



Term 2, 2025

Year 5 Learning Overview



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Term 2. We hope that our Year 5 students had a relaxing and enjoyable break.

Year 5 Production

What an awesome show presented by the Year 5 students at the end of Term 1. They were so confident in their singing and acting, and most importantly - they enjoyed themselves. There was certainly a lot of learning involved - writing their own dialogue, collaborating with their group to present their scene, a dance and remembering the order and the place on stage where they needed to be. The Year 5 production was a positive way to end the term. We were so proud of how they all grew in their performance skills.

Weekly Chapel Themes

A weekly focus will be introduced during Chapel and reinforced during discussions with children in class and assemblies. You can find the weekly focus outlined in the student diary, which gives children an opportunity to reflect on each focus throughout the week.



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

Book Week

Southwell Book Week starts on Monday, May 5th. Our visiting author for the Year 5-8 students is the remarkable Steve Mushin, author of *Ultrawild - an audacious plan to rewild every city on earth*. All students will get the opportunity to hear him speak and then two students from each class will have a bonus workshop time with him - they are in for a treat.

There will be many exciting opportunities to embrace reading during the week - including House quizzes, class-based activities, Library competitions - and every class will be encouraged to Just Read for 15 minutes every day throughout the week. The culmination of the week is always the excitement of Book Character Day (Friday, May 9th) when students dress up as their favourite book character and come to school. This is 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.

Learning in Year 5

Writing

The main focus in Writing will be on building writing stamina and independence so students are able to write for longer periods of time. How to become a powerful and more accurate writer will be encouraged and taught through group targeted teaching. Students will be encouraged to practise these strategies during their independent writing time. To achieve improvements in writing skills, writing needs to occur regularly. These 'quick writes' will not always be completed to a published stage and will allow the children choice in the type of genre they wish to use.



Spelling

The iDeaL Structured Literacy programme is being used with each class to develop an understanding and accuracy with spelling rules. This programme gives children strategies to break words into syllables and sounds and will also focus on different types of words that children use in their writing. A different concept will be focused on over 2 weeks and will be extended with prefixes and suffixes explored in conjunction with the base words.

Steps Web (the computer-based spelling programme) is being used to reinforce this spelling knowledge and will improve children's accuracy of basic spelling words. All children are working at a level which was established after individual online testing. This programme is available online from home and is a valuable tool to build up spelling knowledge, as well as games to practise problem solving, memory and processing speed. We would encourage all children to spend some time on this every few days as part of their homework programme.

Reading

Guided Reading programmes will focus on students reading texts at their instructional level so that vocabulary and comprehension can be explored and developed. Fluency and an understanding of punctuation and its function in reading will be a focus. We will also reinforce the spelling concept taught each week, by using it with the words in the story to help us decode words. A weekly task board is the focus of our reading work with a variety of activities completed independently. Reading texts will also, at times, be based around our Inquiry topic to help build up the knowledge our students can then use in their activities.

Reading for enjoyment every night is essential to ensure that reading strategies are practised and children become more fluent. The reading homework this term is encouraging the children to read a range of books. We would like students to write the name of their book in their diary to show that this has occurred.

Mathematics

Maths programmes this term are based on the concepts in the PR1ME programme based around place value, addition and subtraction with regrouping, multiplication and division and fractions. Incorporating number strategies and problem solving will be an ongoing learning theme throughout the PR1ME books. Basic facts practise will continue to be encouraged in-class for those children that need to consolidate this area of learning - this includes addition and subtraction, and multiplication and division of basic facts.



Maths Buddy tasks based on the concepts being covered in the daily programme will be assigned to the children. These can be completed as part of their homework time as well as practising their Speed Skills to become more fluent with their basic facts. Time spent on Maths Buddy at home does help consolidate Mathematical concepts.

Social Sciences

Inquiry programmes this term are based on the Big Idea of *Sharing the Planet*. We will be spending a couple of weeks exploring concepts around ANZAC Day and improving the children's knowledge and understanding of what happened during this time. We will then be exploring the way that children face a variety of challenges and risks in their pathway to a just, peaceful and reimagined future. Children around the world have rights and responsibilities and when they know about these it can enable them to advocate for themselves and others. We will explore the different reasons that there is inequality between groups of

children, particularly in the areas of poverty and education and will look at the ways that children can make a difference in others' lives.

We will be encouraging the children to ask questions and to develop their curiosity to help find answers to those questions. This will be a basis for our speeches in Term 3.

Science - Mrs Donald

Year 5 students will begin the term, 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.

Digital Technology - Mr McKay

Year 5 Digital Technologies this term will involve strengthening our Chromebook skills before we explore the exciting world of Computational Thinking. We'll be learning strategic problem-solving by creating and systematically checking algorithms through a variety of engaging activities, some of which will be unplugged and others using digital tools.

P.E. - Mr Botha, Miss Lovell, Rev. Pickering

- **Southwell Ninja Warrior**

In this unit, students will further explore their body's capacity for movement with a focus on the fundamental movements of swing, roll, balance, spring, landing, and locomotion. Students will utilize these skills alongside explosive movements to complete set indoor and outdoor obstacle courses.



- **Ultimate Flag**

Students will utilise their previously acquired Frisbee skills to explore the strategies and tactical thinking of Ultimate Frisbee, before further transferring them into Flag Football, all the while honing their fundamental skills of throwing and invasion.

- **Skiping 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.

- **Just let me PLAY!!**

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

Christian Education - Reverend Pickering

Students will be following the Church's seasons as they reflect on the Feast of Pentecost. Coupled with this, students will be tracing the story of the Bible from Genesis through to the time of Jesus in order to

connect the Old and New Testaments. Each class will begin with a daily prayer or song in which the class forms to become a student-led worship unit.

Te Reo Maaori - Whaea Whetu

This term, akonga will learn poi, raakau, and traditional Maaori movements. They will also explore waiata and action songs connected to Matariki, deepening their understanding of Maaori culture and celebrations.

Music - Mrs Albery

This term students will explore rhythm using body percussion techniques. They will learn to read and write simple rhythmic patterns, progressing to more complex ones over time. By physically engaging with rhythm through clapping, stomping, and snapping, students will internalize these patterns and enhance their musical abilities. As well as mastering rhythmic notation, students will also be challenged to remember longer patterns, which will strengthen their memory and concentration skills.

Drama - Mrs Albery

Students will be working to extend their knowledge and experience of drama conventions and techniques through the context of mime. Students will be building on building structure, dramatic narratives, and conventions like slow motion and freeze-frame.

Library - Mrs Walch

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. Once Book Week is finished, the Year 5s will be encouraged to complete a Reading Bingo activity, which highlights the importance of wide reading and reading for pleasure.



If you have any questions concerning your child's learning at school please feel free to contact your child's teacher. Our goal is for your child to continue to grow as a person both academically as well as personally and in their relationships with others.

Kind regards

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Year 5 Teachers