



Term 2, 2025

Year 6 Learning Overview



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 2, it feels great to be back this term. We hope that you and your family have had a restful holiday.

This term we are basing our learning around the theme of **Sharing the Planet**. In Year 6, students will be examining this with a unit looking at the Waikato River. This is an inquiry into how the Waikato River plays an important role in our society and how its ecosystems have impacted and are affected with human interactions.

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

School Calendar

Click [HERE](#) for the Term 2 School Calendar. Please note that this is updated regularly.

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.

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 2 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.

"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies."

– George R.R. Martin

Homework

Reading - Students are to read for pleasure 20 mins each night. The focus for many of our students will be reading mileage and trying to move beyond the type of books they 'normally read'. All students are well supported here by their teachers and the library staff. Occasionally students will be expected to record and comment on their weekly reading.

Maths - Most classes will allocate some computer-based work that will be generated from Mathletics and will be set to the appropriate level for each student. Some classes may assign some worksheet style work that will be a review of what is covered in the class.

Teacher directed tasks - Each teacher will set some tasks that will be designed to support their learning in class. This will be at the teacher's discretion and will be varied across the year group according to the needs of each class. Activities may include Spelling, Current Events, Quiz Work or some guided research based on discussions in class.



Finishing Tasks - we encourage students to use any extra time to complete tasks stated at school and/or do tasks that will enable them to meet deadlines as they come up. This extra time is at the discretion of each student.

Teachers can and often will change a homework programme to suit any requirements and individual student. Please continue to check your child's diary often and contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns.

Stationery

As teachers, we have 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.

Learning in Year 6

Reading - Year 6 Teachers

In Reading 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 is tailored to the learning needs for the students in the class.

Writing - Year 6 Teachers

In Writing, we are looking at the skills of writing and the strategies we use to convey a message or story convincingly to an audience. We are looking at the structure of transactional writing forms, paying particular attention to language features of factual writing. A main focus of the term will be preparing speeches to present to the class. In addition to our writing programme each year 6 will be using The iDeal Structured Literacy programme to develop an understanding and accuracy with spelling rules.



Mathematics - Year 6 Teachers / Rev. Pickering

In Mathematics, students are looking at the Number strand using the PR1ME Mathematics programme. Emphasis is placed on students using their understanding in practical situations and with word problems. . Classes will also continue to maintain skills and use and practice their basic facts.

Social Science

This term we are basing our learning around the theme of **Sharing the Planet**. In Year 6, students will be examining this with a unit looking at the Waikato River. This is an inquiry into how the Waikato River plays an important role in our society and how its ecosystems have impacted and are affected with human interactions. Students will investigate ways in which the River environment can be protected and supported to maintain its role as a valuable resource.

Science - Mrs Donald

During Term 2 Students will work on a unit called - Big Blue Future. Bringing the ocean into the classroom with fascinating sea monkeys, food chains, and sea turtles. Why fish vary in shape and size? What is sustainable fishing? What is the difference between bycatch and target species? How does ocean waste impact marine life? This unit will introduce students to the importance of our waters and oceans and why protecting them is vital for our planet's future.

Physical Education - Miss Lovell, Mrs Gregory, Mrs Nicholson, Mrs Merritt

- **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.

- **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.

- **Just let me PLAY!!**

Guiding Question: Can we just play a game? Students will have the chance to simply enjoy playing badminton and lacrosse, while also acquiring the basic fundamental skills, understanding of rules, and tactical knowledge necessary for an enjoyable experience.



Christian Education - Rev. Pickering

Students will be following the Church's seasons as they reflect on the significance of Easter and the climax 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. 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 continue their study of the Ukulele and become more fluent in playing three or more chords while singing. We will then move on to our study of different styles of music such as Reggae, Celtic, and Pacific (including New Zealand music) through investigating the elements of music.

Drama - Mrs Walker

This term, Year 6 students will learn about the theatrical genre of pantomime. They will showcase their learning through the creation and performance of short group dramas in true pantomime style. These performances will take place in front of a live student audience.

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 new skills in the Pottery room when making and glazing. Students

will explore the pottery techniques necessary to create artworks inspired by 'Kiwiana' "

Languages - Mrs Grant

This term, Year 6 students will develop their Spanish language skills while exploring how language shapes cultural identity and connections. They'll explore how traditions, song, dance, and art help us connect. In Week 4, they'll celebrate at the Southwell disco through music and dance, and later join the Seven Sisters (Pleiades) celebration alongside Matariki, deepening their understanding of identity and belonging.

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. All students will be working towards an individual reading goal related to what they are reading in the personal choice reading time at the end of each lesson.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the classroom teachers.

Thank you again for your support.

Kind regards

Darren Bryan (Dean)
Sarah Gregory
Barbara Nicholson
Laurene Merritt

Year 6 Teachers

