



**SOUTHWELL
SCHOOL**

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Term 4, 2023 **Year 8 Learning Overview**



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Term 4 promises to provide an action-packed end to an exciting school year, with all the upcoming events and learning opportunities we have planned. It also brings a chapter of learning to a close for our Year 8 students and we want to celebrate their time with us here at Southwell, in a positive and purposeful way.

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.

List of Upcoming Year 8 Events:

(Friday's 'Week Ahead' communication will include these events and all Whole School events)

- **Week 2**
Friday, 20th October- Year 13's come back to visit our Year 8s
- **Week 3**
Friday, 27th October to Sunday 29th October - Combined Choir Trip
- **Week 4**
Wednesday, 1st November- Founders' Day
Thursday, 2nd November, Girls' Cricket only fixture- Huntley
- **Week 5**
Monday, 6th November - Year 8 guest speaker
Wednesday, 8th November - St Peter's Fixture
Wednesday, 8th November- Speech and Drama Recital Evening
- **Week 6**
All week - Speech and Drama Exams
Tuesday 14th November to Thursday 16th November- Itinerant Concerts in the evenings
Thursday, 16th November- Senior Athletics Heats
- **Week 7**
Monday, 20th November to Thursday 23rd November - Itinerant Concerts in the evenings
Wednesday, 22nd November - Mufti Day (for Special Children's Christmas)
Friday, 24th November - Senior School Athletics Day
- **Week 8**
Monday, 27th November - Full School Athletics Postponement Date
Wednesday, 29th November - WFPSA Athletics Day (for qualifying students)
Friday, 1st December- Year 8 Carol Service and Alumni Event for all Year 8 parents and students. More information to come closer to the time. NB Y8's are not required to attend House Carol Services.
- **Week 9**
Thursday, 7th December - Year 8 Fun Day. No morning tea or lunch required (*Notice to be sent home about this day and evening*)
Thursday evening - Year 8 Social for all Year 8 students. We spoke to all students about the expected attire. See [here](#) for more details about this Fun Day and Social.
- **Week 10**
Monday, 11th December - Year 8 Sports Day
Tuesday, 12th December - Senior Prize Giving, 1pm start time. Last day of Term 4.

Athletics

Our whole school Athletics Day is scheduled for Friday, 24th of November, Week 7. We invite you to come along with a picnic and enjoy supporting your child by being a part of this great event. Year 8 students compete in the shot put, discus, cricket ball throw, long jump, high jump, 100m, 200m, 75m hurdles, 800m, 1500m (optional).

Year 8 Assessments

Assessments in Mathematics (PAT and Gloss), Reading (Probe), Writing samples and Spelling assessments will take place throughout the term. There will also be scheduled testing days for some Secondary Schools.

Devices

A reminder that mobile phones are only to be used after 3.20pm, to communicate with parents/caregivers. At all other times they must remain in students' school bags and be put on silent. Please do not expect your child to reply to messages during the school day. Laptops are to be used as a learning tool only. If a student chooses to use their device inappropriately, then their laptop, or phone, will be held by the teacher until the end of the day. We will make contact with parents if there is an ongoing issue.

Learning in Year 8

Reading

Our literacy programme is designed to target individual reading needs and teach our students the skills required to understand what is being read, as well as building a lifelong love of reading. With this in mind we strongly recommend the continuation of regular reading for pleasure at home. We encourage you to take time to talk to your child about the books they are reading. Have them retell what they have read, talk about the characters or the plot. Our weekly library visits with our school librarian will remain a highlight on our weekly class calendars.

Writing

This term, students will continue to use the writing tools that we have all been learning about throughout the year. These tasks are designed to challenge the students at their ability level and to build independence. Teachers will ensure a wide range of writing styles are covered, grouping students with similar needs together when teaching skills. From letter writing to poetry we will always explore writing through the writing process...plan, draft, edit, revise and publish, when the need arises.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, students will continue a focus on the Number Strand. Algebra and Problem Solving will feature in our Mathematics programmes throughout Term 4. Term 4 is also used as a time to revise prior learning to ensure understanding.

Inquiry: Health and Sexuality. Who Are We?

Over Term 4, we will be focusing on this very important topic, in all Year 8 classes. Our discussions and learning will be a natural extension of the learning the students did on this subject in Year 7. Puberty and relationships can be challenging for many students and this programme will help them "Navigate the Journey." Using the New Zealand Family Planning Resource, we will create a safe environment where students are encouraged to ask appropriate questions. With an emphasis on respectful relationships, body changes and self image, communication, and keeping ourselves safe, students will develop empathy, understanding and confidence. Please click [here](#) for the letter sent home to parents and caregivers.

Science - Mrs Bradding

Science in Term 4 will see the students looking at the structure of an atom and how chemical changes involve the rearrangement of atoms and the formation of new substances. This will lead on to the practical applications that these chemical changes may have in our everyday lives. We will continue to use the scientific method to guide our investigations and work on interpreting results and drawing conclusions.



Healthy Choices - Mrs Hawthorn

During Term 4, we will be focusing on developing a healthy lifestyle through food, fitness and learning a range of everyday skills. Our food technology focus will be around the Year 8 Social and the opportunity we have to help cater it. We will be learning a range of different mindfulness strategies which will help to prepare the students for new environments next year.

Physical Education - Various teachers

Athletics (Weeks 1-5) - Students will learn techniques and tips in preparation for their Year 8 track and field events on the School Athletics Day in Week 6 and 7.

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.

Badminton (Weeks 6-9) - 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.

Te Reo Maaori- Whaea Whetu

This term tamariki will learn to play the traditional game of Ki-o-Rahi which focuses on team work, fitness and an ability to articulate instructions in te reo Maaori.

Technology - Mr Williams

Students will use the design process and many of the skills that they have learned this year to make a project. They will also use STEAM to solve fun technology problems.

Christian Education - Chaplain

In Term 4, the focus of lessons will involve an intense look at the key "Big Questions of Life" as the students round off their year & we make preparations for the Season of Advent - the first season of the Church's year.

Music - Mrs Albery

In Term 4, students will be using music technology to create music with structure. The concepts that we will be covering are recording, using loops, creating their own loops and editing.



Drama - Mrs Walker

In Term 4 students will build on their knowledge of dramatic conventions to create dramatic plays. They will work collaboratively in small groups to devise and structure their performances.

Art - Mrs Wing

In Term 4 students will focus on building their art skills. Learning about perspective and shading, and experimenting with different art materials. Students will be looking at New Zealand artists and creating more complex art projects to show their creativity and style.

Pottery - Mrs Wathen

In Term 4 Students will use slab, pinch and coil to create a Humpback whale as we continue to explore the theme “ Under the Sea “

Library - Mrs Walch

In the Library we will be continuing to promote great literature, encourage critical thinking and reinforce any inquiry skills which may be required for classroom learning. We will also continue to teach around the idea of misinformation and encourage students to think critically about what they come across online. We encourage students to know themselves as readers (i.e. what they like and don't like, what genres they prefer, what font size they are comfortable reading etc.) This will stand them in good stead for High School.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to having a wonderful final Term at Southwell School with our Year 8s.

Kerrie Martin (Year 8 Dean)

Candy Hart

Mark Pearson

Glen McKay

Donna Rudduck

Pen Holah

Year 8 Teaching Team



It has been a pleasure being on the Learning Journey with our Year 8's over 2023.