



Term 2, 2025

Year 3 & 4 Learning Overview

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

A warm welcome back to Term 2. It is looking to be a very exciting one, as always. Early this term we farewell Mrs Pomare who is taking maternity leave to embark on a new and exciting chapter in her life. Best wishes to Amy. We welcome Miss Alex Hunt into Year 3 and as part of our syndicate.

Our inquiry topic for the next 2-3 terms is "Who We Are", looking at exploring ourselves (personal characteristics and experiences), connecting with others, and celebrating our diverse world. Later in the year, we hope to have a celebration of different cultures.

School Calendar

Information that you may need regarding dates for upcoming events can be found on the School Calendar. Click [HERE](#) for the school calendar. Please note that this is updated regularly.



Week Ahead

This will be emailed home 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.



Book Week

Book Week is Week 2 this term. There will be many exciting opportunities to embrace reading during the week, including House quizzes, class-based activities, and Library competitions. The culmination of the week is always the excitement of Book Character Day - **Friday, 9 May**. Students will dress up as their favourite book character and come to school. This is always an amazing sight and we can't wait to see it all happen again! Do have a chat with your children about your favourite book. These conversations create interest and highlight the success of being a reader.

Morning Routine

Please be aware that your child needs to be at school by 8:20 a.m. before the bell goes at 8:25 a.m. to start the day. Classrooms will be open by 8:00 a.m. For the cooler autumn and winter months, the Library is open earlier if you need to drop your child off before 8:00 a.m. on the odd occasion. Please note that this space is unsupervised until 8:00 a.m.

Year 4 Production

We are very excited to have our Year 4 students involved in their production of "The Little Mermaid". Save the date for **Wednesday, 11 June**. More information to come in the next week or two.

Learning in Years 3 & 4

Reading and Writing

Students will continue to work towards their goals with a particular focus on Structured Literacy. It is important that your child reads every day. You can help reinforce their understanding by talking about the text with them. In writing, we will build on goals and encourage children to have a personal voice in their writing. Remember that your child can access Steps Web at home to help consolidate their spelling skills and help transfer these skills into their everyday writing.

Mathematics - Year 3 & 4 Teachers, Mrs Hickey & Mr Rees Gibbs

In Year 3 and 4, we will continue working through the scope and sequence in our maths classes. This is targeted to individual maths needs. We encourage students to log on to Maths Buddy / Mathletics if they can as part of their homework, as this helps cement what they have been learning in class. As always, a focus on learning basic addition and subtraction, multiplication, and division facts, both at school and at home supports all learners with mathematical problem-solving skills.

Science - Mrs Donald

Year 4 students will begin the term by learning about the many unique characteristics of bumblebees, comparing bumblebees with honeybees, and understanding how flowers attract pollinators. They will then move on to learn about the vital role that pollinators play in the reproduction of flowering plants. In the final weeks of the term, students will identify and discuss the difference between pests and beneficial insects and their impacts on crops.



Drama - Mrs Walker

This term, all Year 4 students will use the techniques of facial expression, gesture, movement, and voice to create and perform a character in the 2025 Year 4 production of "The Little Mermaid".

Christian Education - Rev. Canon Neale Troon & Rev. Matt Pickering

Students will be following the Church's season of the Feast of Pentecost and lessons pertaining to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Coupled with this will be a series of real-life experiences of people adapting to or challenged by issues of faith in their everyday lives. Year 4 students will be connecting the important events of the Old Testament with the Kingdom Jesus proclaimed.

Te Reo and NZ History - Whaea Whetu

Tamariki will continue to build vocabulary of everyday classroom items and simple sentence instructions for everyday situations. We will also be focusing on Matariki and the different stories from around Aotearoa.

Languages - Mrs Grant

Students will develop their Spanish language skills and explore how language shapes cultural identity and expression through cultural celebrations. They will learn how song, dance, stories, and art help us understand ourselves and others. In Week 4, they will celebrate at the Southwell disco through music and dance. Later in the term, they will join the Seven Sisters (Pleiades) celebration alongside Matariki, deepening their understanding of identity and belonging.

Physical Education - Mr Botha and Miss Lovell

- **Swing, Spin, Soar!**

This unit sees students build upon their body control and awareness within locomotion movements as they further explore swinging, rolling, balancing, jumping, landing, and moving within our gymnastics unit, with an additional focus on linking and flow.

- **Hit me with your best shot!**

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

- **Just let me PLAY!!**

Students will have the chance to simply enjoy playing a sport, while also acquiring the basic fundamental skills, understanding of rules, and tactical knowledge necessary for an enjoyable experience.

Year 3 Performing Arts - Mrs McIntyre

Students will continue working on establishing a tuneful singing voice through singing a range of folk songs individually and with others. The students will become more confident in singing the pitches so, mi, la and do and using the solfa hand signs. Students will also learn to notate crotchet, quaver and semiquaver rhythms and crotchet rests in songs, as well as beginning to learn about minims. They will also continue working on the listening unit 'The Carnival of The Animals'.

Year 4 Music - Mrs McIntyre

Students will continue working on establishing a tuneful singing voice through singing a range of folk songs individually and with others. They will also learn the songs for their production of 'The Little Mermaid'. The students will also become more confident in singing the pitches so, mi, la, do and re and fluently using the solfa hand signs. They will begin to identify ti and fa also. Students will also learn to notate crotchet, quaver and semiquaver rhythms in songs with confidence and become more confident in dictating the minim note. They will also continue working on the listening unit 'Peter and The Wolf'.



Digital Technology - Mr McKay

This term in Digital Technologies, we'll continue to master our Chromebooks before diving into Computational Thinking. We'll explore problem-solving by creating and debugging algorithms through engaging unplugged activities.

Library - Mrs Walch / Mrs Huggins

The focus throughout the year in the library is to respond to the needs of individual classes, with specific reference to encouraging a love of literature, inquiry skills and library skills. Each library session will include some time for children to choose their books and read, and also a short teaching session.

We are looking forward to another term of fun and learning in our Year 3 and 4 syndicate. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you are unsure about anything. If you have a concern, please ensure the first port of call is the classroom teacher.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Kirsty McDonald (Dean)
Brooke Goodwin
Jane de Malmanche
Amy Pomare
Alex Hunt

Year 3 & 4 Teachers