



Term 3, 2025

Year 5 Learning Overview



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to a new and exciting term of learning. We trust that our Southwell students have all had a restful break and are looking forward to the upcoming term.

This letter is to outline some of the learning opportunities that your children are involved in during Term 3.

Each week, the School has a theme that focuses on developing our character and our competencies. We begin with a message in Chapel on Monday, and throughout the week we can use the school diary as a focal point for further discussion. We wrap up the theme on Friday at Assembly with students sharing their thoughts and we will often display examples of great role models.

The themes for this coming Term are:

Week 1 **Being a Team Player**

Week 2 **Being Courteous**

Week 3 **Being Encouraging**

Week 4 **Being Optimistic**

Week 5 **Being Purposeful**

Week 6 **Being Grateful**

Week 7 **Being Tolerant**

Week 8 **Being Reliable**

Week 9 **Thinking Positively**

School Calendar

Click [HERE](#) for the Term 3 School Calendar. Please note this is updated regularly.

Week Ahead

It is important that you look out for The Week Ahead in your inbox every Friday and read it carefully, as it contains important information about what is happening and when.

Learning Conferences - Week 3, Term 3

The purpose of this Learning Conference is for your child to share their learning and goals with you. You may also wish to review your child's report. With this in mind, please bring your child's report with you. Further details regarding booking a learning conference will be emailed shortly.

Please do not use classroom teacher slots to book interviews to see your child's Maths teacher. If you wish to speak with these teachers, please email them directly to make an alternative time.

Please note:

- There will be no after-school sports practices this week.
- 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.

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.

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, ICAS competitions are scheduled to take place in Weeks 5-7 of Term 3.



House Chapel Service

All Houses will be attending Chapel on Sunday, 20 July

- 4pm - Canterbury / Lincoln / Durham
- 5.15pm - York / Salisbury / Winchester

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

Opera

Term 3 is an exciting time for many of our students who are involved in the Opera. This is an amazing event and takes great commitment and focus. Students need to prioritise their well-being during this time. We strongly recommend that they pay particular attention to eating well, sleeping well and exercising well.

Learning in Year 5

Inquiry

In Term 3, the focus for Year 5 syndicate will be under the umbrella of **Where We Are In Place and Time**. Our topic will be 'Animal Adaptations', where we are delving into how and why different species have adapted to their environments and the influence of humans on their living spaces. Near the end of the learning process, children will be showing how an animal may adapt to a new set of environmental influences and what changes it may need to make to survive in a new habitat. We hope that children will come to understand the amazing ability that animals have to adapt to new influences to ensure that their species may survive and realise the influence that people may have on animals that we may rely on.

Speeches

Year 5 Speeches will be based around the theme of our Inquiry from Term 2 - a culmination of their learning around Rights and Privileges.

Some ideas for speech topics are as follows -

What are children's rights?

Expanding on an individual child's right,

What responsibilities come with rights and privileges?

What do rights look like in different countries?

Who has advocated for children's rights?

Kids Around the World Who Don't Have the Same Rights

Why Having a Pet is a Privilege, Not a Right?

What It Means to Be a Responsible Friend

How Kids Can Help Protect the Environment?

Why We Should Stand Up for the Rights of Others

Being a Role Model Is a Big Responsibility

How I Take Responsibility at Home

And many more ...



There are more ideas in their Google Classroom.

Talking to your child about possible ideas for their speeches will be helpful. The children will be choosing a topic, researching and writing their presentations at school. Children will be able to make a slideshow or show some objects that support their speech. Class finals will be held in Week 4, and Syndicate Finals will be on Tuesday in Week 5. More information will come out closer to the time.

Writing

Writing programmes will continue to build independence and stamina in writing, and children will learn to make their writing more accurate by editing and redrafting their work. We will be encouraging writers to improve their own stories by using figurative language to create visual images in the reader's mind, e.g. similes, alliteration, and onomatopoeia. Strategies that are appropriate for individual children to make their own writing more powerful and accurate will also be taught.

Reading

Students will work in their Guided Reading groups with the teacher, focusing on important reading strategies such as vocabulary development, fluency and comprehension. It is important that children continue to read at home every night on books that they enjoy and are able to read fairly easily to practice these strategies. Discussing with parents any words that the children are unfamiliar with will help to build their bank of words that they understand, remembering that words can change their meaning depending on the context they are used in. Chatting about the story your child is reading and asking them to recount for you the events that have happened, what happened, and why, asking them to justify their reasoning with reasons from the story, is a good way to encourage engagement with their reading.

