



## **Term 2, 2026** **Year 5 Learning Overview**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Term 2. We hope that our Year 5 students had a relaxing and enjoyable break.

### **Year 5 Production**

We are really looking forward to showing our terms learning on our unit on Heroes in Week 3. The children have been working hard on presenting some of their ideas from the stories that we have been learning about and showcasing their ideas about how heroes influence our lives and how we can be heroes as well.

We look forward to seeing you at the performance on Thursday evening May 7th at 6pm. Look out for more details to come regarding costumes and props.



### **Weekly Chapel Themes**

A weekly focus will be introduced during Chapel and reinforced during discussions with children in class and assemblies. You can find the weekly focus outlined in the student diary, which gives children an opportunity to reflect on each focus throughout the week.

### **School Calendar**

Information that you may need regarding dates for upcoming events can be found on the School Calendar. Click [HERE](#) for the school calendar. Please note that this is updated regularly.

### **Week Ahead**

This will be emailed every Friday to all Southwell parents. It is important that you are getting this and you read it carefully as it has information about what is coming up in the week ahead.

## Book Week

Southwell Book Week starts on Tuesday, April 28th. Our visiting author for all students is the legend that is Donovan Bixley - author and illustrator of a multitude of fabulous books, from Looky Books, through the Maui picture books, Flying Furballs adventures to thoughtful and beautiful illustrated works about Mozart and Da Vinci

There will be many exciting opportunities to embrace reading during the week - including House quizzes, class-based activities, Library competitions and activities. The culmination of the week is always the excitement of Book Character Day (Friday, May 1st) when students dress up as their favourite book character and come to school. This is always a sight to behold and we can't wait to see it all happen again! Do have a chat with your children about **your** favourite book, book character or magazine growing up. These conversations create interest and excitement - you are their reading role models!!



## Learning in Year 5

### Writing

In Writing this term, our main focus will be on developing students' stamina and independence, enabling them to write for longer, sustained periods of time. Through targeted group teaching, we will support students to become more confident, accurate, and effective writers. They will be encouraged to apply and practise these strategies during their independent writing sessions. Our Inquiry topic on Animal Adaptations will also provide a meaningful context and inspiration for their writing.

### Spelling

This term, we will be using the iDeaL Structured Literacy programme in each class to support students in developing a strong understanding of spelling patterns and improving their accuracy. The programme teaches children practical strategies for breaking words into syllables and sounds, as well as exploring the different types of words they use in their writing. Each concept is introduced and extended through the use of prefixes and suffixes alongside base words.

In addition, students will continue to use StepsWeb, our online spelling programme, to reinforce and build on this learning. Each child is working at a level tailored to them, based on individual assessment. StepsWeb can also be accessed from home and is a valuable way to strengthen spelling skills, while also supporting memory, problem-solving, and processing speed through engaging activities. We encourage students to spend some time on this every few days as part of their homework routine.



## Reading

Our Guided Reading programme this term will focus on supporting students to read texts at their instructional level, allowing us to explicitly develop vocabulary, comprehension, and deeper understanding of what they read. During these sessions, students will be guided to think critically about texts by making connections, asking questions, and summarising key ideas. There will also be a strong emphasis on building fluency, including reading with expression, accuracy, and an understanding of how punctuation supports meaning. At times, reading materials will be linked to our Inquiry topic, helping to build background knowledge that students can draw on across their learning.

Reading for enjoyment at home remains an essential part of developing confident, fluent readers. Regular reading helps reinforce strategies taught at school and supports overall progress. This term, reading homework encourages students to explore a wide range of texts, including fiction and non-fiction. We ask that students record the title of the book they have read in their diary each night to help build consistency and accountability.

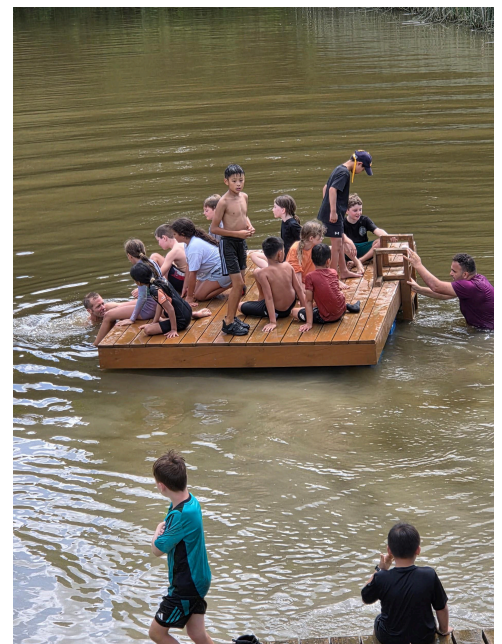


## Mathematics

This term, our Mathematics learning will focus on the key areas of operations, measurement, and fractional number. Through the PR1ME programme, students will develop their understanding of addition and subtraction (including regrouping), multiplication and division, and the concept of fractions. These areas will be explored through a balance of explicit teaching, hands-on activities, and meaningful problem-solving tasks. A strong emphasis will also be placed on developing flexible number strategies so students can approach problems with confidence and efficiency.

Ongoing practice of basic facts remains an important part of our programme, particularly for students who are consolidating their knowledge of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. Building fluency in these areas supports overall mathematical understanding and confidence.

