



Term 4, 2023 Years 3 and 4 Learning Overview



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 4. We hope you have all had a chance to have a break and enjoy some sunshine and time with your families. We are looking forward to another busy term full of exciting learning opportunities.

Our Inquiry topic this term continues to be **Who We Are**. We are learning about each other's culture and heritage. This term children will investigate a country or an aspect of a country that they are interested in and present their findings to the class.

In Week 4 we have Founders Day at Southwell. We will be involved in fun activities relating to Southwell, as well as whole school based events. We also have school-wide athletics coming up in a few weeks time. More information will be sent out closer to the time.

Learning in Year 3&4

Reading

In Reading we will be introducing specific structured literacy texts with a focus on spelling, vocabulary, reading accurately, fluently and with expression. Children will continue to work towards their individual goals with a particular focus on deeper comprehension and inference. They will be reading this text at school and your child will only bring this home at the conclusion of the week. It is important that your child continues to read for pleasure every day with their own choice of book. Children love being read to as you model how to read with fluency and expression. You can help reinforce their understanding by talking about the text with them and pointing out new vocabulary.

Spelling

In Spelling we will continue teaching explicit spelling rules through Structured Literacy with a focus on ensuring this is transferred into writing.

Writing

In Writing we will continue to work on individual goals and encourage children to have a personal voice in their writing by having more choice in their topics. They are much more familiar with the writing process now and are able to write independently. We will continue to write personal recounts on a weekly basis, introduce language features through a poetry unit, as well as writing related to their personal inquiries.

Year 3 Performing Arts and Year 4 Music - Mrs McIntyre

Students will continue working on establishing a tuneful singing voice by singing a range of folk songs individually and with others. The students will become more confident in singing the pitches so, mi, la, do and re and using the solfa hand signs. Students will continue to notate ta, ti-ti, Za, tika-tika and too (crotchets, quavers, semiquavers, minims and rests) rhythms in songs. Students will be learning to play these songs on tuned percussion instruments and begin to notate them on the stave. In Performing Arts our Year 3 The students will be learning a variety of patterns on raku sticks. In Music our Year 4 students will be learning a variety of movements to accompany these songs.



Drama - Mrs Walker

This term, students will develop confidence and have fun revisiting the Drama techniques of body movement, facial expression, gesture and voice through the creation of themed scenarios. They will also focus on the conventions of freeze frame, narration and slow motion in order to build clear dramatic narratives.



Science – Ms Voss

Year 4 students will be learning about soluble and insoluble materials; how solubility can be altered in different conditions and different separation techniques. This will take place in the context of asking a question and completing mini investigations.

Physical Education – Mr Norman and Mr Botha

Athletics (Weeks 1-6) - Students will learn techniques and tips in preparation for their Yr3&4 track and field events on the School Athletics Day in Week 6.

Physical Activity Year Reflection (Weeks 5-9) - Students will get the opportunity to revisit some of their favourite games and physical activities that they have participated in over the year.

Water Confidence (Weeks 6-9) - Students will build their confidence and survival skills in the water through various water safety scenarios in preparation for future pool, beach, river and lake adventures.

Chinese – Mrs Turner

Students will continue learning to say names of some animals and make simple sentences with these words. They will also learn to sing the Two Tiger song in Chinese.



Library – Mrs Walch / Mrs Huggins

In the Library we will be continuing to promote engaging literature, encourage critical thinking and reinforce inquiry skills. Children will also be encouraged to spend quality time with their book of choice.

Teachers can choose to request reinforcement of specific skills if it suits their classroom programme.

Summer Reading will be offered closer to the end of Term 4, which students can sign up to, with parent permission.

Te Reo - Whaea Whetu

This term, students will continue to build their vocabulary of everyday kupu. Tamariki will learn waiata and make Maaori themed crafts around the season of Kirihimete.

Christian Education – Chaplain / Rev Pickering

In Term 4 Christian Education, the students will continue learning how the Old Testament and New Testament connect. Special attention will be paid to the Season of Advent in the lead up to Christmas.

Year 3 Christian Education - the focus will be on the Season of Advent and the traditions and stories surrounding the Nativity of Jesus Christ.



Calendar and Week Ahead

Click **HERE** for the Term 4 School Calendar. Please note - this is updated regularly so please check it often. Please also read the Week Ahead that is emailed to parents every Friday to keep informed of what is happening at Southwell.

We are looking forward to our last term with your children. It is hard to believe the end of the year is almost upon us. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher if needed. If you have a concern, please ensure the first port of call is the classroom teacher, we are more than happy to help. A gentle reminder that teachers are available in classes from 8am. We have noticed some children arriving at school very early. The Library is always open prior to 8am for children needing a warm space to wait.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Kirsty McDonald
Nina Phillips
Linda Simon
Amy Pomare
Year 3 & 4 Teachers