



Term 1, 2024

Year 6 Learning Overview

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Southwell School for 2024 and the Year 6 Syndicate. Hopefully your child has enjoyed the first few days with us and is excited about their first term in Year 6. The following letter outlines a few specifics about Year 6 that will be useful to know.

There are four Year 6 classes. Our teachers are:

Mr Darren Bryan (Dean) - 6DB

darren.bryan@southwell.school.nz

Mrs Sarah Gregory - 6SG

sarah.gregory@southwell.school.nz

Mrs Liz Donald - 6LD

liz.donald@southwell.school.nz

Mrs Barbara Nicholson - 6BN

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All classes work together to plan and implement consistent learning programmes across the year group while catering for the individual strengths and needs.

Below are some important notices regarding upcoming events and useful things to note about Year 6.

Week Ahead

This will be emailed every Friday to all Southwell parents from the School Administrator. It is important that you are getting this and you read it carefully as it has important information about what is coming up in the week ahead.

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 on Friday, 9 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. A short questionnaire will be sent home with your child in Week 2. Please bring this to your conference.

Specialist classes

Please check for when your child needs to have their P.E.Gear and Library books. Please also note when Science and Technology lessons are. On these days students will need to have their sports shoes as they need to be wearing closed shoes in the Labs.

Sport

Trials and practices start in week 2. Year 5/6 sports trials are scheduled for Tuesday, 30 January and Thursday 1 February. Once the sports programme is underway children should bring their Sports gear on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If the weather is inclement, coaches will supervise teams in their classrooms until normal collection times.

Sport practice days and times

Tuesdays 3.30—4.20pm

Thursdays 2.30—3.20pm

NB: there is no after-school sports training in Week 3 (Tuesday 6 February) due to Learning Conferences.

Uniform and Behaviour

Please refer to the [handbook](#) for correct uniform details. Please note that we have discussed correct uniform, hairstyles and attitude with the Year 6 students. We have also shared our [Code of Conduct](#) with them so the children are aware of the expectations and attitudes we require in order for everyone to maximise learning. Please discuss with your child's teacher if you have further questions.

School hats are compulsory in Terms 1 and 4. All children must wear their hats during break times. Please ensure your child brings their hat to school each day this term or leaves it hanging on their hook at school. Please make sure all items of school uniform are clearly named. This is very important.



Communication with your child

If you are needing to communicate with your child during the school day, we ask you to call or email the office and the message will be forwarded to the Homeroom teachers. **Students do not have access to their phones during the day as they are required to leave them in their bags.** We also remind you that students need to sign out at the office if they are leaving the school grounds during school time. They are also required to be wearing full school uniform.

Sunscreen

Whilst we have sunscreen available in each room, it is a good idea to apply a layer in the morning at home so children are well protected at the beginning of the day.

Homework

All homework will be recorded by your child in their diary to make sure you know what needs to be done. The amount of work given over the course of the week will be able to be completed within 30 minutes of work per night on average. The teacher will sign the diary each day. Please could you also sign the diary to let the teacher know that you are aware of the homework requirements and have noted any important messages. The diary includes a space for personal reflection around the [School's Weekly Themes](#).

Stationery

Each student has been issued with a stationery pack to start the year with. More stationery items can be purchased through the office. Class teachers have copies of an order form that students can use and these are then charged to school accounts. As teachers, we have also found that it is helpful if students bring in a cheap pair of headphones to keep in the classroom to assist with audiobooks and text to voice apps on the computers. These need to be named. It is not recommended that students bring expensive or gaming headphones as these can easily be lost or broken.

Brain Food

Every morning around 10 am we have a "brain food break". Please allow your child to pack an additional healthy snack such as fruit. A reminder to please avoid nuts and nut products. Boarders are able to take extra fruit from the boarding house before school for their brain food break.

School Hours

Children will be supervised in the classroom from 8.00am onwards and the school day finishes at 3.20pm. Any children that are not collected by 3.30pm will be supervised at After School Care in the Library.



