



Term 2, 2026 **Year 7 Learning Overview**



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Term 2 in Year 7. We trust that your child had some wonderful learning experiences in Term 1, and they are excited about continuing their learning journey in Year 7.

Below are some important notices regarding upcoming events and useful things to note about Year 7:

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

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! 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!!

Year 7 Drama Performance

We are excited to invite you to the Year 7 Drama Performance, taking place on Tuesday, 19th May. Each class will showcase their learning in Drama with a performance of one of the following productions: Dracula Spectacula, Grease, or Bugsy Malone.

Students will need to source a simple costume for their performance. More information about costume requirements will be provided by classroom teachers in the coming weeks. We will also make use of some resources from the Opera Storeroom to support this.

All performances will be held in the Auditorium during the school day, with each class performing separately for approximately 30 minutes. Parents and whānau are warmly welcome to attend, and the exact time of each class's performance will be shared in the Week Ahead newsletter.

A video recording of each performance will also be made available. We look forward to celebrating the students' creativity and hard work with you!



Homework

All homework is posted in Google Classroom each week so your child can easily access and keep track of what needs to be completed. Year 7 students are to spend 40 minutes on homework each night (four nights a week). Homework tasks support the current classroom learning and can be completed independently. Please note that we trialled assigning homework on a Wednesday and marking it the following Wednesday; however, we found this approach to be confusing for students. As a

result, each teacher will now communicate their specific homework requirements directly to parents via email. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns.

Reading - Students are encouraged to read for pleasure for 20 minutes 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 by their teachers and the library staff. Occasionally, students will be expected to record and comment on their weekly reading, and continue to finish an activity that has not been completed in class.

Mathematics - Most classes will have IXL for homework each night. This will be set to the appropriate level for each student. Some classes may assign worksheet-style work as a review of what is covered in class.

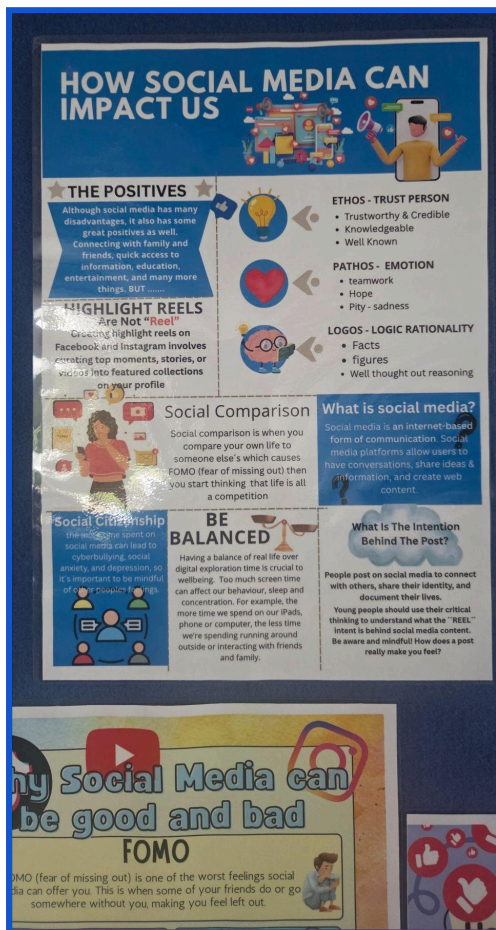
Teacher-Directed Tasks: Each teacher will set tasks designed to support their students' learning in class. This will be at the discretion of the teacher and will be varied across the year group according to the needs of each class. Activities may include spelling, grammar, current events, or some guided research based on discussions in class.

Finishing Tasks - We encourage students to use any extra time to complete tasks started 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.

**Learning in Year 7
Inquiry - Year 7 Teachers**

This term, our inquiry **Trade Truths: What's the Real Cost?** This falls under the transdisciplinary theme 'How We Organise Ourselves', with a focus on systems, structures, and networks that support livelihoods and trade. Our central idea explores how our choices as consumers and producers have significant ethical and social impacts on individuals, communities, and the environment. Students will investigate how ethical trade practices work to balance the rights and responsibilities of producers and consumers, and examine the economic, social, and environmental consequences when trade is not fair or ethical. They will also learn how individuals and groups advocate for change and implement fairer systems, and consider the power of consumer choices in shaping what producers do. This inquiry will help students develop an understanding of the real-world impact of trade and the role they can play in promoting positive change.

As part of this learning, we would love to connect students with real-world experiences. If anyone in our parent community has **knowledge, experience, or involvement related to ethical trade:** for example, through supply chains, fair trade practices, sustainability, manufacturing, retail, or business ethics we would greatly appreciate hearing from you.



If you would be willing to **come into school and speak with our Year 7 students** about how ethical trade relates to your work or industry, it would provide a valuable perspective and help bring our learning to life.

Talks could be short and informal, and we are happy to work around your availability. If you're interested, please email your child's teacher with a brief description of your area of expertise.

Thank you for supporting our learning community. We look forward to hearing from anyone who may be able to contribute.

