



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

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Headteacher: Mr Adam Potter

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Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## Welcome Back Spring Term

Dear families,

Happy New Year – I hope you all had a good Christmas.

It was great welcoming your children back to school on the gate this morning. Even the children who were slightly reluctant at the early start after two weeks of lie-ins and Christmas chocolate quickly settled into their learning.

I am writing with some information and reminders as we move into a new term. Please give this a careful read to ensure you are up to date with everything going on at school.

### Thank You

I speak on behalf of all staff by saying thank you for our Christmas cards and gifts that you kindly gave us on the run up to Christmas. It is of course never expected but hugely appreciated.

### School Start Time

A polite reminder that breakfast club does not start until **8:10am**. Please sign up for this on the app. Doors open at **8:45am** and slightly earlier if it is raining. Children have **between 8:45am and 9am** to arrive at school, which allows time for drop-offs at other schools.

**Doors and gates close at 9am.** If children arrive between 9am and 9:10am, they will receive a late mark. If children arrive after 9:10am, it is recorded as an unauthorised absence which will negatively impact their attendance. Please ensure all children arrive at school before 9am every morning.

### School Snacks

Healthy snacks may be eaten at playtime. This could be a piece of fruit or a cereal bar for example. A reminder that fruit and cereal bars are on sale each day at playtime for 20p (a whole week of snacks for £1). If you would like your child to buy a healthy playtime snack, please send them in with money.

### After School Clubs & Events Calendar

There are no after school clubs running this week. Some after school clubs will be changing. I will be sending a letter this week outlining our free after-school club offer for the Spring Term so please watch out for it.

### PTA – Parent Teacher Association

We have two fantastic parents who work closely with school to organise events for your children. However, I am looking to expand our PTA so we can do even more. Mrs Borthwick has kindly volunteered with Mrs Holmes to lead this – if you are interested in joining, please see a member of school staff. We will hold a planning meeting this half-term to welcome any new members and plan events for the rest of this academic year.

Joining a PTA provides parents/carers/family members with an excellent opportunity to engage in their child's education, connect with the school community, help shape their child's education and help make the school better – a worthwhile experience if you are able to kindly volunteer your time.





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### **Finally - Parking & Yellow Lines**

It is with growing frustration that I share this message again as I have had to deal with more complaints from residents around South Kirkby Academy. While I understand I do not have the power to move traffic along, my duty as Headteacher is to ensure all children are safe arriving and leaving the school. Last half-term, when I have asked parents/carers to move on from the yellow lines, some have refused and I have also been sworn at which is totally unnecessary. **Please do not park or wait on the yellow zig-zag lines outside school – it puts our children and families crossing the road at risk. The lines are there for a reason. Please do not park over drive ways down Millars Walk – it is inconsiderate to the residents who live opposite the school.** A huge thank you to those who are considerate to the safety of our children and neighbouring residents, and all of our families who use the cricket club car park for pick-ups and drop-offs (a facility which is paid for by school).

I appreciate there is a lot of information in this letter so thank you for reading through it all. I would like to thank you in advance for your support as we enter what I am sure will be another busy and successful year for South Kirkby Academy.

Mr Adam Potter  
Headteacher