



SKA HEADLINES

Friday 10th January 2025

Welcome back!

Thank you all for getting your children into school safely this week. I hope the slightly delayed start to the morning has given flexibility for arriving at school. The children have been so sensible when arriving and leaving and been so understanding when we have had to have social times indoors because of the ice. They have made me incredibly proud this week!

The weather is due to be mild next week so the ice will melt and we will return to our normal morning timings. As a reminder:

- **Breakfast club** opens at **8:10am**.
- The **playground gates** open at **8:40am**.
- **Classroom doors** open at **8:45am** (unless it is tipping it down with rain when they will be open slightly earlier).
- Children have a 15-minute window between 8:45am and 9am to arrive at school.
- **Registers close at 9am**. Children arriving between 9am and 9:10am will need to come in through reception and will be marked as late. Children arriving after 9:10am without an authorised reason will have an unauthorised absence mark.

I sent out a welcome back letter earlier this week containing lots of information. If you have not yet read it, it can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

An after school club letter has also been sent out today – this can also be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Spring 1 Calendar of Events

It is a shorter half-term so I am not going to write a separate calendar letter. Instead, please see key dates for your information below.

There are a few events we are just confirming, so there will be an update to this calendar next week.

Event:	Date:
Monday 13 th January 2025	After-school clubs commence – see letter linked above
Friday 17 th January 2025	Re-scheduled Year 5 and 6 Award Assembly
Monday 29 th January 2025	Year 5 and Year 6 VR Workshop
Wednesday 5 th February 2025	SKA Exhibition
Friday 7 th February 2025	Year 4 Trip to Temple Newsam
Tuesday 11 th February 2025	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 11 th February 2025	Meet the Teacher Meeting (1)
Wednesday 12 th February 2025	Young Voices Trip
Thursday 13 th February 2025	Meet the Teacher Meeting (2)
Thursday 13 th February 2025	Award Assemblies (TBC)
Friday 14 th February 2025	School closes as 3:20pm for half-term
Monday 24 th February 2025	School re-opens for Spring 2

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

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Attendance this week: **92%**

Leeds	97%
Knaresborough	95%
Richmond	95%
Filey	91%
Ilkley	91%
Harrogate	90%
York	89%
Whitby	89%
Leeds may wear non uniform on Friday	
17th January 2025	

Seth (Leeds)	For his greatly improved attitude to learning.
Max (York)	For his greatly improved attitude to learning.
Oscar (Knaresborough)	For always being so helpful.
Ayra (Richmond)	For her excellent skills in P.E.
Thomas (Filey)	For having an amazing start to Spring Term.
Maddie (Whitby)	For her excellent contributions in lessons all week.
Lexi (Harrogate)	For always going above and beyond what she is expected to do.
Millie (Ilkley)	For having an excellent first week back.

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence has seen significant development over the recent months with computer-generated avatars becoming a key element in existing apps (such as Snapchat) and forming a brand new category of app. This has become especially popular with the AI 'friend' chatbots. There are now numerous 'Virtual Friend' apps available, with other successful platforms like Only Chatting to You.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY:** AI chatbots may not always recognise when content is inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. As a result, there is a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language, or explicit material, which contravenes their school's policies. The companies providing these services do not guarantee to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.
- REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT:** An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a decrease in face-to-face communication from their peers, leading to social isolation. This could potentially hinder the development of their social skills.
- LACK OF SENSITIVITY:** Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or signs of distress. Children on most 'humans' apps are designed to be responsive and empathetic. AI, however, doesn't have the ability to understand what a young user who is already struggling emotionally needs. It can't provide any emotional support or facilitate any existing personal issues.
- UNINTENTIONAL BIAS:** AI algorithms are only as reliable as the information they are fed. Programmed with the algorithms they use, therefore, many chatbots reproduce the stereotypes or discriminatory behaviours of the data they are trained on. For example, they can display a distorted view of gender roles, reinforcing stereotypes and behaviours if they interact with a community.
- COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS:** Although many are now undeniably sophisticated, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context, and nuance. This can lead to misleading or harmful advice, particularly when it comes to mental health or safety.
- PRIVACY CONCERNS:** Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and preferences. This is often used to improve their performance, but it also means that your child's data is being stored and processed. It's important to understand what data is being collected and how it is being used. Some chatbots may also share data with third parties, which could lead to data breaches or misuse.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS:** If a child is already engaging with an AI app, then it's best to talk about it. Encourage them to share what they are doing and how they are using it. This can help you understand what they are doing and how they are using it. Encourage them to share what they are doing and how they are using it.
- CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT:** If a child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe and controlled environment. This could be a supervised session with you, or a supervised session with a trusted adult. Encourage them to share what they are doing and how they are using it.
- FIND A BALANCE:** Work alongside children to establish the right balance between AI and real life. It's important to ensure that AI is used in a way that is safe and controlled. Encourage them to share what they are doing and how they are using it.
- TAKE CONTROL:** AI chatbots are a form of digital entertainment, which is great. However, it's important to ensure that they are used in a way that is safe and controlled. Encourage them to share what they are doing and how they are using it.
- RECOGNISE THE RISKS:** It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's important to ensure that they are aware of the risks. Encourage them to share what they are doing and how they are using it.

Meet Our Expert

A Qualified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Barry Henderson is the Director of IT at a large learning school in the UK, having previously worked in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the benefits.

The National College

Wake Up Wednesday

Twitter: @wake_up_weds | Facebook: /wakeupwednesday | Instagram: @wakeupwednesday | TikTok: @wakeupweds

Value of the week: Golden Rule

India (Year 6) Oliver (Year 6)
Alianna (Year 5) Harrison (Year 5)
Adalind (Year 4) Esme (Year 4)
Sibusiso (Year 3) Charlie (Year 3)

Lunchtime Awards

Erdi (Y3) & Reggie (Y5)

DON'T MISS OUT ON IMPORTANT SKA INFORMATION!

Please ensure you have the MCAS App downloaded with notifications turned ON.

Please follow our social media feeds for more information and reminders.

We send out paper letters but at request only.

Key Events Next Week

After school clubs commence Monday 13th January '25

This week's guide is about AI Powered chat apps and AI virtual friends – please check your child's devices as these can contain inappropriate content that you would not want your children to access. Click on the preview to open the full guide.

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