Maths

Each Maths group will be continuing to work through their Structured Mathematics programme - primarily focusing on Number as well as delving into Geometry, Measurement and Statistics. Chatting with your child's individual Mathematics teacher to gain an overview of what your child's group is focusing on can be done during Maths Conferences in Week 6. This structured programme continues to build strategies with problem solving, helping children to understand what the problem is asking them to do as well as building ways to solve using different algorithms and checking the reasonableness of an answer. A focus on consolidating basic facts will continue, as this is a basis for children to build strategies to solve problems. Children can practise these orally / with flashcards/charts, games on the computer and speed skills on Maths Buddy. Completing Maths Buddy tasks helps consolidate the learning done in the classroom.

Spelling

Students will continue to work through Structured Literacy, focusing on learning how to hear and record specific sounds. Including these sounds in sentences and changing the meanings of words by adding prefixes and suffixes will also be taught. Being able to transfer

this learning into their reading and writing will ensure that children are more accurate when reading and with their spelling when writing.

Using Steps Web, as part of their reading programme and as homework, will help reinforce this classroom learning and build their own spelling knowledge. Using the games as a part of this programme gives children an opportunity to develop their skills in memory, processing and fluency.



Science – Mrs Donald

This term in Science, our Year 5 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!

Technology – Ms McMaster

In Food Technology, the Year 5s will continue to follow simple recipes to learn basic food preparation and cooking skills. Towards the end of the term, the students will prepare for a Masterchef-style challenge by adapting recipes for a group competition. In alternate weeks, we will use our lesson time to plan for the next cooking session and add detail to our recipe books.

Physical Education - Mr Pickering, Mr Botha and Ms Lovell

Train 2 Play and Play 2 Train (Cross Country Fitness) Weeks 1-5

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

Athletics Weeks 6-9

The aim of the unit is for students to participate in a variety of field and track events. Through video, peer and teacher feedback, students are able to implement this knowledge to improve their performance.

Languages - Mrs Grant

말해요! (Mal-hae-yo!) Speak Up! As members of a K-pop group, students will use their platform to raise awareness by communicating in Korean to express ideas. For example, they may advocate for the Siberian tiger (호랑이, horang-i) — South Korea's national animal — and its connection to conservation. Students will build vocabulary, practise basic sentence structures, and take part in short performances to share their messages. In Week 5, we will celebrate Languages Week, sharing our cultures and learning about the diverse backgrounds within our school community.

Digital Technology - Mr McKay

Year 5 students will use Scratch to create an interactive "Adapt-o-Bot" digital field guide. They will learn to apply computational thinking concepts like algorithms and conditional statements to model how living things adapt to their environments and human influences.



Music – Mrs Albery

This term, year 5 students will be learning to be a composer! They'll discover how to build melodies by experimenting with different rhythms and using the unique sounds of the pentatonic scale, all played on xylophones and glockenspiels.

Drama – Mrs Albery

Initially, we will focus on dialogue delivery and communicating character in performance. Following this, students will hone their skills by creating a short play through a blank script. This will develop the ability to use dialogue to develop a character.

Christian Education – Reverend Pickering

In class this term, students will be engaging with Bible stories that encourage reflection on the natural world and humanity's role in kaitiakitanga/guardianship of it. We will explore concepts of adaptation, design, fine-tuning and habitat. The class will continue to participate in an opening picture reflection and a devotional, showing the importance of routine and reflection in the midst of daily life.

Library – Mrs Walch

We will be continuing to promote engaging literature, encourage critical thinking and reinforce inquiry skills. (We will continue to upskill the students in their use of our Library Management System in order to help them to source information for inquiry.) In the first couple of weeks of term, we will be highlighting the NZ Book Award finalists, which are definitely worth a good look! 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.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Learning Conferences in Week 3, and then at the Maths Conferences in Week 6.

Please feel free to contact us regarding any issues or questions you may have. Term 3 will be an exciting and rewarding term as we all embrace all the opportunities and challenges that it brings.

Kind regards

Jo McFarlane
Phillippa Milroy
Greer Caddigan
Year 5 Teachers

