



Term 3, 2026 Year 0-2 Learning Overview

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It's wonderful to welcome back all our returning Year 1 and 2 families! A warm welcome goes out to our new families joining us this term. We're so excited to have Otis, Cooper, Jessica, Ted, and Beau starting their journey in Mrs Jones' class, we're thrilled to have you as part of the Southwell School community.



Term 3 will be full of stimulating learning for all our Year 1 and 2 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 gives them a positive start to the day.
- Encouraging your child to manage what they need to bring to class each day.
- Ensuring that all items of clothing are named, especially socks and shoes.

We've structured our morning for optimal learning: Literacy will be the focus from the start of the day until morning tea, followed by Maths. Students will then move to their specialist subjects and inquiry-based learning.

After a long, busy day, Year 1 children may be picked up from school any time after 2.30pm each day. This will help with the tiredness young children experience with our extra-long school day. However, teachers will still be running learning programmes with children who wish to stay until 3.20pm.



We offer **After-School Care** in the Junior School block for students who need supervision after 3:30 pm. To ensure all children are safely looked after while teachers attend meetings or sports commitments, any child still on school grounds at 3:30 pm will be automatically placed into After-School Care.

School Calendar

Click [HERE](#) for the Term 3 School Calendar. Please note this is updated regularly.

Week Ahead and Sneak Peek

To keep you informed, **The Week Ahead** will be emailed to all Southwell parents by the School Administrator each Friday. We encourage you to read this carefully, as it outlines important school-wide information for the upcoming week. Furthermore, on Monday mornings, your child's Year 1 or 2 teacher will provide a "**Sneak Peek**" into their classroom's activities. This summary will be emailed to Year 2 families and pasted into Year 1 diaries.

Learning Conferences

These conferences take place in **Week 3** and are an opportunity to meet one-on-one with your child's classroom teacher. **Year 0, 1, and 2 children are not required to attend Learning Conferences.** Together, we will discuss settling at school, friendships, work habits, and academic progress. Please ensure that you are booked to see your child's teacher so that we can discuss your child's successes, as well as the next steps to take to keep their learning moving ahead. An email will be sent out with a link for you to make a booking.

Morning Routine

Please ensure that your child arrives at school by **8:20am**, before the bell rings at **8:25am** to start the day. **Teachers are generally available in their classrooms from 8:00 am onwards.**

If your child needs to be at school earlier than 8:00am, the library is open, but please note that this space is unsupervised until 8:00am.

Year 0-1 Education Outside the Classroom Trip

On **Friday, 4th September** (Week 7, Term 3), Year 1 students will be travelling by bus to Extreme Edge to support our unit of inquiry – **Who We Are**. To view further details, please click [HERE](#) for the parent letter that was sent out on 21st July.

Specialist Subjects

In Years 0 and 1, we are fortunate to have the support of our specialist teachers, who deliver Christian Education, Music, and Physical Education. In addition, Year 2 students participate in Te Reo and Digital Technology. Across Term 3 - 4, 2AM will participate in Suzuki lessons.

Learning in Year 1 & 2

We are quickly settling back into our classroom routines and the structure of our rich learning programmes. These established structures provide a supportive environment for students to develop critical thinking skills and grow as confident learners. Included is a brief overview of the exciting topics and big ideas we will explore this term.

We hope that you will enjoy being a part of the Junior School family as we collaborate to nurture happy, focused learners who are principled and reflective.



Literacy

Literacy within the Year 1 and 2 classroom programme. Literacy is fundamental to your child's educational journey, providing an effective and integrated approach to teaching reading, writing, and spelling. Our programme focuses on equipping children with foundational skills by teaching them how letters and sounds work together. We also emphasise developing vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, and spelling rules, ensuring your child has the necessary tools to become a confident and capable reader and writer.

Our reading journey begins by introducing letter names and sounds. To reinforce this learning, these letters will be sent home on a ring for continued practice. As children gain confidence with specific letter names and vowel sounds, we will provide them with texts, which they will bring home. These texts are carefully selected to align with their current learning and are supported throughout the week during classroom instruction. Once your child has mastered these foundational spelling and reading concepts, we will introduce a variety of other books to further enhance their learning at school.

In our writing sessions, we empower children to confidently express their ideas by integrating explicit and sequential spelling rules. This approach helps them use words they already know and provides strategies for sounding out and recording new words, thereby strengthening their overall writing skills.

Mathematics

In Year 1, students focus on building a strong foundation in number understanding. They learn how to count, compare numbers, and explore how numbers relate to each other through early addition and subtraction strategies. This important work sets the groundwork for all future learning in mathematics.

In Year 2, students are continuing to build their number knowledge with a particular focus on addition and subtraction. Emphasis is placed on using practical activities and knowledge-based games. In Strand Maths, Year 2 students will be looking at Measurement and Geometry.

Programme of Inquiry

In Year 0–1, students will be exploring the transdisciplinary theme **How the World Works**. Our central idea is: **Humans use their senses to gather information and respond to the world around them**. Throughout the term, students will investigate how their five senses help them learn, make observations, and understand the world around them through a range of hands-on learning experiences.

Our Year 2 inquiry focuses on **Where We Are in Place and Time**, with a particular emphasis on artefacts. As part of this learning, students will investigate the Junky Monkeys resources, exploring what they were originally used for and how they have been creatively repurposed. We have also arranged to borrow a collection of artefacts from Te Whare Taonga o Waikato Museum to further support this inquiry. We believe these experiences connect beautifully with our previous learning and will provide engaging, hands-on opportunities for our students.



