



Term 2, 2026 **Year 6 Learning Overview**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 2, it feels great to be back this term. We hope that you and your family have had a restful holiday.

This term, our Year 6 students are diving into the theme "How We Organise Ourselves" through our latest unit, Pai Te Takaro (Play Well). This inquiry explores how rules and laws serve as the essential scaffolding for both play and society.

We will also be continuing to focus on the school values of Caring, Excellence, Integrity, Creativity, Resilience and Respect.

School Calendar

Click [HERE](#) for the Term 2 School Calendar. Please note that this is updated regularly.

Week Ahead

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

Book Week

Book Week starts on Tuesday, April 28th. Our visiting author for all students 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!!



Homework

Reading - Students are to read for pleasure 20 mins each night. The focus for many of our students will be reading mileage and trying to move beyond the type of books they 'normally read'. All students are well supported here by their teachers and the library staff. Occasionally students will be expected to record and comment on their weekly reading.

Maths - Most classes will allocate some computer-based work that will be generated from Mathletics and will be set to the appropriate level for each student. Some classes may assign some worksheet style work that will be a review of what is covered in the class.

Teacher directed tasks - Each teacher will set some tasks that will be designed to support their learning in class. This will be at the teacher's discretion and will be varied across the year group according to the needs of each class. Activities may include Spelling, Current Events, Quiz Work or some guided research based on discussions in class.



Finishing Tasks - we encourage students to use any extra time to complete tasks stated at school and/or do tasks that will enable them to meet deadlines as they come up. This extra time is at the discretion of each student.

Teachers can and often will change a homework programme to suit any requirements and individual student. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns.

Stationery

As teachers, we have found that it is helpful if students bring in a cheap pair of headphones to keep in the classroom to assist with audiobooks and text to voice apps on the computers. These need to be named. It is not recommended that students bring expensive or gaming headphones as these can easily be lost or broken.



Learning in Year 6

Reading - Year 6 Teachers

In Reading we are looking 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 understanding the main message and purpose of the text and is tailored to the learning needs for the students in the class.

Writing - Year 6 Teachers

In Writing, we are looking at the skills of writing and the strategies we use to convey a message or story convincingly to an audience. We are looking at the structure of transactional writing forms, paying particular attention to language features of factual writing. A main focus of the term will be preparing speeches to present to the class. In addition to our writing programme each Year 6 will be using The iDeaL Structured Literacy programme to develop an understanding and accuracy with spelling rules.

Mathematics - Year 6 Teachers / Rev. Pickering

In Mathematics, students are looking at the Number and Measurement strand. Emphasis is placed on students using their understanding in practical situations and with word problems. Classes will also continue to maintain skills and use and practise their basic facts.

Social Science

Through the unit of Pai Te Takaro (Play Well) and examining the central idea, *Rules and laws establish structure and govern interaction in games and communities*, students will investigate how changing a single rule can ripple through an entire system, altering challenges and outcomes. We will also look at the human element: how the presence (or absence) of clear guidelines shapes the way we communicate, make decisions, and view fairness. Ultimately, our goal is to help students draw powerful connections between the logic of the games they love and the civic structures that govern our wider world.

Science - Mrs Steffert

This term, our Year 6 scientists are diving into a hands-on "Home Chemistry" unit where students will become experts at identifying acids and bases. They will use tools like litmus paper and Universal Indicator to watch colors shift and change and make sense of how and why these chemicals are used in everyday applications. The real test comes at the end of the unit, when they'll have to use their new detective skills to test and identify a range of "mystery" solutions.

Physical Education - Miss Lovell, Mrs Gregory, Mrs Nicholson, Mrs Merritt

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 - Rev. Pickering

Students will be learning about the exciting life of Moses, from his journey to safety as a baby, his upbringing in Egypt, his leadership in helping the Jewish people escape slavery and his receiving the Ten Commandments. We will continue to discuss the life of Jesus and make connections between the Old and New Testaments.

Music - Mrs McIntyre

Students will continue their study of the Ukulele and become more fluent in playing three or more chords while singing. We will then move on to our study of different styles of music such as Reggae, Celtic, and Pacific (including New Zealand music) through investigating the elements of music.

Drama - Mrs Walker

This term, Year 6 students will learn about the theatrical genre of pantomime. They will showcase their learning through the creation and performance of short group dramas in true pantomime style. These performances will take place in front of a live student audience.

Art - Mrs Wing

Year 6 students will explore the elements of art and learn how artists use these building blocks to create imaginative and expressive artworks. Inspired by the playful storytelling and ideas of Dr. Seuss, students will be encouraged to experiment and have fun with their creativity. Each lesson, students will be introduced



to a new art technique using a variety of materials and mediums. Through hands-on learning experiences, they will build confidence with key skills and develop a series of artworks that reflect their learning and ideas.

Pottery - Mrs Wathen

In Pottery, students will learn new skills in the pottery room as they develop confidence with making and glazing. They will explore a range of hand-building techniques to create clay artworks inspired by the imaginative storytelling of Dr. Seuss. Students will be encouraged to experiment, explore ideas, and enjoy the process of shaping and creating work.

Languages - Mrs Grant

This term, Year 6 students will develop their Spanish language skills while exploring how language shapes cultural identity and connections. They'll explore how traditions, song, dance, and art help us connect. In Week 4, they'll celebrate at the Southwell disco through music and dance, and later join the Seven Sisters (Pleiades) celebration alongside Matariki, deepening their understanding of identity and belonging.

Library - Mrs Huggins

The focus throughout the year in the Library is to respond to the needs of individual classes and students, with specific reference to developing key *library skills*, encouraging a *love of literature* and supporting teachers to build up a toolkit of *inquiry skills*. Each library session will include some time for children to choose and read books and also a short teaching session. All students will be working towards an individual reading goal related to what they are reading in the personal choice reading time at the end of each lesson.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the classroom teachers.

Thank you again for your support.

Kind regards

Darren Bryan (Dean)

Paige Walker

Liz Donald

Laurene Merritt

Year 6 Teachers

