

Term 4, 2025

Year 6 Learning Overview



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 4. We hope you and your family have had a restful holiday and are ready for the term ahead. It is hard to believe that this is the final term for the year. Like always, the upcoming weeks are going to be very busy. The highlight for Year 6 among other things will be the Year 6 Pantomime Sleeping Beauty, which the children will perform at the end of the year. Remember to keep Thursday 4th December free to come and see the show.

In Year 6, our topic this term will be 'The Global Stage.' This unit, as part of 'How we Express Ourselves,' will explore how performance—in its many forms like music, drama, and spoken word—communicates messages and shapes understanding. We'll focus on the central idea that performance is a powerful tool for influence. Students will investigate how the different elements of a performance function together, how performances connect audiences to diverse ideas and cultures, and the responsibility performers and creators have to both their message and their audience. They'll be engaging with Drama, Music, English, and Social Sciences to understand how these art forms reflect histories and social issues and create meaning.

Athletics

Athletics trials will be held all day on Thursday, 13th of November. Our whole school Athletics day is scheduled for Friday 21st of November. Please feel free to bring along a picnic and umbrella, set up and enjoy supporting your child by being a part of this great event. Year 6 students compete in the shot put, discus, cricket ball throw, long jump, high jump, 100m, 200m, 75m hurdles, 800m, 1500m (optional).



Year 6 Assessments

As we move forward to the end of the year all assessments will be completed by teachers as part of the daily classroom routines e.g. Reading PROBES, writing samples and mathematics assessments including PAT tests.

Devices

A reminder that mobile phones are only to be used after 3.20pm **to communicate with**

parents/caregivers. At all other times they must remain in students' school bags and be on silent. Please do not expect your child to reply to messages during the school day. Laptops are to be used as a learning tool only. If a student chooses to use their device inappropriately, then their laptop or phone will be taken and held by the teacher until the end of the day. Repeat offenders will be asked to leave their devices at home.



Learning in Year 6

Reading

In Reading we are continuing to look at reading for enjoyment, finding books that are a good fit and exploring a range of different genres. In teaching sessions, the focus is on asking questions, activating prior knowledge, making connections and scanning text for information, while understanding the purpose of the text.



Writing

In Writing we will continue to use different stimuli to encourage and inspire our writing and work on individual goals. We are looking at the structure and features of different types of writing that support our learning across all areas of the curriculum.

Mathematics

In Mathematics students are looking at the strands of Number, Algebra and Statistics. Emphasis is placed on problem solving in real world application. Mathematics will continue to be used to consolidate class learning.

Science – Mrs Donald

This Term in Science, Year 6 students will explore the physics of **elastic potential energy** in a unit called '**Flexi Physics**'. This unit focuses on how energy is stored in stretchy or compressed objects

like springs or rubber bands with plenty of hands-on experiments to engage and enhance their learning. Students will also cover the **Law of Conservation of Energy**, explaining that energy can't be created or destroyed, only transformed, and how potential energy can be converted into **kinetic energy**.



Technology – Miss McMaster

Our Year 6 students will be completing a unit of work called 'Tech and Our Stories' as part of their wider inquiry under the theme 'How We Express Ourselves'. This unit will focus on how technology—from apps and code to digital design—gives them a unique and powerful way to share their personal ideas and culture with the world. Students will be made aware that they aren't just *using* technology; they're learning to be the designers and authors of their digital expression. Over the term, they will design various digital symbols and plan a storyboard from which they will code an

interactive story in Scratch to share cultural concepts like whanaungatanga (connection) and manaakitanga (kindness). The goal is for students to understand that the code and design choices they make are essential for communicating their unique voice clearly and thoughtfully on the global stage.

Physical Education – Mr Norman and Classroom teachers

Athletics (Week 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! (Week 7 - 9) - This unit will see students exploring a range of different sports and challenges within a swimming context.

Just let me Play! (Week 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 – Rev Pickering

In Term 4 Christian Education, students will be completing their investigation into some of the miracles of Jesus and imagining some of the corresponding artifacts that could tie in to each miracle we have studied. Then as we lead up to Christmas, we will be discussing the significance of the nativity story and what it means for us in the 21st century.



Languages - Mrs Grant

This term, students will explore French through music, pantomime, and skits, culminating in short creative performances to demonstrate their language skills and cultural understanding.



Te Reo - Whaea Whetu

Term 4 will continue to build vocabulary and confidence in using te reo through waiata and hands-on games and activities. As part of the inquiry process students will explore aspects of Maaori performing arts such karanga, poi, waiata-a-ringa, and moteatea.

Music – Mrs McIntyre

During Term 4, students will return to the ukulele. This time, instead of focusing only on chords, they will explore melodic playing by learning to pluck simple tunes, working in groups, and then incorporating chords again. Students will also consider the different roles of **audience member** and **performer**, and they will listen to and engage with a selection of pantomime songs.



Drama – Mrs Walker

Students will create and perform a character in the 2025 Year 6 Pantomime, “Sleeping Beauty”. They will work collaboratively using dramatic conventions to develop a class scene and perform a dance. We are looking forward to presenting this show on Thursday 4th December.

Art - Mrs Wing

This term, Year 6 students are inquiring into the elements of art, with a focus on techniques and repetition. They'll explore line, shape, form, space, colour, and texture while experimenting with different materials. As they create their own pieces, students will reflect on their choices and consider how artists use these elements in their work too.



Pottery – Mrs Wathen

In Pottery, students are learning moulding, texture, and pinch techniques as they create Kiwiana icons such as a kete and a sheep. They'll also continue developing their glazing skills. As they work, students will reflect on their process, make connections to New Zealand culture, and explore how different techniques can bring their ideas to life.

Library – Mrs Huggins

In Term 4, Year 6 students are given limited access to our Senior Fiction section. These titles start to move into what is known as Young Adult (YA) fiction and will increasingly have content which reflects this. If you don't want your children accessing these titles, please

do let the librarians know. Children will be encouraged to spend quality time with their book of choice. 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. We will also be using the Library platform to support and develop research skills and inquiry learning. Summer Reading will be offered closer to the end of Term 4, which students can sign up to, with parent permission.

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.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher.

Thank you again for your support and we are looking forward to a great last term with your children.

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Year 6 Teachers