



Term 3 2026 **Years 3 and 4 Learning Overview**



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 3! We hope you've all had a chance to rest and enjoy some quality time with your child. This term is going to be both busy and exciting. We're looking forward to working alongside your children and building positive relationships.

In Year 3, the children are working towards achieving their Values Badge. The Values Badge offers recognition of a student displaying or showing effort towards the Southwell School Values consistently, independently, and over time. Our Southwell School Values are: Excellence, Integrity, Creativity, Respect, Resilience, Care.

Our Big Idea this term is “**Where we are in place and time**”- Year 3 are looking at “The traces left behind by early peoples reveal how they lived and adapted to their world” and Year 4 are looking at “Comparing what different civilisations left behind deepens, and challenges, our understanding of the past.” Year 3 will focus on early Maori communities and Year 4 on ancient Roman and Greek. We will be coming together throughout this Inquiry to compare and contrast what we have learned.



Term Themes

Here are the themes we'll be focusing on this term: for our Big Idea:

Week 1 **Being a Team Player**

Week 6 **Being Grateful**

Week 2 **Being Courteous**

Week 7 **Being Tolerant**

Week 3 **Being Encouraging**
Week 4 **Being Optimistic**
Week 5 **Being Purposeful**

Week 8 **Being Reliable**
Week 9 **Thinking Positively**

School Calendar

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

Week Ahead

Every Friday, The Week Ahead is delivered to your inbox. It is important that you read it carefully, as it contains important information about what is happening and when for the coming week.

Learning Conferences - Week 3, Term 3

This term, our Learning Conferences are an opportunity for your child to share their learning journey and discuss their goals with you. It's also a great chance to review their report together. To help them prepare, please make sure you've read through their report with them during the holidays and perhaps discussed a potential goal they might like to set.

We'll be sending out more details about how to book your learning conference shortly.

All Year 3-8 children attend their conferences. Conferences are 10 minutes. If you would like to spend some time with your child's teacher without your child present, please mention this to the teacher at the beginning of the interview. Friday bookings are for Boarding families only. Year 4 will be student-led, and Year 3 will share some learning and have some time with the teacher if required.

A quick note regarding specialist teachers: Please don't use the regular classroom teacher booking slots if you wish to speak with your child's Maths teacher or other specialist teachers. Instead, we kindly ask you to email them directly to arrange a separate time. Learning Conferences for specialists and Maths teachers will be held in **Week 6** this term.

Maths and Specialist Learning Conferences - Week 6, Term 3

These conferences take place in Week 6 with Specialist and Maths Teachers in the Performing Arts Centre. These meetings are a brief 5-minute opportunity to have a catch-up regarding your child's learning. If you feel you will need more than 5 minutes, please contact your child's teacher by email to arrange an alternative time.

Please note: There will be no after-school sports practices during this week.

ICAS Competitions

Southwell students in Years 4-8 have the opportunity to participate in the 2026 ICAS Competitions. Information and registration details for ICAS were emailed out mid-last term and reminders during the holidays. For those who register, the ICAS Competitions are scheduled to take place in Weeks 4-6, Term 3.

House Chapel Service

This Term we will be celebrating All Hallows Chapel's Centenary. We will not be holding our regular House Chapel Service this term; instead, all families are invited to attend a special service to commemorate this occasion on Wednesday, 2 September at 6pm.

Learning in Year 3&4

Reading

Children will continue to work towards their individual goals with a particular focus on fluency, comprehension, and extending vocabulary in Structured Reading lessons. Alongside this, we will work on locating specific information within a text and summarising it in our own words. This will tie into our inquiry into 'Where we are in Place and Time'. It is important that your child reads every day. You can help reinforce their understanding by talking about the text with them.



Writing

Structured Literacy is a major focus of our classroom literacy programme. As well as creative writing times, children are taught explicit spelling rules in a sequential order. It is exciting to see Structured Literacy knowledge transfer into written work. In Writing, we will build on goals and encourage children to have a personal voice in their writing. They will learn about procedural writing as part of their individual inquiry.



