



From the Headmaster

Today we had the privilege of welcoming so many generations of our Southwell whānau to the school for Grandparents' Day. There is a unique energy on campus when our grandparents visit - a wonderful mixture of pride, a bit of mischief, and a great deal of love.

While parents and teachers provide the instructions for life, it is often our grandparents who provide the stories, the secrets, and the grounding that stays with a child.

In a world that moves faster every year, our grandparents represent continuity and a slower pace - a soft place to land when life feels a bit too loud.

It was a joy to see our students acting as very capable tour guides today. From proud classroom visits and meeting the teachers, to exploring the library and showing off their work, the sense of belonging was clear to see.

We are so grateful for the roots our grandparents have planted, allowing our children to grow their own branches and reach for the future.

This has been a beautiful way to end the term. As we head into the Easter break and the school holidays, I wish you all a time of genuine rest. I hope the coming weeks are filled with good food, plenty of sleep, and some fresh air and exercise.

Stay safe and, most importantly, enjoy quality time together as a family. We look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for Term 2.

Keryn Bindon, Headmaster

SOUTHWELL NEWS - AWARDS, BADGES, CERTIFICATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Term 1 Science Badges

Jack Hobson - Marine Biology, Mila Gregory - Marine Biology, Amanda Liu - Marine Biology
Sophie Gong - Marine Biology, Harrison Pastello - Sports Science, Beau Rickman - Sports
Science, Sophie Cashin - Large Animals, Alexa Saunders-Edwards - Antarctica Science
Kahurangi Potae-Tamatea- Palaeontology & Astronomy,
Bella Bai - Botany & Human Biology



**Micahel Porterous
Trophy - House Relays
WINCHESTER**



**PG Neveltsen Trophy - House
Champions
YORK**



SOUTHWELL NEWS- AWARDS, BADGES, CERTIFICATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAIRFIELD CLUSTER SWIMMING SPORTS



Results are listed further in the newsletter



2026 KLQ Team

Ellie Stacey-Bryant, Evie Rushbrooke, Georgia Hoy, Hannah Grayling, Romy Savage, Shiya Gong, Sofiya Taylor, Stirling Leigh



Boarders Squad Leaders

Zara Boyden, Eva Dingle, Harry Hatcher



Cricket Bat Awards
Louie Marra
53 runs off 30 balls
64 runs off 30 balls
Thomas Dudin
50 runs off 30 balls



Term 1 - Achievement Ties

Ava Boynton, Amyrose Hooper, Olive Lugton, Ewen Maisonneuve, Pip Ormrod, Cruden Aupouri-Kana



Term 1 - Achievement Badges

Kahu Johnson, Phyllis Mai, Noah Ogle, Tessa Spencer, Bella Tan

Community & Alumni Chapel Service



Last Sunday, our community and alumni gathered for a beautiful Chapel service and morning tea. It was a wonderful chance to reconnect and share memories. This is only the start of our celebrations! Please save the date for **August 30th**, as we come together to honour the 100th anniversary of our Chapel.



THE BELOW IMAGES WERE DISPLAYED ON THE LARGE SCREEN AT ASSEMBLY

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO BE ACTIVE?



WHO IS THRIVING WITH THEIR LEARNING?



A HEARTFELT FAREWELL TO OUR CHAPLAIN, REV'D CANON NEALE TROON



This week, our school community gathered for a very special assembly to honour the retirement of our beloved Chaplain, Rev'd Canon Neale Troon. It was a privilege to have his treasured family join us as we celebrated nearly three decades of dedicated service.



For the past 28 years, "Chaplain" has been much more than a staff member; he has been a steady spiritual anchor for our children and a true shepherd and friend to us all. His wisdom, warmth, and unwavering support have shaped the heart of our school.



While we are saddened to say goodbye, we are immensely grateful for the legacy he leaves behind. We will miss you dearly, Chaplain.

God Bless





INTRODUCING THE 2026 SOUTHWELL OPERA CAST

We are very excited to announce the Opera and Foyer Theatre Cast's for the 2026 opera, Annie.

Click [HERE](#) to view for the cast list.

CASTING CALL: IS YOUR DOG THE NEXT STAR OF ANNIE?

We are on the hunt for our very own Sandy for this year's Opera production of Annie, we would love to find our four-legged star from within our own talented school community. If your dog has the stage presence and temperament to shine under the spotlight, we want to hear from you.

The Search Criteria

To ensure we find the perfect match for the role, we are looking for a dog that meets the following:

Size: Medium to large (no small breeds, please).

Appearance: Sandy-colored (tan, brown, or beige) with a coat that can be groomed to look a bit "scruffy."

Temperament: Exceptionally calm, friendly, and comfortable around children.

