform**

From September the uniform policy **will not include the blazer, shirt and tie**. Uniform will be:

* Black school trousers/skirt/pinafore/culottes
* Black jumper or cardigan with school logo
* White polo shirt
* Grey, black or white socks or tights
* Black school shoes (not trainers, not shoes with a heel)

I wanted to take this early opportunity to let you know about these changes because I appreciate you may be thinking about getting organised for September. I wouldn’t want any family buying unnecessary items. Please feel free to make the swap to the new uniform items after half term if you would like.

**Moving on to the next school**

Mrs Walsh and I met with Mrs Maiden and Miss Atkinson last week to plan a series of transition visits and activities aimed at helping our Y2 pupils feel at home at SKA as soon as possible. After half term Mrs Walsh will make weekly visits to Common Road and the children will spend time here getting to know the school and the staff. I know Mr Potter is really looking forward to visiting Common Road and getting to know the Y2s, as they will be new starters together in September.

Similarly, plans are well underway for our Y6 pupils thinking about transition to secondary school. Mr Reynolds is liaising with Heads of KS3 to finalise visits and transition activities and will be in touch soon.

**Our attendance target is 96%**

Here are the class attendance figures for last week, Monday 10th – Friday 14th May.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lower key stage 2 | Weekly attendance | Upper key stage 2 | Weekly attendance |
| Lyon Class (Y3) | 91% | Berlin Class (Y5) | 97% |
| Milan Class (Y3 | 91% | Zurich Class (Y5) | 94% |
| Vienna Class (Y4) | 89% | Princeton Class (Y6) | 82% |
| Dublin Class (Y4) | 94% | Imperial Class (Y6) | 98% |
|  |  | Perth Class (Y6) | 93% |

School attendance for the week was 92% which is well below our attendance target. 173 children also achieved 100% attendance this week.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch through the school office, if you wish to discuss anything. On behalf of the team, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Linsey Cavell

Chief Education Standards Officer – Waterton Academy Trust