Mathematics

This term, we will continue working through our sequential maths lessons based on our unit of inquiry, where possible. Problem-solving is an ongoing part of our daily maths lessons.

Optional additional Mathematics homework on *Maths Buddy* or *Mathletics*, which can assist your child in cementing what they have been learning in class.

Science – Mrs. Steffert

This term, Year 4 students will study the science of movement by exploring how the skeletal and muscular systems work together. We will identify the main bones in the body, examine their unique characteristics, and learn about the overall role of the skeleton. Students will discover how bones connect with muscles, tendons, and ligaments to allow for growth and movement. They will also compare internal endoskeletons to the exoskeletons found in other living things.

Performing Arts Year 3 – Mrs McIntyre

Students will continue working on establishing a tuneful singing voice through singing a range of folk songs individually and with others. Students will become more confident in singing the pitches so, mi, la, and do and using the solfa hand signs. Students will continue to notate ta, ti-ti, Za, tika-tika, and will be introduced to 'too' (crotchets, quavers, rests, semiquavers, and minim) rhythms in songs. Year 3 students will also expand their pitch range to be able to identify and sing 're'.

Music Year 4 – Mrs McIntyre

Students will continue working on establishing a tuneful singing voice through singing a range of folk songs individually and with others. Students will become more confident in singing the pitches so, mi, la, do, and re and using the solfa hand signs. Students will continue to notate ta, ti-ti, Za, tika-tika, and too (crotchets, quavers, rests, semiquavers, and minim) rhythms in songs. Year 4 students will also expand their notation to the pitch set they're working with to include 'fa' and 'ti'.

Library – Mrs Huggins

During Library time, we will be continuing to promote engaging literature, as well as supporting the syndicate's Inquiry planning and reinforcing our School Values, the weekly Chapel theme, and the IB Learner Profile Attributes.

Early in Term 3, we will also give the students an opportunity to vote for their favourite NZ Book Award nominee as we promote great Kiwi kids' literature.

Children will also be encouraged to spend quality time with their book of choice. Teachers can choose to request reinforcement of specific skills if it suits their classroom programme.

Christian Education – Chaplain Blythe Cody and Reverend Pickering

Year 3 Christian Education: We will be exploring the parables of Jesus and discovering how these stories have been shared through icons, stained glass, and sacred art across the centuries. Together, we'll look closely at the ways artists have left their "traces of the Shepherd" through time. Students will have the chance to tell their own story by creating an icon of their own.

Year 4 Christian Education: students will become Junior Curators as they explore some of the Bible's most important stories through the artefacts they left behind. By investigating stone tablets, the Ark of the Covenant, scrolls, a sling, a Roman coin, a fishing net, a letter, and the cross, students discover how these objects help us understand God's people, Jesus, and the Christian faith.

PE - Mr Botha and Miss Lovell

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.

Hit Me With Your Best Shot_(Striking)

Through a variety of game settings, students will explore striking to develop body control and spatial awareness. This approach improves both their physical skills and their tactical decision-making

Athletics

The aim of the unit is for students to participate in a variety of field and track events. Through video, peer, and teacher feedback, students are able to implement this knowledge to improve their performance

Te Reo Maaori – Whaea Whetu Te Ua

This term, students will learn about Matariki, emotions, and whānau through interactive games and daily waiata. Students will build foundational vocabulary to confidently introduce themselves, say a range of farewells, ask and answer questions about how they are feeling, and identify kupu Maaori for key family members.

Digital Technology- Mr McKay

In Digital Technology, students will spend the first few weeks creating an Artefact Journal by researching information and showcasing their findings in a Canva presentation. Following this, they will dive into an exciting robotics unit where they will learn how to code and program their robots to navigate and locate artefacts.

We are looking forward to another term of fun and learning in our Year 3 and 4 syndicate. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you are unsure about anything. If you have a concern, please ensure the first port of call is the classroom teacher.



Many thanks for your continued support,

Kirsty McDonald

Barb Nicholson

Jess Field

Linda Simon

Year 3 & 4 Teachers