



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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Wednesday 26th March 2025

Improvement Works

Dear families,

I am writing to update you on current and planned improvement works at our school.

Our school was built in the 1960s at a time when the country needed a lot of schools cheaply and quickly. For speed and ease of construction, many schools were built cheaply to a 'box shape' design with flat roofs and our school is sadly one of them. I am always envious of schools housed in older buildings with high ceilings, pitched roofs and a bit of character! However, we have to make the best of what we have here at South Kirkby Academy.

We are currently moving through a period of improvement works to ensure the school is well maintained, welcoming and fit for purpose for the current generation of children but also generations to come. I have included details of what has been already since I have been Headteacher, but also future plans below.

2022 – Interior Refresh

The whole school was painted inside in 2022 to give it a fresh and neutral feel. This will be up for another refresh in the 2025-2026 academic year.

2024 – Roof Replacement

The flat roof was well past the end of its useable life and we had a number of leaks. This was replaced in the summer of 2024 to ensure our children and staff have a warm and dry school.

2025 – Bungalow Renovations

The old caretaker bungalow was empty in 2023 and Waterton Academy Trust made the decision to allow the school to keep it. Renovation works started in January and are scheduled to be completed over the Easter holidays. Once open, the bungalow will house a kitchen for cooking, additional meeting and work space for staff and visitors, an indoor sensory gym and other quiet working spaces. The grounds of the bungalow will be transformed to grow fruit and vegetables, and we are going to adopt some hens to support the children's learning around life-cycles and food, and to also foster responsibility as they will of course need looking after!

2025 – Quad/Courtyard Refurbishment

We have achieved a grant to make improvements to our Quad/Courtyard in the middle of school this summer. Watch this space as we transform it into an outdoor space for the children to learn and socialise.

2025 – Exterior Refresh

The exterior of the school was painted by the caretaker at the time in 2023, however this has not weathered well and has quickly looked tatty. Grey also wouldn't have been my first choice of paint colour but I returned to work after the holiday and it had been done! I am currently obtaining quotes for the exterior to be painted and refreshed over the summer term, including some repair works to door frames and cladding, though this may have to wait until the summer holidays for the better weather and empty school.

2025-2026 – Toilets and Cloakrooms

I will be the first to say the toilets and cloakrooms are horrible! They have a lot of the original fixtures and fittings from the 1960s and we spend a lot of money on reactive repairs. Again, we make the best of what we have and keep them as clean and inviting as possible, but they are at the end of their usable life

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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and I know a lot of the children do not like using them. I am currently obtaining quotes to replace the toilets and cloakrooms across school. As you will understand, this will be a huge piece of work which will likely need doing in phases. It is my plan to have this done next academic year and I will keep you updated with any developments.

Thank you for reading this lengthy letter and I hope you can see how much we have already invested and continue to invest in making sure our school is the best it can possibly be.

Mr Potter
Headteacher