Writing - Year 7 Teachers

This term, our Year 7 students will be learning to plan, draft, and edit their writing using a range of techniques to enhance clarity, structure, and impact. They will be encouraged to write with a clear purpose and audience in mind, using different mediums to develop their voice and communication skills.



Our writing focus for the beginning of the term will be speech writing and presenting. Students will learn how to craft persuasive and engaging speeches and build confidence in their oral presentation skills. Each student will be expected to deliver a speech lasting 3 to 4 minutes to their class in Week 9. The top speakers from each class will go on to compete in the Year 7 Speech Final on Monday, 22nd June (Week 10).

Reading - Year 7 Teachers

This term, students will be developing their reading comprehension through a range of purposeful and engaging texts that connect to our current PYP inquiry: Trade Truths: What's the Real Cost? Students will learn and apply a variety of comprehension strategies—such as summarising, making inferences, identifying bias, and analysing author's purpose—to help them better understand what they read and think critically about the messages being presented.

Technology - Mr Williams

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

Healthy Choices - Ms Hazlett

Healthy Choices encourages students to inquire into what it means to be healthy through various experiences and cooking.

Christian Education Year 7 - New Chaplain

Students will be following the Church's season of Easter as it evolves toward the Feast of Pentecost. Coupled with this will be a series of real-life experiences of people adapting to / challenged by issues of Faith in their everyday lives. Each class will begin with "Daily Prayer" in which the classes form to be a student-led worship unit. And, of course, you are very welcome to join us for the House Family Services on Sunday, May 18th.

Mathematics - Year 7 Teachers, Mr Walch, Ms McMaster/Mrs Rudduck

Students will be completing their work in Number before moving on to Statistics. As part of this unit, they will plan and carry out a statistical investigation based on an issue related to Trade Truths and present their findings. They will also explore probability, including the language used to describe chance.

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



Finding my rhythm (Gymnastics) - In this unit, students will continue to cement their body's capacity for movement with a focus on the fundamental movements of swing, roll, balance, spring, landing, and locomotion, inclusive of an emphasis on flexibility. From this learning, they will add their own creative flair to create a sequence of movements across various apparatuses, enhanced by their own selection of music.

Adapting my Sport - Students will play a variety of sports that have been adapted for athletes with special requirements, and then utilise these experiences to inquire into adapting other sports to be inclusive.

Just let me PLAY!! - Students will have the chance to simply enjoy playing badminton and lacrosse, while also acquiring the basic fundamental skills, understanding of rules, and tactical knowledge necessary for an enjoyable experience.

Science - Ms Voss

This term students will complete their unit exploring how heat travels by finishing our experiments on heat conduction through various metals. Our focus will then turn to investigating some of the natural cycles that occur on Earth. Many of these have been unchanged for millenia, until recently. We will look at how the duration of these cycles fits better with geological time as compared to human time, and as a result why their management is so important when considering trade ethics.

Music - Mrs Albery

In this unit, students will explore the fundamental concept of playing and the theory of chords in keyboard playing. They will learn how to play both chords, including major and minor. Through practical exercises and guided instruction, students will develop proficiency in both constructing chords and playing them within a context of a song. By the end of the unit, students will have a solid foundation in basic keyboard chord theory and the skills to apply it creatively in their musical endeavours.

Drama - Mrs Walker

Students will be learning to use a script and develop a character from page to performance. The student learning will be showcased through whole class performances of the plays: "The Dracula Spectacula", "Grease", and "Bugsy Malone".

Art - Mrs Wing

Students will explore visual art through storytelling and the imaginative ideas of Dr. Seuss. They will be supported through scaffolded learning experiences as they build confidence with a range of materials and



techniques. Throughout the term, students will develop their visual art skills while experimenting with shape, colour, and form, and sharing their ideas in creative and personal ways. Their finished artworks will be displayed in the school gallery.

Pottery - Mrs Wathen

In Pottery, students will explore storytelling through clay, drawing inspiration from the imaginative ideas of Dr. Seuss. They will develop foundational skills using slab building, coil building, and pinch pot techniques, with a focus on experimenting and gaining confidence with clay. Students will also be introduced to glazing, learning how colour and surface can bring their creations to life. Through these hands-on experiences, they will explore how artists use materials to share ideas and express imagination in their work.

Te Ao Maaori – Whaea Whetu

Students will continue to build vocabulary around kai with hands-on and digital tasks. Akonga will learn to use poi, raakau and perform a waiata-a-ringa about Matariki.

Languages - Mrs Grant

Students are exploring how different cultural practices influence the way we think, feel, and connect with others. They are also developing their Spanish language skills, learning about the role of language in cultural identity and expression. Each class has chosen its own creative path—through song, dance, art, and more. The Week 4 disco will provide a fun opportunity for self-expression through Spanish music and movement, and the term will conclude with a Spanish Seven Sisters (Pleiades) celebration alongside Matariki.

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.

We are looking forward to a great term together in Year 7. As always, we welcome your input and feedback. If you have any questions regarding your child, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Tamsyn Riggins (Dean)

Diane Hazlett

Joel Fleming

Rachel Peterson

Bridget Hawthorn

Gayle McLean

Year 7 Teachers