

Term 4, 2026

Year 6 Learning Overview



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 4. We hope you and your family have had a restful holiday and are ready for the term ahead. It is hard to believe that this is the final term for the year. Like always, the upcoming weeks are going to be very busy. The highlight for Year 6 among other things will be the Year 6 Dick Whittington, which the children will perform at the end of the year. Remember to keep Thursday 3rd December free to come and see the show.

In Year 6, our topic this term will be 'The Global Stage.' This unit, as part of 'How we Express Ourselves,' will explore how performance - in its many forms like music, drama, and spoken word - communicates messages and shapes understanding. We'll focus on the central idea that performance is a powerful tool for influence. Students will investigate how the different elements of a performance function together, how performances connect audiences to diverse ideas and cultures, and the responsibility performers and creators have to both their message and their audience. They'll be engaging with Drama, Music, English, and Social Sciences to understand how these art forms reflect histories and social issues and create meaning.

Athletics

Athletics trials will be held all day on Wednesday 18th of November. Our whole school Athletics day is scheduled for Friday 27th of November. Please feel free to bring along a picnic and umbrella, set up and enjoy supporting your child by being a part of this great event. Year 6 students compete in the shot put, discus, cricket ball throw, long jump, high jump, 100m, 200m, 75m hurdles, 800m, 1500m (optional).



Year 6 Assessments

As we move forward to the end of the year all assessments will be completed by teachers as part of the daily classroom routines e.g. Reading PROBES, writing samples and mathematics assessments including PAT tests.



Devices

A reminder that mobile phones are only to be used after 3.20pm **to communicate with parents/caregivers**. At all other times they must remain in students' school bags and be on silent. Please do not expect your child to reply to messages during the school day. Laptops are to be used as a learning tool only. If a student chooses to use their device inappropriately, then their laptop or phone will be taken and held by the teacher until the end of the day. Repeat offenders will be asked to leave their devices at home.

Learning in Year 6

Reading

In Reading we are continuing to look at reading for enjoyment, finding books that are a good fit and exploring a range of different genres. In teaching sessions, the focus is on asking questions, activating prior knowledge, making connections and scanning text for information, while understanding the purpose of the text.

Writing

In Writing we will continue to use different stimuli to encourage and inspire our writing and work on individual goals. We are looking at the structure and features of different types of writing that support our learning across all areas of the curriculum.

Mathematics

In Mathematics students are looking at the strands of Number, Algebra and Statistics. Emphasis is placed on problem solving in real world application. Mathematics will continue to be used to consolidate class learning.

Science – Miss McMaster

Our unit of study this term is *Materials of the Earth*, through which we will introduce the students to the fascinating world of rocks and minerals. We will be comparing and classifying the different rock types based on their physical properties and observable features like crystals and fossils. We will investigate how the main rock groups are formed and the continuous process of the rock cycle, with a focus on New Zealand's unique geological landscape.



Please remember that covered shoes are required for all Science lessons, so please remind your child to have their sports shoes at school on the days they have Science.



Technology – Mrs Bradding

Our Year 6 students will be completing a unit of work called 'Connecting through Hospitality'. This unit will encourage the students to examine what it is to be a host and how we can make guests feel most welcome through manaakitanga. The akonga will be learning to cook simple recipes that they can use to welcome and entertain people in their homes. This will include understanding the basics of kitchen science when baking and using dough for a variety of recipes.

Physical Education – Miss Lovell and Classroom teachers

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 – Rev Pickering

In Term 4 Christian Education, students will be consolidating their knowledge of the Fruits of the Spirit as we study the documentary Pick of the Litter, about the journey of becoming a guide dog. Then as we lead up to Christmas, we will be discussing the significance of the nativity story and what it means for us in the 21st century.

Te Reo - Whaea Whetu

Term 4 will continue to build vocabulary and confidence in using te reo through waiata and hands-on games and activities making links with performing arts. As part of the inquiry process students will explore aspects of Maaori performing arts such as poi, waiata-a-ringā, and raakau.

Music – Mrs McIntyre

During Term 4, students will return to the ukulele. This time, instead of focusing only on chords, they will explore melodic playing by learning to pluck simple tunes, working in groups, and then incorporating chords again.



Students will also consider the different roles of audience member and performer, and they will listen to and engage with a selection of pantomime songs.



Drama – Mrs Walker and Classroom Teachers

Students will create and perform a character in the 2025 Year 6 Pantomime, “Dick Whittington”. They will work collaboratively using dramatic conventions to develop a class scene and perform a dance. We are looking forward to presenting this show on Thursday 3rd December.

Art - Mrs Wing

This term, Year 6 students are inquiring into the elements of art, with a focus on techniques and repetition. They'll explore line, shape, form, space, colour, and texture while experimenting with different materials. As they create their own pieces, students will reflect on their choices and consider how artists use these elements in their work too.

Pottery – Mrs Wathen

In Pottery, students are learning moulding, texture, and pinch techniques as they create Dr Seuss inspired artworks. They'll also continue developing their glazing skills. As they work, students will reflect on their process, make connections to Dr Seuss literature and explore how different techniques can bring their ideas to life.

Library – Mrs Huggins

In Term 4, Year 6 students are given limited access to our Senior Fiction section. These titles start to move into what is known as Young Adult (YA) fiction and will increasingly have content which reflects this. If you don't want your children accessing these titles, please do let the librarians know. Children will be encouraged to spend quality time with their book of choice. 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.

Calendar and Week Ahead

Click **HERE** for the Term 4 School Calendar. Please note - this is updated regularly so please check it often. Please also read the Week Ahead that is emailed to parents every Friday to keep informed of what is happening at Southwell.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher.



Thank you again for your support and we are looking forward to a great last term with your children.

Darren Bryan
Paige Walker
Laurene Merritt
Liz Donald
Year 6 Teachers

