

## Term 4, 2026

### Year 5 Learning Overview



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to the final term of 2026. It will be another busy and exciting term with lots of end-of-year formalities, including Founders Day and Athletics Day. This letter is to outline some of the learning programmes that we will be covering in Term 4.

What an amazing end to Term 3 with the performance of the School Opera, Annie. We were so proud to see some of our Year 5 students, along with the rest of the cast, presenting a fun and exciting show.

### Learning in Year 5

#### Inquiry

During Term 4, Year 5 will explore the overarching theme **How the World Works** through our unit, **Energy – The Power to Choose**. Students will investigate various forms and sources of energy, analysing the key differences between renewable and non-renewable options. Throughout this inquiry, they will evaluate how energy consumption impacts both society and the environment, while discovering practical ways to use resources responsibly. Through hands-on experiments, guided research, collaborative discussions, and real-world projects, students will develop as critical thinkers and reflect on their personal energy choices.

## **Reading**

Our classroom reading program is designed to cultivate confident, thoughtful readers. We will continue using Guided Reading groups to deliver targeted, small-group instruction alongside daily opportunities for independent reading.

A primary focus this term is expanding rich vocabulary and strengthening reading comprehension. Teachers will read texts in depth with small groups, prompting students not only to understand plot events, but also to evaluate authorial intent and justify their thinking with text evidence.

Additionally, we are integrating our Structured Literacy approach directly into our unit of inquiry. By studying texts connected to our topic on energy sources, students will reinforce key literacy skills within a meaningful context, deepening both their reading comprehension and their understanding of sustainability.

## **Writing**

Our primary goal in writing is to foster independence and self-direction, building students' stamina to write thoughtfully for extended periods. Teachers will continue introducing targeted writing strategies designed to enhance clarity, precision, and engagement.

Key areas of focus include:

- **Sentence Variation:** Exploring diverse sentence structures and learning how to apply them effectively for rhythm and impact.
- **The Craft of Revision:** Emphasizing editing and rewriting as vital steps to elevate the overall quality and depth of their work.
- **Literary Devices:** Introducing figurative language, such as similes and personification, to help students craft more descriptive, vivid imagery.



## **Spelling**

This term, we will continue progressing through our Structured Literacy scope and sequence, using explicit instruction to introduce and consolidate various spelling patterns and sound-letter relationships. Students will extend their understanding by analyzing prefixes and suffixes to build new vocabulary, alongside investigating different word classes and sentence structures.

As part of this program, students will use Steps Web to reinforce target weekly sounds and deepen their orthographic knowledge. A central goal of our writing program is ensuring students transfer these spelling rules directly into their daily work, enhancing overall accuracy.

Additionally, we are explicitly teaching dictionary skills to empower students to independently proofread and refine their own writing.

### **Maths**

This term, our mathematics instruction will continue to be guided by the PR1ME Mathematics program, ensuring balanced coverage across key mathematical strands. A core priority remains equipping students with strong problem-solving strategies and efficient algorithmic thinking, helping them apply mathematical concepts to real-world contexts. Alongside this problem-solving focus, we will delve into Geometry and Probability. Students will explore spatial reasoning, geometric properties, and concepts, while also learning to analyze chance, collect data, and interpret likelihood in practical scenarios.

To support this complex learning, developing automaticity with basic facts, such as multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction, remains an ongoing focus. We utilise short, timed checks purely as a diagnostic and motivational tool to build the speed and confidence necessary for mathematics. We greatly appreciate your support at home in encouraging regular basic facts practice, as this foundational recall makes a significant difference in your child's mathematical growth.



### **Drama / Dance - Mrs Taylor**

This term we will be working on how to build a story and implement the elements of dance and drama through storytelling. Students will be given different fairy tales to work with where they will need to plan and work through narration as well as incorporating dance elements to bring their story to life. They will be focusing on the dance elements body, time, and energy, as well as exploring freeze frame, slow motion, and narration drama conventions.

### **Music - Mrs Albery**

This term, our Year 5 students are exploring our Transdisciplinary Theme, *How the World Works*. Students will discover how repeating pitch patterns and musical systems, from graphic scores to standard staff notation, help us learn and play instruments. We are also building strong growth mindsets by testing out practice strategies to see how habits directly cause our confidence and musical ability to grow.

