



# SKA HEADLINES

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025

We've had another brilliant week in school, and I'd like to start by celebrating our fantastic attendance. This week, we achieved **97%**, which is above the national average—an amazing effort from our children and families.

A special well done to **Leeds class**, who won the Attendance Cup with a perfect **100% attendance**, and to **Year 4**, who were just behind at **99%**. Just brilliant! Let's keep this momentum going next week and see if we can reach 97% or even higher again. The more children are in school, the more they benefit from the learning and opportunities we provide every day.



## Parking Reminder

A polite reminder not to park on the **yellow zig-zag lines** outside school. These markings are there to protect children's safety by ensuring visibility and clear crossing areas. Parking on them is against the law in England, and enforcement officers can issue penalties. Most importantly, avoiding parking here helps keep all our children safe at busy drop-off and pick-up times—thank you for your cooperation.



## Autumn 1 Curriculum Newsletters

We are excited to share our **Autumn 1 Curriculum Newsletters** following feedback from our parent survey. These were trialled last term, and the response was really positive, so we are delighted to continue with them this year. Please click the links below to access your child's newsletter on your phone or tablet. The links are also on our school Facebook and website:

- [Year 3 Newsletter](#)
- [Year 4 Newsletter](#)
- [Year 5 Newsletter](#)
- [Year 6 Newsletter](#)

## Harvest Festival Collection

We will be collecting donations for **Harvest Festival** in classrooms between **Monday 22nd September and Friday 3rd October 2025**. A basket will also be set up in the foyer from Monday if you wish to drop off donations before then. We are asking for dried foods, tins, and packets only, which will all be donated to **Soup4Em** to support local families in South Kirkby.




## Autumn Term Events & Clubs

Please also check MCAS and our school Facebook page for the letters that went out this week with details of upcoming **Autumn term events** and **after-school clubs**.

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

Telephone: 01924 967615 Email: [skaoffice@watertonacademytrust.org](mailto:skaoffice@watertonacademytrust.org)

Headteacher: Mr Adam Potter Website: [www.southkirkbyacademy.org](http://www.southkirkbyacademy.org)

 Facebook: Search for 'South Kirkby Academy'



Attendance this week: **97%**

<b>Leeds</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Richmond</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>Knaresborough</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>York</b>	<b>97%</b>
<b>Ilkley</b>	<b>97%</b>
<b>Harrogate</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Whitby</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>Filey</b>	<b>93%</b>
Leeds class may wear non-uniform on Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	

<b>Bear (Leeds)</b>	For trying his hardest in everything.
<b>Mason (York)</b>	For following class rules and being an excellent role model.
<b>Harmony (Knaresborough)</b>	For being a superb role model to others and a delight to teach.
<b>Ava D (Richmond)</b>	For overcoming her fears in her first Year 4 swimming lesson.
<b>Mikey (Whitby)</b>	For having an incredible start to Year 5.
<b>Finley (Filey)</b>	For showing resilience in Maths lessons this week.
<b>Poppy (Harrogate)</b>	For making an amazing effort for the whole of this week.
<b>Brandon (Ilkley)</b>	For a great improvement in his handwriting and presentation.

**Congratulations to our Stars of the Week!**

At The National College, our MutualPledge guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly published by National Cyber Security, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are one of the most popular ways that children connect. Group chats allow messages, images and videos to be shared in one place and help friendships flourish, however, they also come with a number of risks.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### TEASING AND BULLYING

Children of all ages are keen to fit in socially, and group chats can sometimes become a place where teasing and bullying can happen. When group chats are used to share jokes or memes, they can also give way to mean comments or jokes at someone's expense, especially when others join in the laughter. When bullying happens publicly in front of friends and supporters, it can intensify the emotional impact - adding to embarrassment, anxiety and feelings of isolation for the child being targeted.

#### UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Children often don't control who is added to a group, which can lead to privacy concerns. Using personal details in group chats can also mean that children have no control over what others do with the material they send. Some members of the chat group even decide to use such information maliciously.

#### PEER PRESSURE

Children may feel they have to constantly stay engaged and to be included and keep up with the conversation. In some cases, they might participate in inappropriate behaviour - like sharing explicit pictures, jokes or teasing - just to fit in. Group settings can also encourage children to do worse than they normally would, or they might feel they have to do something if others are doing it, even if they don't want to.

#### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some group chats may include inappropriate language or imagery. Even if a child isn't actively participating in the conversation, they may still be exposed to this content simply by being part of the group. Some apps have disappearing messaging features, where content is only available once or for a few seconds, which makes it harder for children to report something they've seen.

#### EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

Exclusion in group chats is common and can take several forms. Sometimes a new group is created specifically to leave one child out or purposefully in other ways. The chat may happen in an app that a child doesn't have access to, making it impossible for them to join. This can cause feelings of being left out - even unintentionally.

#### VIDEO AND LIVE CHATS

Many popular apps allow children to engage in live streaming with interactive chats or have group video chats. Deleted can be done to keep the chat clean and other children tag people in the comments and video. Deleted can be done to keep the chat clean and other children tag people in the comments and video. Deleted can be done to keep the chat clean and other children tag people in the comments and video.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

#### CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for children to compete for social status. Just as they build self-esteem, they can also feel the pressure to fit in. Consider how people might feel if they become excluded. If a child does, lead a conversation with them to teach them to show empathy and apologise for their actions.

#### SET SOME GROUP CHAT RULES

Discuss safe group chat practices, such as asking a parent for consent before adding them to a group chat, or raising a group chat if it's stronger. Set ground rules that if they're added to a group chat, they don't agree to be added, it's OK for them to leave immediately.

#### BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child encounters inappropriate content or feels uncomfortable in a group chat, encourage them to block and report this content and leave the group. Make sure children know it's OK to leave a group chat if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

#### SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an essential way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being bullied.

#### PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

It's vital for children to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Before they share anything, they should think about whether it's something they'd be happy to see in a group chat. Remind them that once something is shared in a group chat, they can't be sure where it might end up or how it might be used.

#### SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Being bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction. Encourage children to turn off notifications for the chat. Explain to children that they can still be part of a group chat without disabling notifications. If it would be helpful for them to do so, helping them would be a positive step towards managing their digital life.

Meet Our Expert  
Dr Nicola Pendergast is an online safety consultant at NCSC, who has developed anti-bullying and cyber-safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various educational papers and content and research for the Australian government, comparing the internet use and online behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

**Wake Up Wednesday**  
The National College

Follow us on social media: @wake\_up\_weds, /wake.up.wednesday, @wake.up.wednesday, @wake.up.weds

**A larger version of this is on our Facebook Page**

**Value of the week: Be respectful**

Year 6: Maddie and Adam

Year 5: Porscha and Kai

Year 4: Maci and Joel

Year 3: Mia and Oakley



**Lunchtime Awards**

Elliot J (Y3) and Georgie A (Y5)

**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 by request only.**



**Reminders & Key Dates**

After-school clubs start Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025 - please sign up by 9am on Monday on the MCAS App



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