Students will also be assigned Maths Buddy tasks linked to the concepts being covered in class. These can be completed at home as part of their homework routine, along with practising Speed Skills to further strengthen basic facts recall. Regular use of Maths Buddy at home is a valuable way to reinforce and consolidate learning from the classroom.



## Social Sciences

This term, our Inquiry learning will be guided by the theme *Where We Are in Space and Time*, with a focus on **Animal Adaptations**. Students will explore how living things adapt to their environments and consider the influence of human activity on these changes. Throughout the unit, children will learn about different types of adaptations and how to classify and categorise them. They will also investigate the important role that habitats and environments play in shaping how animals survive and change over time. Students will examine how human impact can affect living things and explore evidence of how species have adapted over time in response to both natural conditions and human influences. To conclude the unit, students will design their own adapted animal, explaining how it is suited to its environment and demonstrating their understanding of adaptation. This learning will be a basis for our speeches in Term 3.

## Science - Mrs Voss

Year 5 students will begin the term by asking the question, "What is needed for a seed to germinate?" We will then move on to look at specific adaptations of plants relating to root systems, leaf structure and seed dispersal. Students will be able to bring home their germinated seeds if they wish.

## Digital Technology - Mr McKay

This term, students will develop media production skills by using Canva to create David Attenborough-style documentaries that explore the lives of animals in the wild. They will then transition to Scratch to code an interactive "Adapt-o-Bot," simulating how their chosen creature's unique physical and behavioral traits allow it to survive in its environment.

## P.E. - Mr Botha, Miss Lovell, Rev. Pickering

**Ninja Warrior (Gymnastics)** - In this unit, students will further explore their body's capacity for movement with a focus on the fundamental movements of swing, roll, balance, spring, landing, and locomotion. Students will utilise these skills alongside explosive movements to complete set indoor and outdoor obstacle courses.

**Space Invaders (Invasion)** - In this unit, students will dive into a variety of fast-paced invasion games. The goal? To work as one! As we play, we will be developing essential skills in teamwork, clear communication, and strategic thinking. Students will learn how to adapt their play across different games to help their team succeed.

**iROX** - In the unit, students tackle a modified fitness challenge where teamwork is the key to success. They will work together to power through tough workout stations, learning how to motivate their teammates to the finish line. Beyond the workout, students also step up as officials, taking on the responsibility of leading the event, keeping the competition fair, and ensuring everyone stays safe.

**Just let me play!** - Students will have the chance to simply enjoy participating in physical activity, whether revisiting a previous activity, discovering something new, or playing old favourites.



### **Christian Education - Reverend Pickering**

Students will first be reflecting on the events of Easter and what it means for us in the 21st Century. Then we will be going right back to the start, looking at the first book of the Bible, Genesis. Here we will get to know the key people and events in this book as well as discuss how this book encourages us to look after the natural world.

### **Te Reo Maaori - Whaea Whetu**

This term, akonga will explore waiata and action songs connected to Matariki, deepening their understanding of Maaori culture and celebrations. They will continue to build vocabulary and everyday classroom instructions through games and hands on activities.

### **Music - Mrs Albery**

After the production students will explore rhythm using body percussion techniques. They will learn to read and write simple rhythmic patterns, progressing to more complex ones over time. By physically engaging with rhythm through clapping, stomping, and snapping, students will internalize these patterns and enhance their musical abilities. As well as mastering rhythmic notation, students will also be challenged to remember longer patterns, which will strengthen their memory and concentration skills.

### **Drama - Mrs Albery**

After our year 5 production 'The Midnight Gallery' will be working to extend their knowledge and experience of drama conventions and techniques through the context of mime. Students will be building on building structure, dramatic narratives, and conventions like slow motion and freeze-frame.

### **Technology - Mrs Bradding**

This term in Technology, the students will be looking at learning basic skills in the kitchen with an emphasis on safety, efficiency and food hygiene. This will be reflected in their learning with explaining and demonstrating different cutting techniques and utilising these where appropriate when they are cooking.

### **Art - Mrs Rudduck**

This term, students will embark on a creative project directly linked to their Inquiry topic: Animal Adaptations. The objective of this project is for students to synthesise their knowledge and communicate their integrated learning through a visually rich and informative poster. Each student will select an animal of their choice and design a poster that effectively depicts the animal's natural habitat, its unique skin or covering texture and a special adaptation that enables it to survive in its environment.

To achieve a compelling and communicative final piece, students will be learning and applying the following artistic techniques:

- **Collage and Layering:** to build up depth and complexity.
- **Textural Media:** experimenting with mixed media (e.g., paint, pastels, ink, papers) to effectively show the texture of the animal's skin, shell, scales, or fur.



- **Scientific Drawing:** to show an accurate and detailed scientific drawing and annotation of a specific adaptation.

This project provides a wonderful opportunity for students to blend scientific understanding with artistic expression, resulting in a creative and integrated piece of work.

### **Library - Mrs Walch**

The focus throughout the year in the library is to respond to the needs of individual classes, with specific reference to encouraging a love of literature, inquiry skills and library skills. Each library session will include some time for children to choose their book and read, as well as a teaching session.

We aim for each child to have an ongoing reading / listening book for Just Read time (every day after lunch) - the goal being that children read that book from beginning to end. We would love you to support this initiative by chatting with your child about what they are reading.

If you have any questions concerning your child's learning at school please feel free to contact your child's teacher. Our goal is for your child to continue to grow as a person both academically as well as personally and in their relationships with others.



Kind regards

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**Year 5 Teachers**