### **Science - Mrs Voss**

This term in Science, students will be completing a hands-on unit about energy. They will explore different forms of energy to link with their classroom investigations into renewable and non-renewable energy sources. They will engage in experiments where they will apply their new learning, identifying the type of energy in action.

### **Physical Education - Mr Botha, Miss Lovell, Rev. Pickering**

**Athletics (Week 1 - 6)** - 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 can apply this knowledge to improve their performance.

**Just let me Swim! (Week 7 - 9)** - This unit will see students exploring a range of different sports and challenges within a swimming context.



**Just let me Play! (Week 7 - 9)** - Students will have the chance to simply enjoy a variety of games, from classic favorites to new challenges. While playing, they'll also sharpen their basic skills, deepen their understanding of rules, and refine their tactical thinking.

#### **Christian Education - Reverend Pickering**

In Term 4 Christian Education, the students will be turning our attention to the significance of the nativity story as we lead up to Advent and Christmas.

#### **Technology - Mrs Bradding**

This term, our Year 5 students are engaging in building on their kitchen skills and growing in confidence to prepare basic dishes that they can then make at home for themselves and their whanau. They will look at learning how to prepare a simple recipe and then adapting it to accommodate their own and their group members' preferences and dietary considerations.

#### **Languages - Mrs Grant**

We begin the term by celebrating Te Wiki o te Reo Maaori before expanding our learning across the French-speaking world. Students will explore traditions beyond France, focusing on our closest Francophone neighbours in the Pacific. The unit culminates in a cultural showcase where students will use their language skills to share food, music, and heritage while examining how cultural identity shapes the ways we celebrate.

#### **Digital Tech - Mr McKay**

##### **City Technology Rebuild: Engineering Resilient Communities**

In this hands-on engineering unit, Year 5 students combine mechanical design and coding logic to build smart robotic technology that helps communities recover from natural disasters. They design custom attachments, program conditional logic (if/else) for tasks like clearing debris and delivering medical supplies, and evaluate real-world trade-offs to support community resilience.

#### **Art - Mrs Rudduck**

This term, the students are creating an interactive, illuminated 3D diorama called **"The Sustainable Smart-Home."** They will build a model featuring an outside renewable energy source (**Solar, Wind, or Hydro**) and an inside home interior. Using painting, collage, and cardboard construction, they build elements like spinning waterwheels, wind turbines, or 3D solar panels. Students will wire a low-voltage circuit using copper tape and a battery to actually light up an LED bulb inside their house window and hopefully the project concludes with a classroom exhibition where all the illuminated homes are displayed together.

#### **Library – Mrs Walch**

In the Library, we will be continuing to promote engaging literature, encourage critical thinking and reinforce inquiry skills. Children will also be encouraged to spend quality time with their book of choice and read for pleasure. Teachers can choose to request reinforcement of specific skills if

it suits their classroom programme. We will also continue to stress the importance of developing a **Reading For Pleasure** habit. You can encourage this by helping your child set a time and a place to read every day.

**Summer Reading** will be offered closer to the end of Term 4, which students can sign up to, with parent permission.

### **Stationery**

Please check with your child should they need to update any of their stationery needs, including headphones. The children in Year 5 need the following items to be equipped fully for each day's activities: Blue and red pen, Pencil, Ruler, Rubber, Glue Stick, Pink Highlighter.



### **Devices**

A reminder that mobile phones are only used after 3.20pm to communicate with parents/caregivers. At all other times, they will be in students' school bags. Please do not expect your child to reply to messages during the school day. Laptops are used as a learning tool, with children accessing their school email for learning tasks.

### **Calendar and Week Ahead**

Click [HERE](#) for the Term 4 School Calendar. Please note - this is updated regularly, so please check it often. Additionally, the Week Ahead is emailed to parents every Friday to keep families informed of what is happening at Southwell.

We look forward to a positive last term of the year, with plenty of Spring fun to come!

Kind regards

Jo McFarlane  
Phillippa Milroy  
Brooke Goodwin  
**Year 5 Teachers**