



Term 2, 2026 Years 0-2 Learning Overview

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 2! A special welcome to the families who have recently joined Southwell School, we're so pleased to have you as part of our community. We're happy to introduce our new students: Bryn and Arikirangi in 1LT, Zylan in 1JC, and Grace in 1LF. We hope your time at Southwell is filled with friendship, learning, and plenty of great experiences.



A small update to share that Mrs Coleman in Year 2 will be returning to her maiden name, Kinder. She will now be known as Ms Kinder. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Term 2 is full of exciting and stimulating learning for our Junior School students. Our programmes this term have been carefully designed to optimise your children's learning and management of school life. This is assisted by:

- The re-establishment of routines and independence - a focus that is continually reinforced.
- A positive behaviour 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.
- Encouraging your child to return what they need to bring to class each day.
- Ensuring that all items of **clothing are clearly named**, especially shoes and socks.
- Please remember we are a **NO NUT** school.

School Calendar

Information that you may need regarding dates for upcoming events can be found on the School Calendar. Click [HERE](#). Please note that this PDF is updated regularly as events change or are added.

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 important information about what is coming up in the week ahead.

Timetable

You will notice on The Week Ahead that we have labelled 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.

Year 0-2 Education Outside the Classroom Trip

On Tuesday, 5th May (Week 3), Year 2 students will be travelling by bus to the Waikato Museum to support their unit of inquiry – **How the World Works**, with a focus on forces and motion.

To view further details, please click [HERE](#) for the parent letter that was sent out on 21st April.

Then, on Friday, 5th June (Week 7), our **Year 0/1** students will be exploring the Inquiry unit **Sharing the Planet**. To support this learning, we will be taking an Education Outside the Classroom trip to The Waikato Museum with a focus on our Waikato River. Information regarding this trip will be sent to Parents in Week 2.

Book Week

Southwell Book Week starts on Tuesday, April 28th. Our visiting author for students is the legendary 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. All students will get the opportunity to hear him speak. 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!!

Useful things to note about Year 0-2

Morning Routine

Classrooms are open by 8:00 a.m. each morning, and we would love to see children at school by 8:20 a.m., before the bell goes at 8:25 a.m. to start the day. For the cooler autumn and winter months, the Library is open earlier if you need to drop your child off on the odd occasion before 8:00 a.m. Please note that this space is unsupervised until 8:00 a.m.



If you need to talk to your child's teacher, please email or write a note in the school diary, and we will be happy to arrange a time to meet with you. It is difficult for us to have chats or meetings in the morning as we are supervising our classes, and we know mornings are always busy with 5-year-olds. Writing notes in school diaries is a great way to communicate, as these are checked first thing in the morning.

Learning in Year 1 & 2

This term, our **Year 1** students are exploring the PYP Unit of Inquiry, **Sharing the Planet**. We are learning about how people interact with and care for the natural environment. Our focus includes exploring the features of our river, how people use it and how it has changed over time, and the actions that help or harm the environment.



In **Year 2**, our Central Idea is: **How the World Works**, with a focus on forces and motion. We will learn about simple machines, including a lever, axle, wedge, screw and inclined plane and how they help to make life easier.

Throughout these inquiries, students will engage in rich discussions, reflection, and creative expression to deepen their understanding of the world and their place within it.

Literacy

In Reading, we are teaching Phonetic Awareness, Alphabetic Principle and then Reading Strategies to enable students to decode unknown words and gain meaning and comprehension from text. Specific goals are targeted according to the level of each child's reading. In the Junior block, we start our reading journey by learning letter names and sounds first. These letters are sent home on a ring as we learn them in class.

In Writing, we are teaching strategies to confidently record personal experiences and enable students to share a message. We focus on using known words and attempting to write any unknown words by hearing and stretching sounds, and recording sounds they can hear in order.

Structured Literacy is a focus of our classroom literacy programme. As well as creative writing times, children are taught explicit spelling rules in sequential order. It is exciting to see this begin to transfer into their written work.

Mathematics

In Mathematics, students are looking at numbers with a particular focus on addition and subtraction. Emphasis is placed on using practical activities and knowledge-based games. In Strand Maths, Year 1 students will be looking at Measurement and Year 2 students will be focusing on Geometry.

Specialist Subjects In Years 0 and 1, we are fortunate to have the support of our specialist teachers, who deliver Christian Education, Performing Arts/Music, and Physical Education. In addition, Year 2 students participate in Te Reo and Suzuki Violin/Cello lessons.

Te Reo

Year 2 tamariki will continue their journey through waiata, action songs, and crafts, focusing on animals and important national events such as Matariki. This learning will help deepen their understanding of Aotearoa's culture and traditions.



Physical Education

Ready to Roll! (Gymnastics) - Students will focus on developing body control and awareness within locomotion movements as they explore swinging, rolling, balancing, jumping, landing, and moving within our gymnastics unit.

To infinity and Beyond (Individual Invasion)

- 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.

Hit me with your best shot! (Striking) -

Students will develop body control and spatial awareness while exploring striking with a variety of implements.

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

Performing Arts

Year 0&1

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 and mi. Students will also start to recognise the difference between high and low sounds and begin to be able to keep in time with a song. Students will continue to work on the rhythms ta and titi (one or two sounds on a beat) and will become more confident in identifying and notating these. Students will be listening to and singing a range of 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, la, and do. Students will be able to sing the sofla of those pieces. The students will continue to work on the rhythms ta, titi and za and will become more confident with our new rhythm tikatika. 2BC continues with their Suzuki Violin/Cello

programme this term. Our goal is to get fingers working on the violin/cello, the bow working on the string, and bring all our exciting new instrumental skills together. 2AME will have this learning experience in Terms 3 & 4.

Christian Education

Students will continue to explore the great Christian festivals of the Church's year, especially Pentecost, which falls within this term.

Library - Mrs Lucy Munro

In the Library we introduce the children to new books, talk about books they have read, read stories and they learn some library language (browse, issue, return, reserve). We also teach the children the basic routines and skills which will enable them to use the library independently. Books are usually linked to the Chapel Theme of Learner Attributes being highlighted that week.

Week 2 is Book Week, and the Juniors will enjoy a visit by author Donovan Bixley on Tuesday. They will all be involved in a Book Quiz on Wednesday, and enjoy Book Character Day on Friday.



We hope that you will enjoy being a part of the Junior School family as we all work together to have happy, focused learners. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you again for your support.

Linda Tiffany (Dean)
Jodie Carter
Lousie Filipo
Bridget Kinder (Coleman)
Amelia Meertens
Year 0-2 Teachers