



Stockingate, South Kirkby, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, WF9 3DP

Telephone: 01977 643187

Email: [skaoffice@watertonacademytrust.org](mailto:skaoffice@watertonacademytrust.org)

Website: [www.southkirkbyacademy.org](http://www.southkirkbyacademy.org)

Head of School: Mr Adam Potter

## Welcome back!

Dear families,

What a brilliant first day back we have had at South Kirkby Academy! We have been really excited to welcome your children back to school after the summer break, and have loved welcoming our new Year 3 children to the SKA community.

### Thank You

My first message is a big **thank you** to you all for getting your children kitted-out for the new academic year – second to seeing your children arrive at school this morning, seeing a ‘sea of red’ (as Osman in Year 4 put it!) in assembly has been my favourite part of the day. All children look so smart and proud of their school colours and uniform. I would also like to thank you for getting your children to school on time – I know this can sometimes be tricky on a ‘normal’ morning, but the first morning back for some of our children brings feelings of worry. I am pleased to say that any tears soon stopped and the children have had a wonderful day with their new teachers.

School is looking the best it has looked since I started here in September 2021 – I hope you all agree that the lick of paint that Mr Jordan (our caretaker) has given the external walls has smartened the school up considerably, and we are now able to show off our new logo on our new school signage. Classrooms also look the best they have looked since I have worked here, and that is down to the hard work of your child’s teacher.

### New Values, Motto and Golden Rule – The SKA Way!

We have now phased out the school motto of ‘Success for All’ and the old school values. These have been replaced with what we feel are more child-centred values – they feel more ‘SKA’ and will be known as **‘The SKA Way!’**

Our new school motto is: **Be brave, dream big!**

Our new school golden rule is: **We make sure everyone is SAFE, HAPPY and LEARNING.**

Our new school values are: **Be respectful, be kind, be inclusive, be safe and be independent.**

Your children are likely to talk about these when they arrive home, as they will be learning lots about them over the next week.

### Paperless Communications

Over the next few weeks, we are aiming to become a **paperless school** with all communications sent via email. This is for a number of reasons – the cost of letter printing and resources will drastically be cut, as will the time resource that it takes for admin staff to print, sort and hand out the letters. It will also mean no missed letters in the bottom of bags and book bags, and it is of course much kinder to the environment. Please fill out the sheet attached to this letter and return it to school as soon as possible. We need **two contact numbers and an email address**. Thank you in advance for returning these promptly by Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

### Payment Systems & Dinner Money Costs

Thank you for being patient while we change some of our systems at school – this has been a trust-wide change and as with all changes, they take time to fully implement. There will be a new app called ‘My Child at School’ up and running early next week so you will be able to pay for school dinners etc. electronically again. In the meantime, the office will accept cash and we will share further information with you about the new payment app. There is a letter attached with further information.



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### **Packed Lunches**

Please note that after health and safety advice, we will no longer be able to heat up children's food that they bring in from home – we are sorry for the inconvenience this may cause however we do not want to make any of our children sick through food that is not at the correct temperature. Thank you for your understanding.

We will also be asking children to bring home anything that they don't eat from their packed lunches so you are able to monitor what they are and are not eating. Please speak to your children about doing this when they arrive home.

### **Timings of the Day**

This is just a reminder to all families that the school day timings are as follows:

- Doors for breakfast club open at **8am**. Please do not send your children earlier than this.
- Doors for the start of the school day open at **8:45am** and close at **9am**. If children arrive after 9am, they will be marked as late. We hope that this 15-minute window gives plenty of time for those families who do multiple drop-offs at Common Road and South Kirkby Academy.
- Doors open for the end of the day at **3:20pm** and the gates will be opened approximately 10 minutes before.

### **P.E. Lessons**

All children will have two sessions per week of physical activity, lasting around an hour. **We are going to trial the children getting changed at school for P.E. lessons rather than allowing them to come to school wearing their P.E. kit.** Year 4 children will have one P.E. lesson at school and one swimming lesson at Minsthorpe swimming baths.

The children's P.E. days are as follows:

(S) = Swimming Kit

<b>Y3 Bretton</b>	Wednesday & Thursday	<b>Y5 Brodsworth</b>	Monday & Tuesday
<b>Y3 Nostell</b>	Wednesday & Thursday	<b>Y5 Wragby</b>	Monday & Tuesday
<b>Y4 Fairburn</b>	Monday (S) & Wednesday	<b>Y6 Ackworth</b>	Monday & Tuesday
<b>Y4 Waterton</b>	Monday (S) & Wednesday	<b>Y6 Wentbridge</b>	Monday & Tuesday

I appreciate that I have shared a lot of information in this letter – please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher, the office staff, myself or any of the senior leadership team if you have any questions or queries.

Thank you for your ongoing support and welcome back to school.

Mr Adam Potter  
Head of School



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Please detach this sheet from the letter and return it to your child's class teacher or the office – thank you.

### Contact Details Check

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Name & Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Name & Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE HAND THIS IN NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**