Skills: Obedient and capable of being trained to follow cues and come when called by our student actors.

How to Apply

Think your canine companion is ready for their big break? Please email the following details to our Performing Arts Administrator - sarah-jane.flexman@southwell.school.nz:

Dog's details: Breed, height, and level of obedience training.

Photos: A couple of recent snapshots.

Deadline: Applications must be submitted by the end of Term 2, Week 1.

The Next Steps

Our team will shortlist the top four candidates for an "audition" to meet the Director and the cast.

We can't wait to meet your superstars!



CAN YOU HELP OUR LEARNERS GO FURTHER?

We are thrilled to announce an exciting new development in our IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) for 2026. As we look ahead to this year's student-led inquiries, we want to bridge the gap between the classroom and the real world by tapping into the incredible wealth of knowledge within our own Southwell community.

Introducing: The "Experts Among Us" Wall

Located physically in the School Library, this initiative is designed to be a go to resource for our inquisitive learners. Whether it is a Year 7 student researching sustainable design, or a Year 5 student exploring local history, they will now have a dedicated directory of community members ready to share their expertise.

Your involvement will transform how our children connect their learning to the world around them.

How You Can Get Involved

We are seeking parents and grandparents willing to share their skills, knowledge, or professional experience. We aren't just looking for "traditional" office jobs, we need a diverse range of passions!

You might be...
Beekeeper or Gardener?
Barista or Chef?
Historian or Archivist?
Computer Programmer or Engineer?
Artist or Tradesperson?

How It Works

You Define the Scope: You decide exactly how you can help and what topics you are comfortable discussing.

Secure Connection: All contact methods will be securely managed by the school.
Long-term Impact: Since inquiries happen throughout the year (and into the future), we are looking for volunteers who might be available for occasional check-ins over the long term.

Ready to sign up?

Click [Here](#) to complete the Expert Volunteer Form
(Please include your area of expertise and your general availability.)

We can't wait to see the unique insights and "real-world" magic our community experts will bring to Southwell!

Thank
you!

A HEARTFELT THANKS

A big thank you to all the parents and caregivers who attended our recent Tackling Technology presentation! It was wonderful to see so many of you engaged in learning how to support our tamariki as they navigate the complexities of the digital world.

As discussed, our role is to be "tech leaders" for our families. Just as we teach children to cross the road safely, we must help them develop the digital skills and habits necessary for positive online experiences and mental well-being.

Key Takeaways from the Session

To help you implement what we covered, here are three essential strategies:

Be Intentional: Take an active approach by considering how technology aligns with your family values and your child's unique personality. Remember, it is always okay to delay access to certain tech.

Get Practical: Conduct a home tech review and set up filters (such as Safe Surfer) on all devices. Use PIN codes and parental controls to manage content and screen time.

Keep Talking: Foster a judgment-free relationship where your child feels safe coming to you with questions. Use "what if" scenarios to build their critical thinking skills before problems arise.

Resources for Your Digital Toolkit

For further guidance, Parenting Place provides several excellent deep-dive articles:

[Reining in Screen Time: A Gentle Guide](#)

[How to Talk About Social Media](#)

[Is My Kid Safe on Snapchat?](#)

[First Phones: Are You Ready?](#)

[Controls and Filters: A How-To Guide](#)

A Special Message from Parenting Place

The team at Parenting Place wanted to share their gratitude and some additional support options:

"Thank you for attending Tackling Technology – we hope you find these notes helpful.

Parenting Place exists to support parents to build strong family relationships."

Sign up to receive parentingplace.nz emails, packed with practical tips and strategies

Follow us on social @parentingplacenz

6pm-7:30pm Digital Parenting online course. Use the code school20 to get 20% off.

[Book 1:1 parent coaching](#) for personalised support

[Here](#) is a link to a summary of the summary of the Tackling Technology talk

Online Parenting Course

Digital Parenting

Raising kids in an online world

parentingplace.nz/digital-parenting

in partnership with Spark

The advertisement features a purple background with white and pink text. On the right side, there is a photograph of a woman and a child looking at a smartphone together. The Spark logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the ad.

SOUTHWELL NEWS - SWIMMING RESULTS

FAIRFIELD CLUSTER SWIMMING SPORTS

We are super proud of our Y4-6 Southwell swimmers who represented our school and produced some outstanding results at the recent Fairfield Cluster Swimming Sports.

