



SKA HEADLINES

Friday 24th January 2025

Attendance

Attendance this week was 93%, with attendance in Year 6 considerably lower than the rest of school. If your children need to be off school, please make sure you are ringing the office on 01924 967615 to provide a reason for their absence.

Smart Watches

Children may wear digital watches and 'smart' watches so long as there is no connection to mobile phones or phone functionality and it does not distract them. A reminder that any watches worn – digital or not – are the responsibility of the child and school will not accept any responsibility for any lost items. Watches must be taken off for P.E. lessons and will be kept safe by the teacher. If a child is distracted by their watch, it may be confiscated until the end of the school day.



Electric Scooters

A polite reminder that electric scooters should not be ridden to school. Electric scooters are legal to own in the UK however there are lots of restrictions surrounding where they can be used. Currently, electric scooters can **only be used on private land** with the landowner's permission. It is therefore effectively illegal to use them on public roads, on pavements, in cycle lanes and in pedestrian-only areas. Electric scooters are currently classed as 'powered transporters' by the government and fall under the same laws and regulations that apply to all motor vehicles. Please help us keep everyone safe by not allowing your children to ride them to and from school.



Valentine's Disco

Our Valentine's disco is on Monday 3rd February 2025 from 3:20pm-4:30pm. Children will need to bring a change of clothes. Tickets are £3 and include entrance, party food, a drink and a treat.

Tickets are available through the MCAS app – Mrs Studd will then give physical tickets to the children in class once payment has been made through MCAS

TICKETS WILL BE SOLD UNTIL THURSDAY 30TH JANUARY 2025. NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AFTER THIS DATE.



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.

MCAS App

Some parents/carers are still having issues accessing letters through the MCAS App. If this is you, please do not hesitate to come to the office and Mrs Studd will support you with getting it sorted. I know it is frustrating when you cannot access information – this is something we are working on with the company to resolve. Thank you for your patience. We can also send paper copies home to anyone who cannot currently access letters – please inform the office if this is you.

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

Telephone: 01924 967615 Email: skaoffice@watertonacademytrust.org

Headteacher: Mr Adam Potter Website: www.southkirkbyacademy.org

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





Attendance this week: **93%**

Leeds	98%
Richmond	96%
Filey	95%
York	94%
Knaresborough	94%
Whitby	93%
Harrogate	88%
Ilkley	87%
Leeds class may wear non uniform on Friday 31st January 2025	

Tilly (Leeds)	For being resilient with column addition calculations.
Isla (York)	For settling into York class wonderfully.
Odai (Knaresborough)	For having an excellent first week at SKA.
Joseph (Richmond)	For trying really hard with his excellent handwriting.
Emilia-Rose (Filey)	For being an extremely kind and helpful member of Filey class.
Mateusz (Whitby)	For being a superb role model in Whitby class.
Lexi (Harrogate)	For always being a superstar in Harrogate class.
Gabriel (Ilkley)	For his excellent dedication to his practise SATs this week.

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and with much of the content is being viewed on mobile devices, the app, where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
While TikTok's following feed only displays videos from creators that the app's algorithm considers relevant to the user's profile, it does not filter out content based on age. While the app's algorithm is designed to be age-appropriate, it does not filter out content based on age. This means that children under 13 can see content that is not suitable for their age group.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS
With more than 1 billion users globally, the app provides a platform for users to connect with others. This is particularly true for young people who are still in school, as they can easily be contacted by strangers. This means that children can be contacted by strangers who may be trying to groom them or engage in inappropriate behavior.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION
Although the app's algorithm is designed to be age-appropriate, it does not filter out content based on age. This means that children can see content that is not suitable for their age group. This includes content that is misleading or false, as well as content that is extremist or radical in nature.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN
The app's design is highly addictive, with features that encourage users to spend more time on the app. This includes features like the 'For You' feed, which is tailored to the user's interests, and the 'Like' button, which provides instant feedback. This can lead to children spending a significant amount of time on the app, which can impact their schoolwork and other activities.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING**: Family pairing allows parents to link their child's account to their own. This allows parents to monitor their child's activity on the app and to restrict their child's access to certain features.
- BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING**: Parents can block their child from making in-app purchases on the app. This can help to prevent children from spending money on virtual items or other in-app purchases.
- DISCUSS THE DANGERS**: Parents should talk to their children about the dangers of the app, including the risks of contact with strangers, age-inappropriate content, and addictive design.
- READ THE SIGNS**: Parents should look for signs that their child may be spending too much time on the app, such as changes in their mood or behavior.

Meet Our Expert
Alex Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, and The Verge. He is a frequent speaker at conferences and has been featured in the media on many occasions.

Wake Up Wednesday
The National College

Value of the week: Be inclusive

Abdoul (Year 6) Amelia (Year 6)
Sophie K (Year 5) Ellie (Year 5)
Emily H (Year 4) Porscha F (Year 4)
Elsie-May (Year 3) Mercie (Year 3)

Lunchtime Awards

Amelia (Y6) & India (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

VR Day – Year 5 & 6 – 29.01.25
Freestyle Football Day – 30.01.25
(Please see separate letters sent out on MCAS App)

Click the preview to open the guide – this week's Parent/Carer guide is about TikTok, which lots of our children access outside of school.

Stockingate, South Kirkby, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, WF9 3DP
 Telephone: 01924 967615 Email: skaoffice@watertonacademytrust.org
 Headteacher: Mr Adam Potter Website: www.southkirkbyacademy.org
 Facebook: Search for 'South Kirkby Academy' X: @WatertonSKA

