



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

Telephone: 01924 967615

Email: skaoffice@watertonacademytrust.org

Website: www.southkirkbyacademy.org

Headteacher: Mr Adam Potter

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Tuesday 7th January 2025

Welcome Back

Dear families,

Welcome back! I hope you had a lovely Christmas and New Year, and are managing to keep warm in this rather pretty but bleak weather.

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

Thank you for your patience this morning navigating the slippery pavements on the way to school – 193 children arrived safely in the warm and it was lovely to welcome them all back this morning.

As always, please read this letter carefully as there are some important messages. There will be other communications by the end of this week, including sharing a calendar of events for Spring 1, so please watch out for this in the 'Announcements' section of the MCAS app and follow our Facebook page. Whole-school letters are also uploaded to our website. Make sure your phone's notifications are switched on and double check the app regularly.

After School Clubs

There are no after school clubs this week – a new letter will be released by the end of the week with new clubs for this term. All clubs will need rebooking on the app regardless of whether they had a place last term.

New School Number

We have now moved over to our new school number, so please save it in your phone. Please be patient with us while we are getting used to the new phone system – it is very different to the old one! As a reminder, the new number is **01924 967615**. Thank you for your patience.

INSET DAY

Just to clarify as there seems to be some confusion with some parents/carers - we did not close yesterday (Monday 6th January 2025) because of the snow – we had an INSET day which had been planned and communicated repeatedly since September on numerous letters. This misunderstanding highlights the importance of keeping up to date with all school communications through the MCAS app and Facebook page. Thank you of course to all our families who do keep up to date.

Bungalow Works

You will notice construction work over the coming weeks in and around the school caretaker bungalow. This is no longer being used as a caretaker bungalow and will be renovated to be used by the children and staff. Once it is completed, we will have cooking space for Design and Technology lessons, additional learning areas and an additional meeting room. The bathroom is also being ripped out and converted into a disabled toilet. By the spring, we will look at renovating the garden area, adopting some hens and growing our own food as part of our curriculum offer. This is a large investment of school money but will bring



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exciting opportunities to your children. Thank you for your patience while these building works are ongoing! I will keep you all updated with its progress.

Meeting with Staff

As always, we have an open-door policy for meeting with parents and carers however there may be occasions when you are asked to schedule an appointment at a more convenient time.

As a reminder:

- For most queries and issues, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. The end of the day is better than the beginning – please just leave quick messages for the beginning of the school day.
- You can also contact your child's teacher through the messaging feature on the Dojo App, but please allow reasonable time for a reply.
- If you feel your query or issue hasn't been resolved, please get in touch with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. You can speak to me, Mrs Stephenson or Miss Burns (Assistant Headteachers). One of us are usually out on the playground between 8:45am and 9am too.
- For any queries regarding attendance, Mrs Studd is available in the main office.
- For any queries regarding the MCAS app, school trips, school dinners, uniform etc. Mrs Studd and Mrs Neary are available in the main office.
- For any queries regarding SEND, Miss Burns is out of class on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, so it is best to contact her then.

Uniform Reminder

A reminder that the correct uniform and P.E. kit should be worn. Please do get in touch if you need any help providing uniform or footwear for your child and we will be more than happy to support. Our uniform policy is on the school's website and there are paper copies in main reception.

In the colder weather, children should come to school with a thick coat, hat, scarf and gloves, as when it is not slippery, they will be outside for social times as usual.

Thank you as always for reading through this information and welcome back once again.

Best wishes,

Mr Adam Potter

Headteacher