Te Reo - Year 2

Tamariki will continue to build their vocabulary through waiata, stories and hands-on activities and games. Aakonga will learn words for various everyday objects that they encounter in their classroom and around the school.

Christian Education

We will be exploring the parables of Jesus — The Good Shepherd, The Lost Coin, The Prodigal Son, and The Mustard Seed. Together we'll discover these stories through beautiful sacred art,

icons, and stained glass, and talk about what they show us about God's love and care for each one of us.

Digital Technology - Year 2

This term, our Year 2 students are exploring the unit "Code, Clues, and Curators," which integrates computational thinking with social sciences to discover how artefacts connect us to the past. Through hands-on challenges with Bee-Bot robots, students are learning to create precise sequences and debug their code as they navigate "archaeological" grids to explore how tools have evolved over time.



Physical Education

Fill the Tank (Cross Country and Fitness)

This unit is specifically designed to empower every student to achieve personal growth, regardless of their individual fitness abilities. We achieve this by exploring and playing fitness-related games that directly support their progress towards both the school Cross Country event and general physical fitness.

Move it! Move it! (Locomotion)

Students will experience and develop a variety of fundamental locomotor movements, including jumping, skipping, hopping, galloping, and leaping, in a variety of different challenges and games.

Athletics

The goal of this unit is for students to explore a variety of track and field events while learning to listen to and use ideas from others to improve their own performance.

Music and Performing Arts

Year 1

Students will continue working on establishing a tuneful singing voice. They will continue to learn to sing a range of folk songs individually and with others, using mainly the pitches so and mi. Students will also continue to recognise the difference between high and low pitch and be able to identify the difference between the beat and the rhythm of the music in a known song. Students will develop an understanding and the ability to recognise the rhythm values of ta, ti-ti (one or two sounds on a beat), and Za (rest). They will demonstrate this through participation in activities and classroom-based performances.

Year 2

Students will continue working on establishing a tuneful singing voice by singing a range of folk songs individually and with others. The students will become more confident in singing the pitches so, mi, la, and do and using the solfa hand signs. Students will continue to identify and notate ta,

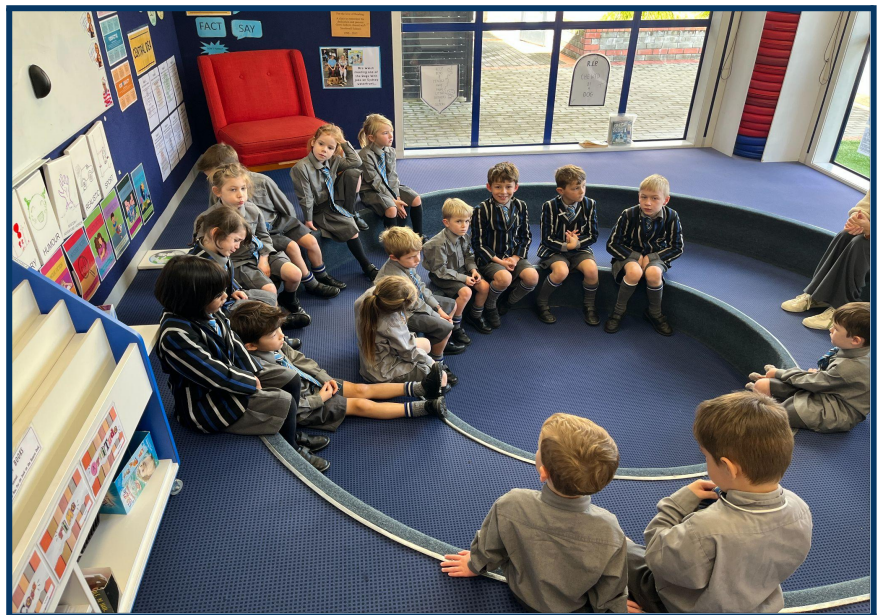
ti-ti, Za, and tika tika (crotchets, quavers, rests, and semiquavers) rhythms in songs. They will demonstrate this through participation in activities and classroom-based performances.

Year 2 Suzuki String Experience

For the first two terms of the year, 2BK was able to be the first class to experience Southwell's annual Suzuki String Programme. The children learnt the basics of either cello or violin and moved through what we call the 'Pre-Twinkle' stage. All of the children were able to hold the violins or cellos and bows correctly and also play on different strings on the instrument. This is a huge achievement, and it was so exciting to watch them engaged and motivated to play their instruments. We had a great time learning! As we begin Term 3, 2AME begin *their* Suzuki Violin/Cello journey. We are delighted with how the programme is going and look forward to more students having this meaningful musical experience.

Library

In the Library, after singing the Library Song, we introduce students to new books, talk about stories they have read, and return and issue books. We try to link our story to the weekly Chapel theme / School Values / IB Learner Profile Attribute. We also teach the children the basic routines and skills that will enable them to use the library independently. This term, we will also give the students an opportunity to vote for their favourite NZ Book Award nominee.



If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us. Thank you again for your support.

Year 0-1 Teachers

Linda Tiffany
Jodie Carter
Louise Filipo
Christine Jones

Year 2 Teachers

Bridget Kinder
Amelia Meertens