YEAR 4 GIRLS

25m Freestyle

1st - Olivia Williams
2nd - Mila Xu
3rd - Mila Ah Yen

25m Backstroke

1st - Olivia Williams
2nd - Mila Xu
3rd - Mila Ah Yen

25m Breaststroke

1st - Olivia Williams
2nd - Emily Roach
3rd - Mila Ah Yen

Freestyle Relay

1st - Southwell Y4 Girls
Milla Xu, Olivia Williams,
Mila Ah Yen, Emily Roach

YEAR 4 BOYS

25m Freestyle

1st - Hugo Stark
3rd - Gabriel Qiu

25m Backstroke

1st - Hugo Stark Xu
2nd - Gabriel Qiu

25m Breaststroke

2nd - Gabriel Qiu
3rd - Bridge Lu

Freestyle Relay

1st Southwell Y4 Boys
Gabriel Qiu, Hugo Stark,
Aris Li, Johnnu Hu

YEAR 5 GIRLS

25m Freestyle

2nd - Eve Simnor

25m Backstroke

2nd - Eve Simnor

25m Breaststroke

3rd - Neve Williams

Freestyle Relay

2nd - Southwell Y5 Girls
Eve Simnor, Faryn Bourke,
Adelaide Oehley, Charlotte
Copeman

YEAR 5 BOYS

25m Freestyle

2nd - Kieran Yu
3rd - George Woodyard

25m Backstroke

2nd - Oliver Chen
3rd - Kieran Yu

25m Breaststroke

1st - Oliver Chen
3rd - Kieran Yu

Freestyle Relay

1st - Southwell Y5 Boys
George Woodyard, Kieran Yu,
Oliver Chen, Austin Cui

YEAR 6 GIRLS

25m Freestyle

2nd - Alice Meertens

25m Backstroke

1st - Alice Meertens

25m Breaststroke

1st - Frankie Wu
3rd - Veronica Lee

Freestyle Relay

1st - Southwell Y6 Girls
Alice Meertens, Willa Crome,
Veronica Lee, Ella Schuster

YEAR 6 BOYS

25m Freestyle

2nd - Eden Chen
3rd - Leo Xu

25m Backstroke

3rd - Leo Xu

25m Breaststroke

2nd - Eden Chen
3rd - Leo Xu

Freestyle Relay

1st - Southwell Y6 Boys
Eden Chen, Leo Xu, Daniel
Bell, Hugh Bindon



SOUTHWELL NEWS

The excitement ignited as House rivalry took centre stage at the pool this week. House Prefects rallied their teams with chants and cheers, filling the air with energy and house spirit. Laughter, competition and encouragement echoed as swimmers raced through the pool, each House striving for victory. So much fun - so much splash. What a great way to start a school day.



Congratulations

PG NEVELDSEN TROPHY - HOUSE CHAMPIONS - YORK

MICHAEL PORTEOUS TROPHY - SWIMMING HOUSE RELAYS
- WINCHESTER



SNAPSHOTS - GRANDPARENTS & GRANDFRIENDS DAY

Grandparents' and Grand Friend's Day is always a special day in our school calendar. It is a heartwarming occasion where our students proudly welcome their grandparents into their school world, sharing the spaces where they learn, play and grow.

Seeing the joy on the children's faces as they guide their grandparents through classrooms, showcase their work and introduce them to teachers is truly wonderful. It's a day filled with storytelling, laughter and cherished moments that strengthen the bond between generations.

We are grateful to all the grandparents and grand friends who joined us, making this event so memorable. Your presence enriches our school community, and we look forward to welcoming you again next year!





BOOK CHARACTER DAY

Book Week is always a highlight of the Southwell calendar - culminating in the colourful, crazy, Book Character Day. This year it is on Friday, 1st May. It is always a memorable day in our school calendar.

In order to reduce the stress around sourcing a costume, we like to give you plenty of warning...the Easter holidays is always a great time to get sorted! If you need any inspiration click [HERE!](#)

ARE YOU A FAIR TRADE CHAMPION? OUR YEAR 7'S NEED YOU!

Next term, our Year 7's are exploring ethical trade - where products come from, how workers are treated, and how we can make fair choices. These are the questions our Year 7's will be tackling next term as they explore Ethical Trade.

To make this unit truly impactful, we are looking for members of our community to share their professional or personal stories regarding sustainability and fair trade practices. Whether you're a small business owner with an ethical focus or a professional in the sustainability sector, your voice matters.

Get involved: Email Y7 Dean, tamsyn.riggins@southwell.school.nz to find out how you can contribute to a classroom session.

WINTER UNIFORM



A reminder that Term 2 is Winter Uniform changeover, all students will return to school after the holidays in full winter uniform - grey long sleeve shirts, winter shorts, culottes/skirts, socks/tights, black formal shoes. We also have a woolen jersey and winter PE gear options for extra warmth.

If you are new to Southwell in 2026, please remember to pop into the shop to purchase your child's winter uniform.

UNIFORM SHOP-HOLIDAY HOURS

OPEN: Monday 13th April - Friday 17th April, 2026
9 am - 4 pm