



## **Term 4, 2023** **Year 5 Learning Overview**



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to the final term of 2023. It will be another busy and exciting term with lots of end of year formalities including Founders Day and Athletics Day. This letter is to outline some of the learning programmes that we will be covering in Term 4.

What an amazing end to Term 3 with the performance of the School Opera, The School Of Rock. We were so proud seeing some of our Year 5 students, along with the rest of the cast presenting a fun, colourful and vibrant show.

### **Inquiry**

The Big Idea for Term 4 continues to be **Who We Are**. This term we are going to be looking at 'Kiwiana,' exploring what identifies us as a country of Kiwis. We will be delving into the cultural features and icons that distinguish us as New Zealanders now and in the past. Becoming more aware of the geography of New Zealand and the natural and man-made landmarks as well as the historical reasons different areas were called particular names will be explored.

## **Learning in Year 5**

### **Reading**

Guided reading groups will continue, along with the opportunity for children to read independently. Discussions with children will focus on generating appropriate questions as they read and the author's purpose. This will help children to gain a deeper understanding of the story. Teachers spend time reading to children to support vocabulary development and reading comprehension. Remember to encourage your child to read for 20 minutes each night as part of their routine. Talking about the story with you, explaining why they think something happened, and justifying their thinking, are important ways to clarify their understanding of the text.



### **Writing**

We will continue to focus on building each child's independence and responsibility for their written language. Building up a bank of writing ideas is done through the children's writing journal, ensuring that children always have an idea to write about. Helping to make their writing more accurate and more interesting will be a focus for each teacher.

### **Spelling**

We will continue to work through the Structured Literacy scope and sequence this term introducing and consolidating ways of recording different sounds using explicit teaching. We will be extending this by using prefixes and suffixes to develop new words from known ones and looking at differing types of words and sentences. Steps Web is part of the children's practise of these spelling rules and to build their own spelling knowledge. We will be assigning children tasks in Steps Web that focus on the particular sounds that we are learning during the week. Transferring spelling knowledge is a focus of our writing programme, with children encouraged to use their knowledge of letter sound combinations and spelling rules to make their writing more accurate. Dictionary skills are also being encouraged so that children can proofread their own work.



### **Maths**

This term we will be focusing on number patterns through the unit of Algebra and learning about Statistics and Probability. We will continue to expand on the children's ability to solve problems by developing the strategies they can use to gain answers. Basic facts remain an important focus for some of our students and weekly timed tests are a way to motivate the daily practice that children need to consolidate these.

### **Drama - Mrs Albery**

Students will be working to extend their knowledge and experience of drama conventions and techniques through the context of mime. Students will be building on building structure, dramatic narratives, and conventions like slow motion and freeze-frame.



### **Music - Mrs Albery**

Students will be looking at how to compose melodies through the use of the pentatonic scale. The beginning of the module will be consolidating their knowledge of the pentatonic scale then we will focus on compositional techniques.

### **Science - Ms Voss**

Students will complete a unit looking at the lifecycle of a flowering plant. They will learn what a seed needs to germinate and then have the opportunity to dissect seeds and flowers to find major structures within. The main stages of the lifecycle will be discussed with a focus on seed dispersal toward the end of term. Students will also be offered a flowering plant to bring home if they are interested in caring for one.



### **Art - Mrs Hickey / Mrs Turner**

The first few weeks will be spent completing our fractured art pieces. The aim will be for students to use the colour theory, drawing and painting techniques that we have looked at throughout the year and consolidate this into a presentation piece based around an animal of their choice. There will also be further opportunity to experiment with new materials, as well as building on their existing drawing skills.

### **Physical Education - Mr Botha, Miss Ross, Mr Norman**

Athletics (Weeks 1-5) - Students will learn techniques and tips in preparation for their Year 5 track and field events on the School Athletics Day in Week 6.

Badminton (Weeks 6-8) - Students will learn the skills and rules associated with playing badminton in light of them playing this sport in the near future competitively or socially.



Swim Safe (Weeks 6-8) - Students will develop their water safety skills through a variety of activities to help them become more confident in water from a survival perspective.

### **Christian Education - Reverend Pickering**

In Term 4 Christian Education, the students will continue piecing together the jigsaw puzzle of who Jesus Christ is, by connecting the Old and New Testaments. As we lead up to Christmas, we will also discuss the significance of the nativity story and what it means for us.

### **Chinese - Mrs Turner**

Students will be learning body part words through a song and making Christmas decorations using Chinese characters and paper folding.

### **Technology - Mrs Savage**

In Technology we will complete our beautiful recipe books. Then we will begin a simple handcrafted Christmas decoration. Children will add their own flair to this piece using paint. Creative design and accurate finishing of the piece will be important.

### **Library – Mrs Walch**

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 and read for pleasure. 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.

### **Stationery**

Please check with your child should they need to update any of their stationery needs including headphones. The children in Year 5 need the following items to be equipped fully for each days activities: Blue and red pen (this may be a four colour pen), Pencil, Ruler, Rubber, Glue Stick, Pink Highlighter

Each teacher will be checking for these at the start of the term and emailing you to replace any missing items. This will happen periodically throughout the term. We can obtain any items through the office and charge them to your school account should you wish this to happen.

### **Devices**

A reminder that mobile phones are only used after 3.20pm to communicate with parents/caregivers. At all other times they will be in students' school bags. Please do not expect your child to reply to messages during the school day. Laptops are used as a learning tool, with children accessing their school email for learning tasks.

### **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 look forward to a positive last term of the year.

Regards  
Jo McFarlane  
Phillippa Milroy  
Greer Caddigan  
**Year 5 Teachers**

