## Term 12024 <br> Years 3 \& 4 Learning Overview

Dear Parents and Caregivers,
Welcome to a new school year with your child being part of the Year 3 and 4 syndicate. It will be an exciting term of learning, fun and relationship building. This year we welcome two new classroom teachers - Jane de Malmanche into Year 3 and Brooke Goodwin into Year 4.

## Introducing the Year 3 \& 4 Team

Mrs Kirsty McDonald (Dean) 4KMD: kirsty.mcdonald@southwell.school.nz
Miss Brooke Goodwin 4BG: brooke.goodwin@southwell.school.nz
Mrs Amy Pomare 3APO: amy.pomare@southwell.school.nz
Miss Jane de Malmanche 3JDM: jane.demalmanche@southwell.school.nz


Your child's homeroom teacher will be your first port-of-call should you have any questions or queries and can be reached on the above email address, or in person at drop off and pick up times. Teachers are generally available in their classrooms from 8.00 am onwards. If your child needs to be at school earlier than 8am, please note that the library is open, but there may not always be a teaching staff present.

We look forward to establishing a strong partnership between students, teachers and parents.

## Useful things to note about Years 3 and 4. <br> Week Ahead

This will be emailed to Parents and Caregivers every Friday from the School Administrator. It is important that you are receiving this and that you read it carefully, as it has useful information about what is coming up in the week ahead. Teachers will also send out a note each Friday with information on the following weeks.

## Learning Conferences

Learning Conferences will take place in Week 3, on the 5th, 7th and 8th of February (with the 6th being Waitangi Day). Please book online as soon as possible to get your preferred slot. The link has been emailed to you from the School Administrator. Learning Conferences
are a great opportunity for you to get to know your child's teacher, and for the teacher to learn more about your child. Teachers will be involved in collecting assessment data to inform their teaching and your input as a parent will be invaluable to our staff as part of this process. A short questionnaire will be sent home with your child in Week 2. Please bring this to your conference.

## Uniform

It has been lovely to see our learners ready for learning and smartly dressed in their uniforms. To remain sun-safe, our school hats are compulsory in Terms 1 and 4 and all children must wear their hats during break times. Please help us to return uniform items to the right family by making sure all items of the School uniform are clearly named.


## Lunches/Snacks

Named water bottles are important especially during hot weather so please send a drink bottle along each day. Students will be able to access their drink bottle at any time of the day. We will have a fruit and vegetable break each morning in addition to their morning tea. Please provide your child with some sliced / peeled fruit or vegetables, or a small container of raisins or other dried fruit. Please NO NUTS (we are a nut free school).

## Timetable

Your child's timetable will be in their school diary, which will come home in the next few days. Please check for the days that your child needs to have their library books and PE uniform at school. Students are required to wear covered shoes in Science so will need their PE shoes on these days.

## Homework

Homework at Year 3 and 4 is designed to allow flexibility for learners with differing needs and abilities, reinforce current learning, and to help your child develop an understanding of the importance of developing routines and managing their time. It is also an opportunity to share learning with parents. Homework should be a stress free situation. Tasks should be relatively straightforward and students should be able to complete these independently in most cases. Students will be issued with a homework diary and this is a great way to communicate with the homeroom teacher if need be.

All students are set Reading homework four nights of the week (Monday - Thursday). In Year 3 and 4 this will be a mixture of personal reading, library books, and school readers. Most children in Year 4 will be encouraged to read a chapter book. This can be from our school library, the Public library or a book from home. In class, we will also be reading decodable texts with the children. These will not always come home as they are used over the course of the week in classroom reading lessons.


In addition to Reading homework, students will have optional, additional homework, which can be completed to assist with their learning in Mathematics and Spelling. This homework will be set by your child's class teacher or Mathematics teacher and will reflect the learning they are doing in class. The option of Mathematics and Spelling homework will be phased into your child's homework during Term 1 - once initial assessments have been completed.

If homework is becoming stressful or students are struggling to work within the time-frames, please contact your child's teacher through diary or email. We understand that our students learn at different levels and paces. We also understand that our students are busy learners with activities outside of school hours, so contacting your child's teacher helps us to balance the workload.

The recommended time allowance for reading each night is:
Year $3 \quad 15$ minutes
Year 420 minutes

The optional tasks are in addition to this suggested reading time.


## Morning routines

Children are welcome to come into their classroom from 8.00am. Before this time the teachers are preparing for the day and having meetings. Between 8.00 and 8.25 am is a time to foster independence - we would love to see children unpacking their own book bag and getting organized for the day by themselves. Please try to have your child at school before 8.25 as if they are late they tend to start the day on the wrong foot.

For those children in Year 4, we notice this can be a big step up as your child takes even greater responsibility for their belongings and getting set up for the day. The bell will ring to start the day at 8.25 am and we encourage children to arrive at least 10 minutes before, giving them time to set up for the day and interact with their peers.


## Communication

Please email or write a note in your child's diary to let teachers know of any appointments, after school care, change of usual person picking up your child, etc.

