



Term 1, 2026 **Years 1 & 2 Learning Overview**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to all our Junior School families, and a warm welcome to the new families who have joined the Junior School in 2026. We are excited to start the year with three Year 1 classes and two Year 2 classes.

Introducing the Year 1 & 2 Team

Ms. Linda Tiffany (Dean) 1LT

linda.tiffany@southwell.school.nz

Mrs. Jodie Carter 1JC

jodie.carter@southwell.school.nz

Mrs. Louise Filipo 1LF

louise.filipo@southwell.school.nz

Mrs Amelia Meertens 2AME

amelia.meertens@southwell.school.nz

Miss. Bridget Coleman 2BC

bridget.coleman@southwell.school.nz



Your child's homeroom teacher will be your first port-of-call should you have any questions or queries. **Teachers are generally available in their classrooms from 8.00am onwards.** *If your child needs to be at school earlier than 8am, please note that the library is open, but there may not always be a teaching staff present.* Alternatively, teachers can be reached at the above email address should you wish to arrange a meeting.

We look forward to establishing an amazing partnership between students, parents and teachers.

Useful things to note about Years 1 and 2:

Week Ahead

This will be emailed to Parents and Caregivers every Friday from the School Administrator. It is important that you are receiving this and that you read it carefully, as it has useful information about what is coming up in the week ahead. Teachers will also send out a note each Friday with class-specific information for the following week.

Learning Conferences

Learning Conferences will take place in Week 3, on the 9th-12th of February. Please book online as soon as possible to get your preferred slot. This link has been emailed to you from the School Administrator. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to tell us about your child, your expectations, and a chance to ask any questions you may have about the classroom programme.

Timetable

You will notice on The Week Ahead that we have labeled our weeks as Week A or Week B. This is to help us run a balanced timetable across two weeks and maximise our resources. For example, there may be PE on a Monday and Thursday in Week A but a Tuesday and Friday in Week B. Bringing gear on the right day will help students to keep organised.



Uniform

It has been lovely to see our Year 1 and 2 learners ready for learning and smartly dressed in their uniforms. To remain sun-safe, our school hats are compulsory in Terms 1 and 4 and all children must wear their hats during break times. Please help us to return uniform items to the right family by making sure all uniform items are clearly named. This is very important for our younger learners who are still learning to identify and manage their belongings - especially hats and shoes!

Year 0-2 Education Outside the Classroom Trip

On **Thursday, 26th February** (Week 5), Year 2 students will be travelling by bus to Maungatautari Mountain to support our unit of inquiry – **Sharing the Planet**, where we are learning that we can make choices and take action to care for the Earth, and its resources. To view further details, please click [HERE](#) for the parent letter that was sent out on the 28th January.

Then, on **Friday, 6th March** (Week 6), our Year 1 students will be exploring the Inquiry unit **Who We Are**. To support this learning, we will be taking an Education Outside the Classroom trip to **Taitua Arboretum**. During this bush walk, students will learn about Hauora by nurturing their body, mind, relationships, and connection to nature.

Please click [HERE](#) to access the parent letter also sent out on the 28th January.

Lunches/Snacks

Named water bottles are important especially during hot weather so please send a drink bottle along each day. Students will be able to access their drink bottle at any time of the day.

We will have a fruit and vegetable break each morning in addition to morning tea. Please provide your child with some sliced / peeled fruit or vegetables, or a small container of raisins or other dried fruit. **Please NO NUTS (we are a nut free school).**

Learning for Term 1

Our Term 1 learning programmes have been carefully designed to optimise your child's learning and management of school life.

This is assisted by:

- The establishment of **routines** and **independence** - a focus that is continually reinforced.
- A positive behavior programme focusing on 'good choices' and 'self- management'.
- Having your child at school on time enables them to have a positive start to the day. Ideally, children should arrive at school between 8.00 am - 8.20 am.
- Encouraging your child to return what they need to bring to class each day.



Our Literacy learning will occur in the first-morning block through to Morning Tea, followed by Maths, in order to utilize prime learning time.

After a long busy day, Year 1 children may be picked up from school any time after 2.30pm. This will help with the tiredness young children experience with our extra-long school day. However, teachers will still be running learning programmes with children who wish to stay until 3.20pm. After School Care will still be available for those who wish to use it. If your child is still waiting after 3:30pm to be picked up, we will automatically pop them into our After School Care programme.

