



## **Term 1, 2024**

### **Year 5 Learning Overview**

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to 2024. We look forward to a busy and exciting term with lots of opportunities for learning and personal development.

#### **Introducing the Year 5 Teaching Team**

Mrs Jo McFarlane (Dean) 5JMF

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Miss Greer Caddigan 5GC

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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 8.00am 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.* Alternatively, teachers can be reached by phoning the school office – 07 855 2089.

We look forward to establishing an amazing partnership between students, teachers and parents.

#### **Useful things to note about Year 5**

##### **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). Boarder's conferences are held on Friday, 9th February. 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.

### Camp

Camp this year will take place during Week 6, from 26 February to 1 March. On Monday we will be doing activities at school. On Tuesday, we will travel to Rotorua and spend three nights at Keswick Camp, returning on Friday afternoon. Please click [HERE](#) for the camp timetable.

Please click [HERE](#) for the gear list which outlines the necessary equipment that is needed over camp week.



All information including the cost for camp can be found on the school website. This cost will be charged to your account. More specific details including an in-school mountain bike awareness course will be sent home closer to the time.

A camp meeting for all parents will be held on **Friday the 9th of February (Week 3) at 5.30pm**. We will be outlining the camp programme, expectations and there will be a chance to ask questions.

### 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. Please send a drink bottle along each day. The children will be able to access their drink bottle at any time of the day. We will have a fruit/vegetable break each morning, additional 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

This will come home pasted in the diary in the next couple of days. Please check for the days that your child needs to have their library books and PE uniform at school.

## Homework

All students are set reading homework four nights of the week (Monday – Thursday). In addition to Reading homework each night, students in Year 5 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.

At Southwell School, Homework in Year 5 is designed to:

- allow flexibility for learners with differing needs and abilities
- reinforce current learning
- understand the importance of developing routines and managing their time
- 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. 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.

It is recommended that Year 5 children spend 20 mins each night reading a book of their own choice. This may also include reading to your child as this helps develop reading comprehension and fluency. Other optional tasks would be in addition to this suggested reading time.

To develop your child's comprehension of their reading the following short link outlines generic questions that you can ask your child to ensure that they have understood what they have read. They can be used if your child is reading independently, to you or you reading to them. [7 Questions to ask your child during story time.](#)





To enable teachers to keep track of what your child is reading for homework, we will be setting up routines with their Homework Diaries. More details will come early this term as we begin our learning programmes. The diary includes a space for personal reflection around the [School's Weekly Themes](#).

### **Sport**

Sport is on Tuesday - 3.30 - 4.30pm and Thursday - 2.30 - 3.30pm. Even if it is wet, Sports practice will continue in the coach's classroom. The weekly draw for each code's game will be on the School website under Parent / Sports.

Sports trials for Year 5 and 6 teams will be held in Week 2 - Tues - 3.30 - 4.20pm (during normal sports practice time) and Thursday 2.30 - 3.20 (during normal sports practice time). Please make sure that your child has their PE uniform every day and any sports gear that is needed.

To help your child with their personal organisation, please may they all have a pencil case. This will help them when they move from classroom to classroom for different subjects. Also a set of headphones will be useful, either small buds or bigger ones to cover their ears. We use computers for learning and practice and being able to hear what is being said without disturbing the class is important.

### **Science Footwear**

Please note that children need to bring covered shoes (trainers) on their Science day to ensure they are safe in the laboratory.

### **Learning in Year 5**

Along with the more formal Curriculum areas, many opportunities arise every day where children are able to practice and consolidate skills in interpersonal relationships, managing themselves and developing independence. The focus on these and other important attitudes and values help develop balanced and holistic children who can then take these same skills into other areas of their lives.

The Year 5s will be starting to develop their annual Production based on learning at school and Camp around Waikato Maori Myths and Legends. This will be a child-centered show with guidance and boundaries set by teaching staff. It is a great opportunity for children to work in groups to develop and present the stories they have heard and to use a variety of Art domains to present some of their learning. Further details for possible props and costumes will be sent home closer to the time. The Production will be presented at the end of the Term.



### **Reading**

Reading in Term 1 will focus on Reading to children / Reading with children and Reading by children. Guided reading programmes will focus on Maori Legends and children will be encouraged to expand their ability to read on their own to develop reading mileage. Leveled reading books will be used with each child to develop in depth reading comprehension skills.

