



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

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

Headteacher: Mr Adam Potter

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ACADEMY TRUST

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## Welcome Back – Academic Year 2023 2024

Dear families,

Welcome back and a very warm welcome to our new families! I hope you have all survived the six-week holiday and managed to have a break with your children. School staff have been busy getting South Kirkby Academy ready for another busy year and each area of school looks fantastic.

It was wonderful welcoming our 220 children back to school this morning on the gate, of course not forgetting our new Year 3s – they have settled into the SKA family brilliantly already.

There will be a number of communications from me over the next week or so, including a calendar of events for weeks up to October half-term, so please keep an eye on the MCAS app, social media feeds and our school website. If you need paper copies of any letters, please visit the office.

### A few polite reminders as we start the new term:

#### Uniform

The children looked **so** smart in their uniforms this morning. I hope the gesture of a free jumper or cardigan has helped ever so slightly with the cost of new uniforms. If you have not yet ordered or collected this, please contact the office. Our school uniform policy can be viewed [here](#) – please follow it closely, particularly for P.E., and contact the office if you need support with uniform costs.

**Please make sure that all uniform is labelled with your child's name.**

#### Arriving/Leaving

Before and after school are busy times on our playground, surrounding paths, gates and roads. Please encourage your children to arrive on the playground calmly and sensibly. **Ball games and playing on the trim trail are not permitted before or after school. Bikes and scooters must not be ridden on the playground.** A polite reminder the smoking, including vaping and use of e-cigarettes, is not permitted. Please put any litter in the bins provided.

#### Timings of the Day

- Doors for our free breakfast club open at **8:10am**. Please **do not** send your children earlier than this as they will have to wait outside until everything is set up.
- Doors for the start of the 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 Infants and South Kirkby Academy.
- The end of the school day is **3:20pm** and the gates will be opened approximately 10 minutes before this.

#### Nut Free School

A polite reminder that we are a nut free school. We have a number of children with severe nut allergies so it is important that items in packed lunches do not contain nuts. Thank you for your understanding and support with this.



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### After School Clubs

After school clubs will not start until **Week 3 (week commencing Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023)** and a letter about this will be sent out during Week 2 (week commencing Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023) with the full clubs offer and information of how to sign up for a club through the MCAS app.

### Communication

Class teachers are available to speak to each day. After-school is usually a more convenient time to speak, but each teacher will be on the door at the beginning of the day too for a quick message. There is also usually a member of the senior leadership team on the playground in the morning and at home time. All staff are usually available to speak to without the need to make an appointment however there may be occasions where they contact you at an alternative mutually convenient time.

Mrs Studd and Mrs Neary are more than happy to help with any MCAS app problems.

### Conduct & Social Media

Unfortunately, there are rare occasions where the conduct of a very small minority of parents/carers is totally inappropriate and unacceptable. There have also been occasions where defamatory remarks about school and individual staff members have been posted on Facebook. Please note that I take such instances extremely seriously and do not accept such behaviour from the children at South Kirkby Academy, so of course do not accept it from their parents, carers or family members either. I thank you all in advance for working with me and my team of school staff at all times in an appropriate manner. Our parent, carer and family member Code of Conduct can be viewed [here](#) – please pay close attention to the section about social media.

### Parking

Parking on Millars Walk is very limited. Parking on the yellow zig-zag lines is **illegal** and puts the children of our school in danger. **Please use the cricket club car park as the school pays for this facility and do not stop directly on the yellow zig-zag lines.** Thank you for taking the safety of our children seriously and for showing consideration to our neighbours on Millars Walk and The Leys.

### Contact Details

For parents and carers of children in Year 4, 5 and 6, if your contact details have changed over the holiday, please let the office know so the system can be updated. We need at least two contact numbers and an email address for every child. **If your child has just started in Year 3 and we have not yet received their new starter form, please make sure this is handed in this week.**

### Coffee Mornings

Our coffee mornings will now be fortnightly rather than weekly. They will still be on a Friday morning in the staffroom. The first coffee morning will be on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023**. Please come along for a cuppa and a chat – all welcome. You will also be invited in for refreshments at our half-termly SKA Exhibition – dates to follow.

I appreciate this is a lot of information so thank you for taking the time to read it all carefully. Please do not hesitate to speak to a member of school staff if you have any questions.

Mr Adam Potter (**Headteacher**)