

Term 4, 2025

Years 3 and 4 Learning Overview

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 4! We hope you have all had a break and enjoyed some sunshine and time with your families. We are looking forward to another busy term full of exciting learning opportunities.

In Term 4 for our inquiry topic of “Where we are in Place and Time”, we are delving into the origins and customs of celebrations and how they are shaped by history and geography. We will be looking at different celebrations across a variety of cultures, including how Christmas is celebrated in different parts of the world.

In Week 4 we have Founders Day at Southwell. The children will be involved in fun activities relating to Southwell, as well as whole school events. We also have school-wide athletics coming up in a few weeks time. More information about these events will be sent out closer to the time.



Learning in Year 3&4

Reading

In Reading, we continue introducing specific, structured, authentic texts. The focus continues to be on expanding vocabulary, reading accurately, with expression and deepening comprehension. Children are steadily working towards their individual goals. Our tamariki are reading this text at school and will bring it home at the end of each week.

To support their progress, it is essential that your child continues reading independently for pleasure every day, selecting books of their own choice. Encouraging independent reading helps develop a love for reading and builds confidence. Children also enjoy being read to, as

it allows you to model fluency and expression. You can further enhance their understanding by discussing the text and highlighting new vocabulary.

Spelling

In Spelling we will continue teaching explicit spelling rules, morphology and sentence structure through Structured Literacy, focusing on ensuring this is transferred into writing.



Writing

In Writing, we will continue to work on individual goals and encourage children to have a personal voice in their writing by giving them more choice in their topics. Students are much more familiar with the writing process now and are able to write independently. We will continue to write personal recounts on a weekly basis, introduce language features through a poetry unit, and write related to their personal inquiries.

Year 3 Performing Arts and Year 4 Music - Mrs McIntyre

Students will continue working on establishing a tuneful singing voice by singing a range of folk songs individually and with others. The students will become more confident in singing the pitches so, mi, la, do and re (fa for Year 4) and using the solfa hand signs. Students will continue to notate ta, ti-ti, Za, tika-tika and too (crotchets, quavers, semiquavers, minims and rests) rhythms in songs. Students will be learning to play these songs on tuned percussion instruments and begin to notate them on the staff. Both Year 3 and 4 students will be learning Christmas songs from other countries to share with you at the end of term.

Drama - Mrs Walker

This term, students will develop confidence and have fun revisiting the Drama techniques of body movement, facial expression, gesture and voice through the creation of themed scenarios. They will also focus on the conventions of freeze frame, narration and slow motion in order to build clear dramatic narratives.

Digital Technology - Glen McKay

This term, Year 4 students will become young coders as they programme Vex123 Robots to deliver presents in our festive “Santa's Automated Helpers” challenge. They'll learn the basics of robotics, practise teamwork, and solve problems together—all while having lots of fun!

Science – Mrs Donald

In Term 4, our Year 4 students will embark on an exciting journey to explore the human skeleton in our upcoming science unit, '**Dem Bones.**' We'll be moving beyond the basics to uncover the fascinating purpose of our bones, from providing structure and support to protecting vital organs. The children will get hands-on experience through fun activities like building skeleton models and playing interactive games that will help them learn to identify and label key bones. This unit is designed to be highly engaging, encouraging curiosity and a deeper appreciation for the amazing framework that supports all our movements.

Physical Education – Mr Botha and Miss Lovell

Athletics (Weeks 1-6) - The goal of this unit is for students to explore a variety of track and field events while learning to listen to and use ideas from others to improve their own performance.

Fundamental Movement Skills (*Striking with hands and feet*) (Weeks 1-6) - In this unit, students will play a variety of games, focusing on improving their coordination when striking with their hands and feet.

Pool Play (Weeks 6 - 9) - In this unit, students will build both water confidence and water safety skills by taking on various activities and challenges beyond the fundamentals of swimming strokes. This will encourage them to push themselves outside of their comfort zone.

Just let me play! (Weeks 6 - 9) - This unit is a chance for students to simply enjoy playing games, from old favorites to new challenges. They'll also develop sportsmanship, learning to appreciate the experience of both winning and losing while finding joy in their participation.

Library – Mrs Walch / Mrs Huggins

In the Library we will be continuing to promote engaging literature, encourage critical thinking and reinforce inquiry skills. 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. Summer Reading will be offered closer to the end of Term 4, which students can sign up to, with parent permission.



Te Reo - Whaea Whetu

This term, students will continue to develop their vocabulary of everyday kupu related to items around the home, as well as learn Christmas waiata.

Christian Education – Chaplain / Rev Pickering

Year 4 - In Term 4 Christian Education, students will be finishing off their study of how Jesus formed his disciple group. Then we will turn our attention to the Christian calendar, focusing on the seasons of Advent and Christmas.



Year 3 - Christian Education - The focus for this term will be on the Season of Advent and the traditions and stories surrounding the Nativity of Jesus Christ.

Calendar and Week Ahead

Click **HERE** for the Term 4 School Calendar. Please note - this is updated regularly so please check it often. Please also read the Week Ahead that is emailed to parents every Friday to keep informed of what is happening at Southwell.

We are looking forward to our last term with your children. It is hard to believe the end of the year is almost upon us. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher if needed. If you have a concern, please ensure the first port of call is the classroom teacher, we are more than happy to help.

A gentle reminder that teachers are available in classes from 8am. We have noticed some children arriving at school very early. The Library is always open prior to 8am for children needing a warm space to wait.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Kirsty McDonald
Brooke Goodwin
Jane de Malmanche
Alex Hunt

Year 3 & 4 Teachers

