



Term 3 2025

Years 3 and 4 Learning Overview



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 3! We hope you've all had a chance to rest and enjoy some quality time with your child. This term is going to be both busy and exciting, we're looking forward to working alongside your children and building positive relationships.

In Year 3, the children are working towards achieving their Values Badge. The Values Badge offers recognition of a student displaying or showing effort towards the Southwell School Values consistently, independently and over time. Our Southwell School Values are: Excellence, Integrity, Creativity, Respect, Resilience, Care.

Our Big Idea this term is “**Who We Are**”- we are looking at how our unique qualities and shared experiences shape who we are and how we interact with others. From here, we will move to linking our identity to the broader world through celebrating different cultures within our community.

Term Themes

Here are the themes we'll be focusing on this term: for our Big Idea:

Week 1 Being a Team Player	Week 6 Being Grateful
Week 2 Being Courteous	Week 7 Being Tolerant
Week 3 Being Encouraging	Week 8 Being Reliable
Week 4 Being Optimistic	Week 9 Thinking Positively
Week 5 Being Purposeful	

School Calendar

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

Week Ahead

Every Friday, The Week Ahead is delivered to your inbox. It is important that you read it carefully, as it contains important information about what is happening and when for the coming week.

Learning Conferences - Week 3, Term 3

This term, our Learning Conferences are an opportunity for your child to share their learning journey and discuss their goals with you. It's also a great chance to review their report together. To help them prepare, please make sure you've read through their report with them during the holidays and perhaps discussed a potential goal they might like to set.



We'll be sending out more details about how to book your learning conference shortly.

All Year 3-8 children attend their conferences. Conferences are 10 minutes. If you would like to spend some time with your child's teacher without your child present, please mention this to the teacher at the beginning of the interview. Friday bookings are for Boarding families only.

A quick note regarding specialist teachers: Please don't use the regular classroom teacher booking slots if you wish to speak with your child's Maths teacher or other specialist teachers. Instead, we kindly ask you to email them directly to arrange a separate time. Learning Conferences for specialists and Maths teachers will be held in **Week 6** this term.

Maths and Specialist Learning Conferences - Week 6, Term 3

These conferences take place in Week 6 with Specialist and Maths Teachers in the Performing Arts Centre. These meetings are a brief 5-minute opportunity to have a catch-up regarding your child's learning. If you feel you will need more than 5 minutes, please contact your child's teacher by email to arrange an alternative time.

Please note: There will be no after-school sports practices during this week.

ICAS Competitions

Southwell students in Years 4-8 have the opportunity to participate in the 2025 ICAS Competitions. Information and registration details for ICAS were emailed out mid-last term.

For those who register, the ICAS Competitions are scheduled to take place in Weeks 5-7, Term 3.

House Chapel Service

All Houses will be attending Chapel on Sunday, 20 July

- 4.00pm - Canterbury, Lincoln, Durham (Boys' and Girls' Choirs)
- 5.15pm - York, Winchester, Salisbury (Boys' and Girl's Choirs)

If you are unable to attend on the day, please let the Leader of your child's House know closer to the time.

Learning in Year 3&4

Reading

Children will continue to work towards their individual goals with a particular focus on fluency, comprehension and extending vocabulary in Structured Reading lessons. Alongside this, we will work on locating specific information within a text and summarising it in our own words. This will tie into our inquiry into Who We Are. It is important that your child reads every day. You can help reinforce their understanding by talking about the text with them.

Writing

Structured Literacy is a major focus of our classroom literacy programme. As well as creative writing times, children are taught explicit spelling rules in a sequential order. It is exciting to see Structured Literacy knowledge transfer into written work. In Writing, we will build on goals and encourage children to have a personal voice in their writing. They will learn about report writing as part of their individual inquiry.



Mathematics

This term, we will continue working through our sequential maths lessons based around addition and subtraction and moving onto measurement. Problem solving is an ongoing part of our daily maths lessons.

Optional additional Mathematics homework on *Maths Buddy* or *Mathletics*, which can assist your child in cementing what they have been learning in class.

Science – Mrs. Donald

This term in Science, our Year 4 students are embarking on an exciting journey into the world of **Animal Classification** and **Adaptations**! We'll be learning how scientists sort animals into different groups, from the big divide of vertebrates and invertebrates to the unique characteristics of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and more.

Students will discover why classification is so important and even get to create their own classification keys. Building on this, we'll then explore fascinating **animal adaptations** – the incredible physical features and behaviours that help animals survive and thrive in their diverse habitats around the globe. Get ready for a term full of discovery and wonder about the amazing animal kingdom!

Performing Arts Year 3 – Mrs McIntyre

Students will continue working on establishing a tuneful singing voice through singing a range of folk songs individually and with others. Students will become more confident in singing the pitches so, mi, la and do and using the solfa hand signs. Students will continue to notate ta, ti-ti, Za, tika-tika and will be introduced to 'too' (crotchets, quavers, rests, semiquavers and minim) rhythms in songs. Year 3 students will also expand their pitch range to be able to identify and sing 're'.

Music Year 4 – Mrs McIntyre

Students will continue working on establishing a tuneful singing voice through singing a range of folk songs individually and with others. Students will become more confident in singing the pitches so, mi, la, do and re and using the solfa hand signs. Students will continue to notate ta, ti-ti, Za, tika-tika and too (crotchets, quavers, rests, semiquavers and minim) rhythms in songs. Year 4 students will also expand their notation to the pitch set they're working with to include 'fa' and 'ti'.

Library – Mrs Walch / Mrs Huggins

During Library time, we will be continuing to promote engaging literature, as well as supporting the syndicate's Inquiry planning and reinforcing our School Values.

A focus in early Term 3 will be the New Zealand Book Award finalists, as we promote great Kiwi kids literature. Children will also be encouraged to spend quality time with their book of choice. Teachers can choose to request reinforcement of specific skills if it suits their classroom programme.

Christian Education – Reverend Pickering

Lessons will be centred around the incredible stories of how Jesus formed his discipleship group, bringing many different kinds of people together. This will tie in to themes of relationship and belonging being explored more widely across the year group.

PE - Mr Botha and Miss Lovell

Fun to be FIT

This unit is designed to empower students to achieve personal growth, regardless of their individual fitness abilities, by working towards our school's cross-country and general fitness goals using a range of different training methods.

Athletics

The aim of the unit is for students to participate in a variety of track and field events, focusing on improving their performances through applying feedback.

Te Reo Maaori – Whaea Whetu Te Ua

Tamariki will grow their vocabulary through interactive games, hands-on activities, and storytelling grounded in a Maaori worldview — including local myths and legends such as the story of the Waikato River and the first section of the chant *Waikato Te Awa*.

Digital Technology

Students will learn to apply computational thinking skills by designing and programming digital stories in ScratchJr. They will gain practical experience with algorithms, sequencing, debugging, and digital design to express their unique identities and cultural connections.

We are looking forward to another term of fun and learning in our Year 3 and 4 syndicate. Please don't 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
Brooke Goodwin
Jane de Malmanche
Alex Hunt
Year 3 & 4 Teachers