Camp

Camp for Year 6 is coming up in Week 6. We will stay at Lake Taupo for 4 nights from Monday, 26 February to Friday, 1 March. More information including a timetable and what to bring can be found on the school website. [Click here for a link to the 2024 Gear List](#) Please feel free to talk to your child's classroom teacher if you need more information.



Learning in Year 6

This half year the Big Idea for the school is **Making Sense of Our World**. In Year 6, students will be examining this with a unit called Space Exploration. This is an inquiry into how space exploration has had an impact in our world through technological developments, scientific understandings and cultural perspectives.

We will also be focussing on the school values of Caring, Excellence, Integrity, Creativity, Resilience and Respect.

This Big Idea will be reflected throughout all curriculum areas. As such I have included a brief outline of the learning that will be taking place this term for your interest.

Learning in Term 1

Reading – Year 6 Teachers

We are looking at reading for enjoyment, finding books that are a good fit and exploring a range of different genres. In teaching sessions, the focus is on understanding the main message and purpose of the text and tailored to the learning needs of the individual students in the class.

Writing – Year 6 Teachers

We are using different stimuli to encourage and inspire our writing and setting individual goals. We are looking at the structure of different types of writing and writing for purpose and in Term 1 this will be mainly recounts, letters and writing that supports our big idea.



Mathematics – Year 6 Teachers / Reverend Pickering

Students are looking at the Number strand with particular focus on place value and the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Emphasis is placed on using these in practical situations and with word problems. Mathematics classes are grouped according to learning needs.

Social Science

This term we are making an inquiry into how space exploration has had an impact in our world. As we move through the term students will examine how through the pursuit of space exploration of the years has lead to technological developments, scientific understandings and different cultural perspectives.

Science – Ms Voss

Please remember that covered shoes are required for all Science lessons. Students will start Term 1 learning about Health and Safety in the laboratory. We will move on to study Acids and Bases. Students will test a variety of household substances using litmus paper to determine which group these fall into. The ideas of pH and relative strength will be introduced along with neutralisation later in the term.

Technology – Mrs Savage

We begin the Term completing Technology based challenges in groups. Encouraging teamwork and listening skills as we lead into camp. We will also approach Digital Technology using code.org.

Physical Education

No “I” in team

Students will explore how their interactions with others in various challenging settings can impact their team's ability to succeed. They will reflect by asking themselves, 'Where do I fit into this puzzle?

Play by the Rules

Students will learn about 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 emphasize 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.



Christian Education – Reverend Pickering

This term students will consolidate their knowledge of Jesus and the Bible, and engage with the key ideas relating to the seasons of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Drawing on the Bible and Christian literature, students will evaluate what meaning and relevance these historic events might have for us in our modern world.

Music – Mrs McIntyre

Students will work on establishing a tuneful singing voice through learning a range of songs while also learning to play three or more chords on the Ukulele.

Drama- Mrs Walker

During Term 1, Year 6 students learn to use the theatre conventions of freeze-frame, mime, narrator, roleplay and slow motion to create simple dramatic narratives within a range of genres. They work collaboratively in group situations and take part in a variety of student driven performances.

Art – Mrs Wing

The Year 6 students are learning about the elements of art and the building blocks used by artists to create an artwork. Each lesson they will develop an art technique using a variety of mediums. The students will create a series of artworks based on the art techniques being taught.

Pottery – Mrs Wathen

In Pottery students are learning to use routines and procedures in the room. This term they will cover basic techniques of joining, form, mark making and glazing. Students will explore the pottery techniques necessary to create artworks inspired by “All God’s creatures”. Introduction to the wheel and extruder and slab roller will take place early in the term.

Library – Mrs 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. Students in Year 6 will be asked to step outside their reading comfort zone at opportune moments throughout the year.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the classroom teachers. Thank you again for your support.

Kind regards

Darren Bryan,
Sarah Gregory
Liz Donald
Barbara Nicholson

Year 6 Teachers