The diary will be read and signed each day by the teacher. Your child will write their reading homework and reminders in their diary. Please read and sign this each night. This will let us know that your child has completed their reading. Each week we will focus on one of the Southwell School Values and we may ask you to write a sentence stating when you have seen your child display this value.

We know that at times, parents will have a change of plan with regard to end-of-day pick up arrangements. If you need to communicate a change to your child, please let the office know first and they will contact the classroom teacher on your behalf, as we are not always able to check our emails during the day.

## Physical Education (PE)

Your child will have 3 PE sessions a week taken by specialist PE teachers. As our School pool is being refurbished in Term 1, your child will not be swimming during this term like they normally would. If for some reason your child is unable to do PE please write in the diary and their PE teacher will take note of this.

## Learning in Year 3\&4

In the first few weeks of school we will be working on building a positive classroom culture by developing relationships with others, being resilient and having a growth mindset. We will also base much of the learning around camp (Week 5 for Year 4, and Week 6 for Year 3). We will work on meeting challenges, cooperation and personal achievements. Later in the term we will focus on Grandparents and their stories, to coincide with Grandparents' Day.

## Reading

Reading in Term 1 will focus on Reading to children, reading with children and reading by children. Guided reading programmes will focus on reinforcing decoding strategies and developing reading comprehension skills.

## Writing

Writing programmes this term will cover a variety of genres, including recounts from the holidays, writing letters and poetry. We will build up our writing stamina and teach students the tools to enhance their writing content.

Steps Web, a computer based literacy programme, will be used to assess and determine which spelling strategies your child needs to develop. These will be reinforced with class and group activities in the classroom, and are also part of their homework programme.

## Maths

Maths will start with a focus on Statistics (Year 4) and Number (Year 3), developing knowledge of Mathematical concepts and problem solving strategies to enable children to find solutions will be covered. The Maths Buddy (Year 3), or Mathletics (Year 4) online tools will be a part of the class programme, as well as being available for children to use outside of school to develop Mathematical skills.


## Big Idea for Inquiry

Our Big Idea this term is Making Sense of Our World. We will be focusing on
"living things" and animals interact with each other and the environment. This will lead to personal inquiries about animals particularly animals who are in trouble.

## Physical Education - Mr Johannes Botha and Miss Bev McMaster All for one and one for all

Students will explore the concepts of teamwork when playing together and how their actions can affect others. Questioning themselves on how they can help the team, they will ask, 'How can I help us?

## Space Invaders

Students will delve deeper into the concept of space within sports, engaging in various games that emphasize invasive thinking and movements.

## Hit me with your best shot

Students will develop body control and spatial awareness while exploring striking with a variety of implements.

## Te Reo (Year 3) - Whaea Whetu Te Ua

Students will continue to improve pronunciation and build their vocabulary of everyday greetings, feelings, and school based items through games, waiata, and stories related to te ao Maaori.

## Christian Education - Reverend Matt Pickering and Reverend Canon Neale Troon

 The students will begin a series of lessons looking at the basics of the Christian faith, as we journey towards one of the main festivals in the Christian calendar, the festival of Easter. As students interact with the Biblical story and participate in related activities, they can discover God's love for all people and how we can look after God's beautiful world.

## Library - Mrs Penny Walch and Mrs Julie Huggins

The focus throughout the year in the Library is to respond to the needs of individual classes and students, with specific reference to developing key library skills, encouraging a love of literature and supporting teachers to build up a toolkit of inquiry skills. Each library session will include some time for children to choose and read books and also a short teaching session. Term 1 will specifically focus on learning to use the library effectively and respectfully.

## Drama (Year 4) - Mrs Angela Walker

Students are introduced to the key drama techniques of facial expression, gesture, body movement and voice. They work collaboratively in a range of group situations in order to create and perform dramatic scenarios. Later this term, the children will have the opportunity to audition for the 2024 Year 4 Production "Alice in Wonderland".

## Music (Year 4) and Performing Arts (Year 3) - Mrs Julia McIntyre

Students will work on continuing to develop a tuneful singing voice. They will continue learning to sing a range of folk songs individually and with others, using mainly the pitches so, mi, la, do and re (year 4 only). Students will be able to sing the solfa of those pieces (Year 4 students will use the related hand signals fluently). Students will also recap the rhythms learnt last year of ta, ti-ti, za, tika-tika and too. Year 4 students will also learn songs for the Year Four Production.

## Science (Year 4) - Ms Cindy Voss

Parents are reminded that students need to wear covered shoes when they come to the Science laboratory. As sandals are worn in Term 1 and Term 4, this is something to remember on the day your child has Science. Shoes used for PE are suitable.

Year 4 students will be learning about some of the common forms of measurement used in Science through practical activities. We will focus on metric measurements. These will include, as a minimum, measuring distance, mass, temperature and volume.

We are looking forward to a year of learning and fun with your child.
Kirsty McDonald (Dean)
Brooke Goodwin
Amy Pomare
Jane de Malmanche

## Year 3 and 4 Teachers

