



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

Telephone: 01977 643187

Email: skaoffice@watertonacademytrust.org

Website: www.southkirkbyacademy.org

Headteacher: Mr Adam Potter

Proud to be part of  Waterton
Academy Trust

Welcome Back – September 2024

Dear families,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all back to South Kirkby Academy for another busy and exciting academic year, with of course a special hello to our new Year 3s and their families – welcome to the SKA family!

This is a long letter containing lots of important reminders so please read it carefully to the end. There will be a number of communications from school over the coming week, so please ensure you have the MCAS app and check our social media feeds and website. If you need paper copies of any letters, please inform Mrs Studd or Mrs Neary in the office.

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 – children have been given these in class today. If you have not yet ordered or collected this, please contact the office. Our school uniform policy can be viewed on our website – please follow it closely, particularly for P.E., and contact the office if you need support with providing uniform. There are paper copies of the policy in the school office. **Please make sure that all uniform is labelled with your child's name.**

Arriving at/Leaving the School Grounds

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.** This is because the children are only supervised outside by staff between 8:45am and 9am. A polite reminder that smoking, including vaping and use of e-cigarettes, is not permitted. Please put any litter in the bins provided – there is often a lot of litter on the playground which is not from the school day.

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.

Breakfast Club

We offer a **free** breakfast club funded by the Greggs Foundation. Please book your children into breakfast club on the MCAS app. Bookings for the following week close on Friday of each week. Spaces are limited so please make sure you secure your space. Children who turn up to breakfast club without a booking will not be allowed to enter.



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

Telephone: 01977 643187

Email: skaoffice@watertonacademytrust.org

Website: www.southkirkbyacademy.org

Headteacher: Mr Adam Potter

Proud to be part of  **Waterton**
Academy Trust

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.

New School Meal Provider - Caterlink

All Waterton Academy Trust schools are now using Caterlink for school meals. The new menu is on our school website [here](#) starting with the first sheet as Week 1. If you would like a paper copy of the menu, please visit the school office. **Universal free school meals for all children ends at the end of Year 2 and is means-tested in Year 3 and beyond. Please contact the school office if you are not sure if you are eligible for free school meals or need support applying.**

After School Clubs

After school clubs will start during week 3 (week commencing Monday 16th September 2024). These clubs will run until Christmas. Please watch out for a letter being shared later this week with further information.

Communication

Class teachers are available to speak to each day. After-school is usually a more convenient time to speak, but each teacher or member of support staff 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 due to other commitments. Please understand that school staff are extremely busy people and allow a reasonable amount of time for contact – thank you.

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

Mobile Phones

Waterton Academy Trust have updated the mobile phone policy for staff and pupils. Please see the pertinent points relating to children below.

- Mobile phones are prohibited throughout the school premises during school hours, including classrooms, corridors and playgrounds.
- We recognise that some of our older pupils (Year 5 and 6) may require access to their mobile phone before and after school as they walk to and from home by themselves. In these circumstances, parents/carers will be required to give permission through the MCAS app.
- If permission is granted, children in Years 5 & 6, must hand in their device to school staff (designated class baskets) upon their arrival to school.
- These class baskets are then stored securely in the school office during the school day and cannot be accessed by any children, with the devices either switched off or set to 'silent'. These devices are then redistributed and collected at the end of the day, before home time. Children are made aware that they should not use their mobile phones until they have left the school site and should use their device correctly, and safely, outside of school hours as part of our wider Online Safety Curriculum.



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

Telephone: 01977 643187

Email: skaoffice@watertonacademytrust.org

Website: www.southkirkbyacademy.org

Headteacher: Mr Adam Potter

Proud to be part of  **Waterton**
Academy Trust

- No children will be required or allowed to take their mobile phones on school trips, during the school day.
- No children will be required or allowed to take their mobile phones on the overnight residentials.
- The school will not accept any responsibility for loss or damage regarding individual devices and it is the and/or parents/carers decision to bring their phone into school.

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 social media, staff including myself have been sworn at and parents/carers have raised voices in a threatening way when staff are trying to resolve a matter. 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 not permitted 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.**

2024-2025 Term Dates

The calendar for 2024-2025 can be viewed [here](#).

And breathe! Thank you for reading through these reminders.

As always, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of school staff should you have any questions.

Best wishes and welcome back once again.

Mr Adam Potter
Headteacher

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr A Potter **Safeguarding Team:** Miss S Burns (Deputy DSL), Miss K Jones, Mrs M Matthews, Mrs E Studd
Safeguarding Governor: Mrs L Ward
*Worried a child is at risk of harm? Please speak to one of the members of staff listed here or call **Social Care Direct** on 0345 8503 503.*