



Term 2, 2025

Year 8 Learning Overview



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As a team, we 'climbed many mountains' in Term One and are now ready to tackle Term Two. Over the coming weeks there will be many more exciting learning experiences and opportunities for your child to engage in. Self management, independence and perseverance are important skills to develop for life. At Southwell we expect our Year 8 students to take responsibility for their learning, behaviour and to strive to be the best they can be.

Homework in Year 8 at Southwell ultimately looks like students independently establishing a routine that prioritises reading regularly and completing any set tasks relating to their learning, across the various subjects. Please ask your child questions about what they are doing at school, discuss the books they are reading and help them use their homework time wisely.

School Calendar

Click [HERE](#) for the Term 2 School Calendar. Please note this is updated regularly so you do need to check for changes.

Week Ahead

It is important that you and your child look out for The Week Ahead in your inbox every Friday. It is here you will learn important information about what is happening at Southwell over the coming week.

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. As an added bonus, the Year 7 and 8 students will also enjoy a visit by Brian Falkner on Monday, May 12th. Parents have been sent an email, which includes an order form if you would like to purchase any of Brian's books. He will do a book signing at lunchtime when he is here.

Learning in Year 8

Term 2 Inquiry

Over Term 2 all Year 8 classes will be exploring the theme 'How We Express Ourselves.' We will explore the diverse **Forms** of expression, **Changes** to these forms of expression over time and make **Connections**, by discovering first hand how these forms of expression can influence society.

Reading - Year 8 Teachers

Students will learn how to seek, evaluate and synthesise information, as well as develop the skill of inferring the unknown from the known, in the classroom programmes. Reading tasks will connect with our inquiry to help build a deeper understanding of the topic. They will learn to compare and contrast factual information, as well as appreciate language features used by authors of fiction. The class library times will be devoted to introducing students to new books, learning about reliable sources of information and reading.

Writing - Year 8 Teachers

All students will be supported to develop their independence in writing and be encouraged to keep their audience in mind in all forms of written communication. The Writing Process will be used to help them craft written language that flows, is well structured and meets a purpose. Building vocabulary, spelling and punctuation skills, editing skills and awareness of 'writing tools' is an ongoing focus for all.

Speeches

It's that time again and speeches will be a big part of our in-class writing programme in Term Two. All steps of the speech writing process will be taught, with the ultimate aim of each student writing and presenting a speech to their own class, to the best of their ability. Several speech-makers will be selected to share their speech with our syndicate at the finals.

The choice of topic is purposefully left open, to encourage students to focus their speech on a passion, or something that they have a particular interest in. Talking about possible speech topics at home, prior to writing, then practicing once the speech is completed is encouraged, however, all speeches will be written in class.

Mathematics - Year 8 Teachers / Mr Rees-Gibbs

This term we will continue to learn about Number and explore Measurement as a topic. Your support with ensuring the online Maths Buddy tasks are completed at home, will continue to enhance your child's success in Mathematics. The tasks assigned are linked to the learning happening in class. Please ask your child's Maths Teacher if you are unsure of expectations.

Science - Ms Voss

This term in Science we will be working alongside the Year 8 Inquiry and studying how Sir David Attenborough uses his knowledge and expertise to communicate with the general population. The focus will be on Biodiversity and how important this is to a healthy planet. Students will examine how small, positive changes in the way humans interact with the natural world, are already adding to improvements in global biodiversity.

Physical Education - Classroom Teachers, Mr Norman and Mr Botha

- **One Shot!**

In this unit, students will continue to cement their body's capacity for movement with a focus on the fundamental movements of swing, roll, balance, spring, landing, and locomotion, inclusive of an emphasis on flexibility. From this learning, they will add their own creative flair to create a sequence of movements across various apparatuses, enhanced by their own selection of music.

- **Adapting my Sport**

Students will play a variety of sports that have been adapted for athletes with special requirements, and then utilise these experiences to inquire into adapting other sports to be inclusive.

- **Just let me PLAY!!**

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

Technology - Mr Williams - Girls Term 2

Students will use the design process and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) to solve fun challenges.

Healthy Choices- Mrs Savage - Boys Term 2

This term we will continue spending time together in the beautiful Healthy Choices room. The boys will create some Mother's day treats and will move from creating snacks to creating meals in the Southwell kitchen.

The boys are encouraged to journal any recipes or life hacks in their Healthy Choices book during class time.



Christian Education - Reverend Canon Troon

Students will be following the Church's season of Easter as it evolves toward the Feast of Pentecost. Coupled with this will be a series of real-life experiences of people adapting to/challenged by issues of Faith in their everyday lives. Each class will begin with "Daily Prayer" in which the classes form to be a student-led worship unit.

Music - Mrs Albery

In the upcoming unit, students will delve into learning how to read guitar tablature, a crucial skill for any guitarist. With a focus on melody, they will grasp how individual notes work together to create musical lines. They will distinguish between practising, rehearsing, and performance, understanding the nuanced differences in each aspect of musical preparation.

Drama - Mrs Walker

Students will create a piece of drama for informal presentation from a class script and use selected theatrical conventions to give it form and structure. They will learn how to use stage lighting to create mood and atmosphere then perform their work in front of a live, or virtual audience.

Te Reo - Whaea Whetu

In the early part of Term 2, tamariki will continue to learn to play the traditional Maaori game of Ki-o_Rahi. In the latter half of the term, akonga will look at ways Maaori told their stories through art, song and dance - including learning the double short poi and raakau.

Languages - Mrs Grant

Language learning will focus on developing Spanish skills and exploring the role of language in self-expression and cultural identity. Students will discover how imagination and creativity shape communication. Each class is taking a unique creative approach—through song, dance, art, and more—to explore renewal, self-expression, and connection. A Week 4 disco offers a fun chance for expression through music and movement, and the term concludes with a Spanish Seven Sisters (Pleiades) celebration alongside Matariki.

Art - Mrs Wing

During Term 2, students will further develop their artistic skills by transitioning from working primarily with acrylics to exploring mixed media collage. Throughout this period, they will delve into various art techniques, including layering, blending, and the creation of depth within their compositions. This will lead into an artwork based on New Zealand Artists whose works tie into this year's "*Kiwiana*" theme.



Pottery - Mrs Wathen

In Term 2, students will be focusing on slab building and glazing techniques to complete the unit focus "*Kiwiana*". As students return to school they will begin their tractor sculpture modelled on a Fun Ho toy. During the process they will learn new slab building techniques and build on their foundation from the previous year.

Library - Mrs Walch

The focus throughout the year in the library is primarily to encourage a love of literature and reading for pleasure. Each library session includes some time for children to choose a book and read, and also a teaching session. In Year 8 we specifically focus on maintaining the students' love of literature, as they negotiate increasingly busy schedules, and also spend some time delving into how to navigate online mis and disinformation.

We look forward to another great term.

Thank you for your ongoing support from the **2025 Year 8 Teachers**,

Kerrie Martin (Dean)

Pen Holah

Rebecca Stark

Donna Rudduck

Candy Hart

Mark Pearson