



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 25th February 2025

Welcome Back – Spring 2 Reminders & Messages

Dear families,

Welcome back – I hope you all had a lovely half-term. As always, it was lovely welcoming everyone back to school yesterday – your children are a delight and make coming to work a pleasure. Please read the following information and reminders carefully. A separate calendar of events for this half term will be sent to you today too.

Attendance and Punctuality

School attendance has been much improved this year – thank you for getting your children to school on time. However, there are some children who are repeatedly late or absent without reason. This has a negative impact on their learning. For example, if a child arrives late 9:30am each day, they are missing half of their maths lesson and 2.5 hours of maths per week. A child with 80% attendance throughout their time at SKA has missed a fifth of their learning, meaning there will be key pieces of knowledge and skills missing when they go to high school.

A polite reminder that classroom doors open at 8:45am (sometimes earlier in bad weather) and children have until 9am to arrive at school. This is to allow enough time for multiple drop-offs.

If a child arrives between 9am and 9:10am, they will be marked as **LATE**.

If a child arrives after 9:10am, the session (morning) will be marked as **UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE** which will impact their attendance.

Yellow Lines

During school hours, drop-off and collection times, please do not park on the yellow lines outside school. Instead, use the cricket club car park to park your car and walk the short distance to the playground.

Broad Lane Entrance

Thank you for your patience while the steps have been repaired. This entrance is now open as the steps have been repaired and are now safe to use.

After School Clubs & Revision Classes

All after school clubs have resumed this week. There are currently no changes to these. Now the evenings are lighter and it is light at the finish time of 4:15pm, children will be allowed to walk home.

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU WANT YOUR CHILD TO WALK HOME ON THEIR OWN.

You can call (01924 967615), message on MCAS or email the office at skaoffice@watertonacademytrust.org.

Issues outside of School & Conduct of Families

Before half-term, there were a few incidents where a very small minority of families did not act in an appropriate way on the school site. While extremely rare, there were also a couple of occasions when some parents were aggressive and threatening in their communications, either face to face or through email. I do not come to work – nor do any of my staff – to be treated aggressively or in a threatening manner.

Our school values are woven through our curriculum and teach all who attend our school to be respectful, kind, inclusive, safe and independent. I expect this from all members of our SKA community, not just the children.

I am therefore sending a few polite reminders below which the issues were linked to:

- We cannot sort behaviour issues that occur outside of school hours, especially those that occur in the evenings or at weekends. We are a school and children are in the building for the core hours of 8:45am – 3:20pm. We are not responsible for children when they are out in the community outside of these hours.
- Many issues still stem from the use of social media apps such as Snapchat. I have shared information on this regularly and we educate our children around its dangers however there are still so many children who have access to this, and then school are frequently expected to sort out issues that have stemmed from inappropriate behaviour within these apps and then spilled into school. In my opinion, none of our children – who are all

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.





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11 years old and under - should have these apps given they are all under the minimum age requirements, and if a decision is made to allow your children to have these apps, they should be monitored very closely at home.

- If there are issues when children travel to and from school, it is important school are made aware of this however, it is equally as important that families are also taking responsibility for them arriving to school and home from school safely.
- I am unable to authorise any term-time holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances. I do not write the policies or ruling for term time holidays - this is nationally followed guidance implemented through our Waterton Academy Trust attendance policy which mirrors that of Wakefield Local Authority, and is followed by all our Trust schools.

In light of all the above and some recent events before half term, I would like to also share some relevant parts of our Code of Conduct for Families, Parents and Carers below:

Our Expectations

We expect **all** families to:

- Respect the ethos, vision and values of our school
- Work together with staff in the best interests of our children
- Maintain reasonable expectations for staff response to general communications
- Treat all members of the school community with respect, setting a good example with speech and behaviour
- Seek a peaceful and reasonable solution to all issues
- Correct their own child's behaviour (or those in their care), particularly in public, where it could lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe conduct
- Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern, following up if an appropriate response has not been received

Behaviour that will not be tolerated:

- Swearing, or using offensive language
- Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the school, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms
- Threatening to do actual bodily harm to a member of school staff, Governor, visitor, fellow parent or child, regardless of whether or not the behaviour constitutes a criminal offence
- Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, children or other parents
- Damaging or destroying school property
- Abusive or threatening e-mails or text/voicemail/phone messages or other written communication
- Unreasonable demands upon school staff to respond to a query, or expectations for staff to communicate outside of normal working hours
- Any aggressive behaviour (including verbally or in writing) towards another child or adult

I would like to close this letter by saying a huge thank you to the vast majority of families who treat my school staff (including me) calmly and respectfully, and approach any issues in a considered way, following the correct channels to reach a satisfactory resolution.

I would also like to extend a huge thank you to all those parents, carers and families who are really grateful for all the positive things we do as a school. You are all so appreciated. There are a few families who go out of their way to thank school and its staff – this means the world to us as we all work so hard for your children.

Thank you for taking the time to read the information in this letter. As always, if you have any questions or need anything clarifying, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of school staff.

Mr Potter

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