

Term 4, 2025

Year 5 Learning Overview



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to the final term of 2025. It will be another busy and exciting term with lots of end of year formalities, including Founders Day and Athletics Day. This letter is to outline some of the learning programmes that we will be covering in Term 4.

What an amazing end to Term 3 with the performance of the School Opera, Shrek the Musical. We were so proud seeing some of our Year 5 students, along with the rest of the cast, presenting a fun and exciting show.

Learning in Year 5

Inquiry

The Big Idea for Term 4 for Year 5 is based on **How We Organise Ourselves**. Year 5 will be learning through the context of 'Energy - The Power to Choose'. In our unit, Year 5 students will explore different forms of energy and where our energy comes from, investigating both renewable and non-renewable sources. We will discuss how our choices about using energy impact the environment and society, and learn about ways to use energy responsibly. Through hands-on experiments, research, discussions, and real-world projects, students will become knowledgeable inquirers and reflect on their own energy habits.



Reading

Our classroom reading program is designed to create confident and thoughtful readers. We will continue to use Guided Reading groups to provide targeted instruction, alongside opportunities for your child to engage in independent reading.

A key focus for us is developing rich vocabulary and strong reading comprehension. Teachers will spend time reading stories in depth with groups, encouraging your child not just to understand what happened, but also to explore the reasons and evidence within the text for why they think something is true.

We are also integrating our Structured Literacy Strategy by explicitly connecting it to the topic we are studying. This helps reinforce the skills your child is learning in a meaningful reading context. We'll be reading stories as a class that tie directly into our Inquiry topic on energy sources. This will deepen their understanding of how energy is used, and how they can apply concepts of sustainability in their own lives.

Writing

Our main goal is to increase each child's independence and sense of responsibility for their own writing, which in turn helps them remain focused and write for longer periods of time. Our teachers will continue to introduce various writing strategies to help children make their writing more accurate and more interesting. This focus includes: exploring different types of sentences and understanding when and how to use them effectively in their work and placing importance on the process of revising and rewriting parts of their work to significantly improve the overall quality and impact of their stories. We will also be introducing and exploring the techniques of persuasive writing, a valuable skill that teaches children how to structure arguments and influence an audience.



Spelling

We will continue to work through the Structured Literacy scope and sequence this term, introducing and consolidating ways of recording different sounds using explicit teaching. We will be extending this by using prefixes and suffixes to develop new words from known ones and looking at differing types of words and sentences.

Steps Web is part of the children's practise of these spelling rules and to build their own spelling knowledge. We will be assigning children tasks in Steps Web that focus on the particular sounds that we are learning during the week. Transferring spelling knowledge is a focus of our writing programme, with children encouraged to use their knowledge of letter sound combinations and spelling rules to make their writing more accurate. Dictionary skills are also being encouraged so that children can proofread their own work.

Maths

This term, our mathematics instruction will continue to be guided by the PR1ME Mathematics programme, ensuring we cover a variety of important Maths Strands. A core focus will remain on developing strong problem-solving strategies and understanding the various algorithms needed to solve equations efficiently. These are critical skills that help children apply math to real-world situations. Basic facts (such as times tables and addition/subtraction facts) are an ongoing, essential focus for many of our students. To help your child consolidate these facts, we use timed tests. These are simply a tool to encourage the daily practice needed to build speed and automaticity, which is key for success in more complex math down the road. We appreciate your support in encouraging regular practice at home!



Drama - Mrs Albery

This term we will be working on how to build a story. Students will be given the beginning of a story and they have to predict what will happen next. They will be using three conventions of drama: freeze frame, slow motion and narration

Music - Mrs Albery

Students will be learning about the musical element melody. This will be taught through the playing of the recorder. This will develop the ability to read music notes on a staff. This will build on the music reading knowledge from year 4.

Science - Mrs Donald

This term in science, students are embarking on an exciting hands-on unit all about energy. They will explore different forms of energy and investigate both renewable and non-renewable sources. They will then participate in engaging practical experiments, where they will apply their understanding of energy use and sustainability in action. Through these activities, students will gain a deeper appreciation for how energy powers our world and the importance of making sustainable choices.

Physical Education - Mr Botha, Miss Lovell, Rev. Pickering

Athletics (Weeks 1-6) - In this unit, students will participate in a variety of athletics events. The main goal is to help them develop confidence and improve their performance by learning to understand and apply feedback.

Just let me Swim! (Weeks 7 - 9) - This unit will see students exploring a range of different sports and challenges within a swimming context.



Just let me Play! (Weeks 7 - 9)

Students will have the chance to simply enjoy a variety of games, from classic favorites to new challenges. While playing, they'll also sharpen their basic skills, deepen their understanding of rules, and refine their tactical thinking.

Christian Education - Reverend Pickering

In Term 4 Christian Education, the students will be completing their study of creation in Genesis before turning our attention to the significance of the nativity story as we lead up to Advent and Christmas.

Technology - Miss McMaster

This term, our Year 5 students are engaging in an inquiry titled 'Energy - The Power to Choose' as part of the PYP theme of 'How We Organise Ourselves.' In order to help the students present what they learn in a creative and engaging way, we are using the coding programme Scratch and the Makey Makey invention kits in our Technology lessons. Students will apply their understanding of electrical circuits by turning every day, conductive objects (like play-dough or foil) into interactive touchpads and controls for their presentations. This project allows them to combine scientific concepts with digital design, enhancing their ability to communicate their inquiries and make meaningful connections about how energy choices impact our community and the way we live.

Languages - Mrs Grant

Students will explore French celebrations and traditions, culminating in a celebration where they will use the language to share food, music, and customs. They will explore how our cultural choices influence the way we celebrate and share traditions.

Digital Tech - Mr McKay

Our Year 5 students are exploring robotics and coding with VEX GO following the Mars Rover Mission unit. They're learning how technology helps planetary scientists collect samples on Mars, building real-world problem-solving skills and having fun along the way!

Library – Mrs Walch

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 and read for pleasure. Teachers can choose to request reinforcement of specific skills if it suits their classroom programme. We will also continue to stress the importance of developing a **Reading For Pleasure** habit. You can encourage this by helping your child set a time and a place to read every day.

Summer Reading will be offered closer to the end of Term 4, which students can sign up to, with parent permission.



Stationery

Please check with your child should they need to update any of their stationery needs including headphones. The children in Year 5 need the following items to be equipped fully for each day's activities: Blue and red pen (this may be a four colour pen), Pencil, Ruler, Rubber, Glue Stick, Pink Highlighter.

Devices

A reminder that mobile phones are only used after 3.20pm to communicate with parents/caregivers. At all other times, they will be in students' school bags. Please do not expect your child to reply to messages during the school day. Laptops are used as a learning tool, with children accessing their school email for learning tasks.

Calendar and Week Ahead

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

We look forward to a positive last term of the year, with plenty of spring-fun to come!

Kind regards

Jo McFarlane
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Greer Caddigan
Year 5 Teachers