In class, we are settling quickly into established classroom routines and learning programmes. As such we have included a brief outline of the learning taking place this term for your interest.

We hope that you will enjoy being a part of the Junior School family as we all work together to produce happy, focused learners.

Learning in Year 1&2

Literacy

Structured Literacy is an integral part of our classroom programmes. Children learn how sounds and symbols (letters) work together, building their foundational skills. This approach also emphasises vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, and spelling rules, equipping children with the necessary tools to become confident readers and writers.



Reading

In our reading journey, we start by introducing sounds to letter names. To reinforce learning we send these letters home on a ring. As children gain confidence with certain letter names and vowel sounds, we provide them with a decodable book. Some of these books will come home as part of our home learning programme, while other decodable books will remain at school. These texts are carefully selected to align with their learning throughout the week. Once children have mastered the foundation spelling and reading concepts, we introduce a variety of other traditional-style reading books to further enhance their learning at school.

Writing

In our writing sessions, we integrate Structured Literacy to help children express their ideas with confidence and encourage them to use words they already know, while also guiding them in sounding out and recording unfamiliar words. Alongside this, children receive explicit instructions and sequential spelling rules to strengthen their writing skills.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, we will be learning through Structured Maths. Students will be learning about number, with a particular focus on counting, number bonds, addition and subtraction. Emphasis is placed on using practical activities and knowledge-based games. In strand Maths we are looking at 'position and movement' as well as 'sorting and surveys'.

Specialist Subjects

We are also lucky to have the support of our Specialist Teachers who teach Te Reo, Christian Education, Performing Arts, and Physical Education in Year 2. In Year 1, we work hard to limit the amount of changes in teachers for students. Year 1 students will still go to Physical Education and Performing Arts with the Specialist teachers and Chaplain will lead us in Christian Education into the Christmas Season.

Physical Education - Mr Norman, Miss Lovell and Mr Botha

Let's Play

By understanding and following the rules of a game, students will develop an understanding how this makes the game fun and enjoyable for everyone.

Swimming

Students will focus on developing their water confidence by exploring various swimming strokes at their own pace and working towards showcasing their learning at our School Swimming Sports.



To infinity and Beyond

In this unit, students will explore the concepts of invasion, focusing on developing the ability to utilize space effectively to evade an opponent or to close down space when marking.

Te Reo Maaori - Whaea Whetu Te Ua

This term, Year 2 students will learn to use te reo Maaori in everyday classroom situations. They will listen to and understand spoken te reo through karakia and simple instructions, and practise speaking te reo in familiar contexts such as greetings, classroom language and camp-related experiences. Our focus is on building confidence and encouraging students to use te reo naturally as part of their daily learning.

Christian Education - Reverend Canon Neale Troon

Year 1 and 2 students will be exploring the beginnings of faith and how we might best live in a world created for us. They will also prepare for the celebration of Easter through lessons that focus on important elements surrounding this event and some of the traditions that have built up over the centuries which they may participate in.

Performing Arts

Year 1

Students will learn the difference between their speaking voice and singing voice. They will begin to learn to sing a range of folk songs individually and with others using mainly the pitches so and mi. Students will also start to recognise the difference between high and low and begin to be able to keep in time to music.



Year 2

Students will continue working on establishing a tuneful singing voice. They will continue learning to sing a range of folk songs individually and with others using mainly the pitches, so, mi and la. Students will also recognise the difference between so, mi and la and identify the difference between ta, ti-ti (one or two sounds on a beat) and also za (rest).

Year 2 Suzuki String Programme

In Year 2, students will spend two terms learning how to play either the violin or cello in the Suzuki method. 2BC will complete this in Terms 1 and 2, while 2AME will be in Terms 3 and 4. You will receive specific information via email about the Suzuki string programme that will include how the instrument allocation will work.

Library - Mrs Lucy Munro

In the Library we introduce the children to new books and stories, usually linked to that week's Chapel theme or the PYP Learner Attributes. We talk about the books they have read and browse, issue and return books. We also teach the children the basic routines and skills which will ultimately enable them to use the library independently.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you again for your support.

Linda Tiffany (Dean)
Jodie Carter
Louise Filipo
Bridget Coleman
Amelia Meertens

Year 1 and 2 Teachers