



# SKA HEADLINES

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## Attendance

Attendance in school this week has vastly improved from 92% in Week 1 to 96% (our school target) in Week 2. This is an excellent result, so thank you to all parents, carers and families for getting your children to school.

We even had a class with 100% attendance this week, which is superb. Congratulations to York class – all children have been in school every day! An excellent achievement.

## Year 5 and 6 Award Assembly

Thank you if you were able to attend our rescheduled award assembly today – it was lovely having you in school.

## Contact Details

Please make sure school have your up to date contact details. If you change a mobile number or email address, please let Mrs Studd or Mrs Neary know in the office as we do not want anyone to miss out on any communications. Thank you.

## After School Clubs

Thank you if you have signed up for our after-school club offer. Some children who were originally signed up have now dropped out, so we shall be re-opening clubs today at 3pm and these will close again on Monday morning at 9am. **Please note cooking and indoor sports clubs are FULL.**

## Uniform and P.E Kit Reminder

Uniform and P.E. kit standards are not as good as they were in the Autumn Term across school. Please remind yourselves of our uniform policy which can be accessed on our school website [here](#). Thank you for your support with this. As always, if you require any financial assistance providing uniform, please speak to a member of school staff – we are always willing to help.

## Spring 1 Calendar of Events

Event:	Date:
NEW: Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025	Jamie Knight Freestyle Football Workshop
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Year 5 and Year 6 VR Workshop
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	SKA Exhibition
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Year 4 Trip to Temple Newsam
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Meet the Teacher Meeting (1)
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Young Voices Trip
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Meet the Teacher Meeting (2)
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Award Assemblies (TBC)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	School closes as 3:20pm for half-term
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	School re-opens for Spring 2

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

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 Facebook: Search for 'South Kirkby Academy'  X: @WatertonSKA





Attendance this week: **96%**

<b>York</b>	<b>100%!</b>
<b>Richmond</b>	<b>97%</b>
<b>Leeds</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Harrogate</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Knaresborough</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Filey</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Ilkley</b>	<b>93%</b>
<b>Whitby</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>York class may wear non-uniform on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b>	

<b>Connor (Leeds)</b>	For his super handwriting effort.
<b>Braxton (York)</b>	For his excellent attitude to learning.
<b>Mikey (Knaresborough)</b>	For his super work in lessons.
<b>Lucy (Richmond)</b>	For being a great friend and overcoming fears.
<b>Ivy (Filey)</b>	For effectively managing her distractions.
<b>Kevin (Whitby)</b>	For a great couple of weeks and trying hard with his handwriting.
<b>Phinn (Harrogate)</b>	For always trying his best.
<b>Lillie (Ilkley)</b>	For having an excellent start at SKA.

**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 new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, Gino, and AI Chat) has become especially popular. However, the AI and/or chatbot features are now many 'Virtual Friends' apps available, with other successful platforms like Roblox and Fortnite.

**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 compromises their virtual friend. The companies providing such AI chatbots do not guarantee to take responsibility for any content that their algorithm generates.
- REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT**  
An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause children to lose touch with their friends, leading to social isolation. Young people become dependent on chatbots for social interaction, which could impact on their social skills.
- LACK OF SENSITIVITY**  
Chatbot software isn't always designed to be sensitive enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or mood changes of children or young people. This could lead to inappropriate responses, which may be perceived as insensitive or unhelpful. Young people who are using chatbots for emotional support may not receive the support they need.
- UNINTENTIONAL BIAS**  
AI chatbots are only as reliable as the information they are trained on. Therefore, they can inadvertently pick up on stereotypes or discriminatory behaviours. For example, they can display a preference for certain gender roles, which could lead to inappropriate behaviours if they interact with a community.
- COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS**  
Although many are now undeniably powerful, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context, and nuance. This could lead to misunderstandings or incorrect advice, which could impact on a child's ability to think critically and make informed decisions.
- PRIVACY CONCERNS**  
Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and preferences. This is often used to improve their performance, but it could also be used for other purposes. Parents should be aware of the privacy policies of any chatbot they use and ensure that their child's data is protected.

**Advice for Parents & Carers**

- CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS**  
If a child is already engaging with an AI chatbot, it's important to have a conversation about it. Ask them how they feel about it and how they are using it. Encourage them to be open about their interactions and to seek help if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.
- 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 chat session with a parent or carer, or using a chatbot that has been specifically designed for children.
- FIND A BALANCE**  
Work alongside children to establish the right balance between AI chatbots and other activities. Encourage them to spend time with friends, family, and other people in real life. Encourage them to be active and to engage in other hobbies and interests.
- TAKE CONTROL**  
As with any form of digital device, when it comes to AI chatbots, it's important to take control. Encourage children to be aware of their screen time and to take regular breaks. Encourage them to be critical of the information they receive and to seek help if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.
- 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 be aware of the risks and to take steps to minimise them. Encourage children to be aware of the risks and to seek help if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

**Meet Our Expert**  
A Digital Information Systems Security Professional (CISSEP), Barry Henderson is the Director of IT at a large learning school in the UK, having previously taught 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 around technology, as well as its benefits.

**The National College**

**Wake Up Wednesday**

**Key Events Next Week**  
Jamie Knight Football Freestyle Workshop 23.02.25

**Value of the week: Be inclusive**

**TREAT TUESDAY**

Skyela (Year 6) Tiana (Year 6)  
Nancy (Year 5) Xanthe (Year 5)  
Freddie (Year 4) Mia-Rose (Year 4)  
Max (Year 3) Tristan (Year 3)

**LUNCHTIME AWARDS**

**Lunchtime Awards**  
Billy M (Y3) & Grace B (Y6)

**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**

Jamie Knight Football Freestyle Workshop 23.02.25

**This week's and last 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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