

Term 4, 2025

Year 7 Learning Overview



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Term 4 in Year 7. We hope that you and your children had a wonderful holiday and are looking forward to the term ahead. Below is a brief outline of the events coming up and the learning that will be taking place this term.

Athletics

Athletics heats will be held all day on Thursday, the 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 7 students compete in the shot put, discus, cricket ball throw, long jump, high jump, 100m, 200m, 75m hurdles, 800m, and 1500m (optional).

Year 7 Assessments

Assessments in Mathematics (PAT and Gloss), Reading (Probe, PAT), and Writing (unassisted writing sample) will take place during the term as occurred earlier in the year.

Devices

This is a reminder that mobile phones are only to be used after 3:20 pm for **communication with parents and caregivers**. The same rule applies to smartwatches. During school hours, these devices must remain on silent, and phones stored in students' bags. Please do not contact your child directly during school hours, as they won't be able to check their phones. If you need to send an urgent message, kindly email or phone the school office, and they will ensure the message reaches your child promptly.

Laptops are to be used strictly as learning tools. If a student is found using their device inappropriately, the phone, smart watch, or laptop will be confiscated 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 7



Social Science - Year 7 Teachers

In Term 4, our inquiry will focus on understanding the world and its phenomena through discovery, design, innovation, and the exploration of possibilities and impacts. Our Central Idea is: Innovation emerges through problem-solving, creativity, and a desire for change.

Writing - Year 7 Teachers

Students will continue to grow as independent writers, building both confidence and stamina. Their writing will be inspired by personal experiences as well as topics introduced through the classroom programme. They will learn to write with a clear sense of purpose and audience, while further developing their understanding of the Seven Steps to produce dynamic, engaging, and informative pieces.

Reading - Year 7 Teachers

Students will develop a range of comprehension skills across a variety of text types to deepen their understanding of what they read and to support their growth as capable, confident readers. Many of the texts selected will connect to and support our current PYP Inquiry.

Maths - Year 7 Teachers, Mrs. Steffert, Mr. Walch, Mr. McKay

Students will be reviewing concepts taught during the year in preparation for their PAT test. They will also explore the Statistics strand and refocus on any areas that require further development. Students will plan and report on a statistical investigation arising from the consideration of an issue. They will also explore probability and the language associated with chance.

Christian Education - Reverend Canon Neale Troon

In Christian Education, the students will prepare for the Season of Advent as this foreshadows Christmas.

Technology – Mr Williams

Students will be learning through STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) to solve a variety of engineering challenges.

Languages – Mrs Grant

Students will explore famous French innovators and designers, learning how creativity and problem-solving drive innovation. They will discover the stories behind inventions, artworks,



and designs, while practising French language and sharing their findings through short creative projects.

Healthy Choices - Ms Hazlett

Students will be empowered to explore healthy approaches to living through a variety of experiences, through the innovation design thinking process. Students will move beyond simply following recipes to actively designing, innovating, and pitching healthier food solutions.

Science - Ms Voss

To meet health and safety requirements students need to wear covered shoes when they come to the laboratory. This can be their black school shoes or a pair of sneakers. If your child wears specialised shoes for their sport code, please consider leaving a pair of old sneakers at school so they have covered shoes on the day of their Science lesson.

In Science in Term 4 we will be studying concepts in the Material World. Students will learn about the fire triangle, burning and combustion and begin to apply the scientific process to their work.

Music – Mrs Albery

In Term 4, students will explore the world of music technology, focusing on creating structured musical compositions. Through hands-on experience, they will learn essential concepts such as recording techniques, utilising pre-made loops, and crafting their own loops to enhance compositions.

Drama – Mrs Walker

Students will learn to explore an issue or solve a problem using the conventions of Drama to represent their findings.

Physical Education - Year 7 Teachers, Mr Botha, Miss Lovell

Athletics (Weeks 1-5) - 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.

Swimming (Weeks 6-9) - This unit will see students exploring a range of different sports and challenges within a swimming context.

Just let me play! (Weeks 6-9) - 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.



Art - Mrs Wing

Students will be venturing further into the "Kiwiana" theme, where they'll have the opportunity to explore mixed media and acrylic painting techniques. This engaging theme allows them to look at New Zealand's iconic Kiwiana while developing their artistic skills. As part of this creative journey, they'll also learn about New Zealand artists who have crafted beautiful works in this style and theme. We're excited to showcase their finished masterpieces in our school's gallery for everyone to enjoy.

Pottery - Mrs Wathen

In Pottery, students will continue their exploration of the theme "Kiwiana." This term, the focus will be on mastering various techniques, including slab, coil, and pinch methods, as they create a clinker dinghy. Students will learn how to manipulate clay, allowing them to express their creativity while developing their technical skills. Students will experiment with glazing techniques to enhance their final pieces, bringing vibrant colors and textures to their dinghy.

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. The Library will support the students' inquiry by focusing on using Sketchnoting when using sources to inform their 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.

Please remember that learning is a partnership involving your child, you as parents, and the teacher. If you have any questions regarding your child, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We are looking forward to a great final term together in Year 7. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,
Tamsyn Riggins
Josh McCabe
Bridget Hawthorn
Rachel van Heuven
Gayle McLean
Di Hazlett

Year 7 Teachers