### **Writing**

Our writing programme this term will focus on developing the writing process: planning, drafting, editing, proofreading and publishing their work. The children will plan to ensure that their stories flow, build stamina to write longer, take responsibility to ensure that their writing is becoming more accurate and present their stories for others to enjoy. We will be developing focussed writing based on a single event and elaborating.

### **Structured Literacy**

Year 5's will continue to work on the Structured Literacy programme with their spelling to develop their knowledge and understanding of how letters work together to form different sounds. Discussions and sentence building work will focus on differing types of words and sentences and how these are constructed. Steps Web, a computer based literacy programme, will continue to be used to consolidate this spelling knowledge. These will be reinforced with class and group activities in the classroom.

### **Maths**

Maths will start with a focus on Number - including place value, fractions and decimals and working with larger numbers. Developing knowledge of Mathematical concepts and problem solving strategies to enable children to find solutions to word problems will be covered. Improving basic facts knowledge will also be a priority. The Maths Buddy computer programme 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**

Making Sense of Our World is the focus for Inquiry for the whole school for Term 1 and 2 2024. In Year 5 this will focus, at the start of the term, on developing classroom routines and relationships including positive ways of relating to other children. The Southwell Values will form the basis for guiding and reflecting on behavior and children will look at what these Values look like in practice. Aspects of NZ history will be explored around Waitangi Day. Cyber Safety will also be discussed, developing healthy ways to use devices both at school and at home. Computers are a tool that are used in Year 5 with children having their own computer to use while at school and encouraging self-management is an important skill to develop. This will lead into further class and individual inquiries in Term 2 based around Making Sense of Our World.



## **Physical Education – Mr Norman, Mr Botha, Miss McMaster**

### **Flying Together (Adventure Challenges)**

Students will explore how their interactions with others in various challenging settings can impact their team's ability to succeed. Reflecting on their team's successes and failures, they will ask themselves, 'How can I help my team soar higher?'

### **Play by the Rules**

Students will reflect on the importance of rules and how to navigate the idea of fairness by taking part in a variety of games and activities.

### **Skipping over it**

Students will engage in a variety of skipping activities, ranging from individual to pair and group activities, using ropes of different lengths. These exercises emphasise movement, flow, and timing.

### **Frisbee vs. Golf**

Students will explore a variety of different frisbee throws to enhance distance, accuracy, and direction, culminating in the application of these skills in Frisbee Golf. Additionally, this will indirectly develop the fundamental skill of catching.

## **Science – Ms Voss**

The students will be learning about why volcanoes erupt, and how and why earthquakes occur. They will gain an understanding of tectonic plate movement, the structure of the Earth and how volcanoes grow and change the shape of New Zealand. Please remember covered shoes for every Science lesson. Sports shoes used for PE are suitable with socks.



## **Technology – Miss McMaster**

Over Term 1, the students will work together to solve a series of STEM challenges, some of which will incorporate some basic coding. STEM challenges integrate concepts from science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and they require the students to think creatively, use teamwork to solve problems, and be innovative with a variety of materials.

## **Christian Education – Reverend Pickering**

In Term 1, the students will have lessons that explore the basics of the Christian faith, leading up to the core festival of Easter. We will look at who Jesus is and where He fits in the wider Biblical narrative. We will also discuss how this story gives meaning and hope for many people living today.

### **Maaori – Whaea Whetu**

This term, tamariki will improve their pronunciation of te reo and enhance their ability to communicate stories through their use of waiata as part of their production journey. We will look at puuraakau (myths and legends) of the Maaori people and how these stories have shaped our nation.

### **Art – Mrs Voss**

In Art, students have a weekly session and will be learning specific processes and techniques necessary for making artworks. They will keep a record of this work in their personal visual diary. In Term 1 the focus is on line drawing, shading, tone and shape.

### **Music – Mrs Albery**

Students will be introduced to taonga puuoro, traditional Maaori instruments, and their purpose. Students will be learning a variety of waiata and responding to music as part of their Year 5 production.

### **Drama – Mrs Albery**

In Drama, students will be building a knowledge and understanding of Drama techniques and their importance when creating characters. This will be transferred into developing stories and characters in their Year 5 Production.

### **Library – Mrs Walch**

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 in building 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.

We look forward to working with your child this term and seeing their growth and development in both personal and curriculum areas.

Regards

Jo McFarlane (Dean)  
Phillippa Milroy  
Greer Caddigan  
**Year 5 Teachers**