



Term 1, 2025 **Year 6 Learning Overview**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Southwell School for 2025 and the Year 6 Syndicate. Hopefully your child has enjoyed the first few days with us and is excited about their first term in Year 6. The following letter outlines a few specifics about Year 6 that will be useful to know.

There are four Year 6 classes. Our teachers are:

Mr Darren Bryan (Dean) - 6DB

darren.bryan@southwell.school.nz

Mrs Sarah Gregory - 6SG

sarah.gregory@southwell.school.nz

Mrs Laurene Merritt 6LM

laurene.merritt@southwell.school.nz

Mrs Barbara Nicholson - 6BN

barbara.nicholson@southwell.school.nz



All classes work together to plan and implement consistent learning programmes across the year group, while catering for the individual strengths and needs.

Below are important notices regarding upcoming events and useful things to note:

Week Ahead

This will be emailed every Friday to all Southwell parents from the School Administrator. 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.

Diaries

This year, Years 6-8 will not be issued with a School Diary. The majority of communication between home and school is done via email and the organisation of homework is done through Google Classroom. Homeroom classes can post their individual class timetables on Google Classroom and the School's Weekly Themes can be found here [School's Weekly Themes](#).

Komodo

Student wellbeing is central to what we do at Southwell. We have a network of support to help us engage with our students to achieve good outcomes. We add to this network by partnering with Komodo, a wellbeing survey platform that can help us with levels of student wellbeing. It is also another avenue that students can use to 'check in' with their teacher. We have been using this successfully for the last few years. Wellbeing surveys are sent out fortnightly, starting after Camp, it will not be compulsory for students to complete these. Here is a link to an [information sheet about Komodo](#).

Learning Conferences

Learning Conferences will take place in Week 3 on the 10th-13th of February. Boarder's conferences are on Friday, 14th February. Please book online as soon as possible to get your preferred slot. The link has been emailed to you from the School Administrator. Learning conferences are a great opportunity for you to get to know your child's teacher, and for the teacher to learn more about your child. A short questionnaire will be sent home with your child in Week 2. Please bring this to your conference.

Specialist classes

Please check for when your child needs to have their P.E. Gear and Library books. Please also note when Science and Technology lessons are. On these days students will need to have their sports shoes as they need to be wearing closed shoes in the Labs.

Sport

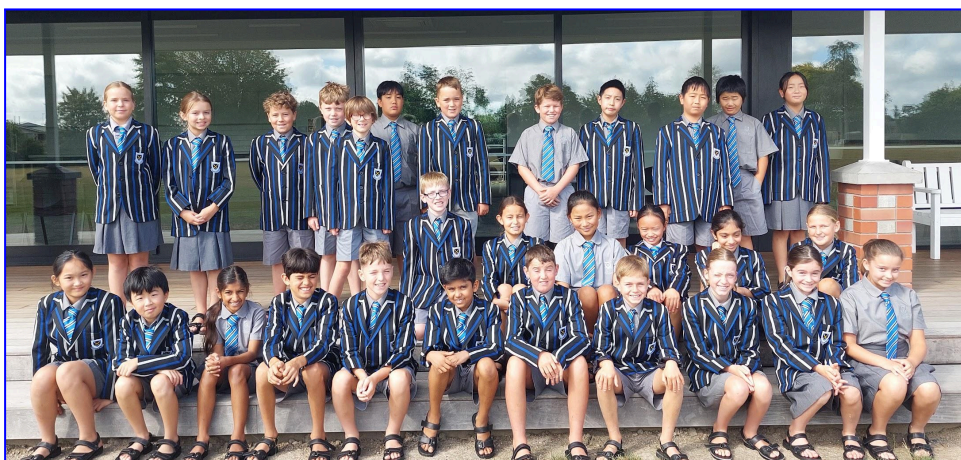
Trials and practices start in week 2. Year 5/6 sports trials are scheduled for Monday 3rd February and Tuesday 4th February. Once the sports programme is underway children should bring their Sports gear on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If the weather is inclement, coaches will supervise teams in their classrooms until normal collection times.

Sport practice days and times

Tuesdays 3.30—4.20pm

Thursdays 2.30—3.20pm

NB: there is no after-school sports training in Week 3 due to Learning Conferences.



Uniform and Behaviour- Offline *and* Online.

Please refer to the [handbook](#) for correct uniform details. Please note that we have discussed correct uniform, hairstyles and attitude with the Year 6 students. We have also shared our [Code of Conduct](#) with them so the children are aware of the expectations and attitudes we require in order for everyone to maximise learning. Please discuss with your child's teacher if you have further questions.

School hats are compulsory in Terms 1 and 4. All children must wear their hats during break times. Please ensure your child brings their hat to school each day this term or leaves it hanging on their hook at school. Please make sure all items of school uniform are clearly named. This is very important.

Communication with your child

If you are needing to communicate with your child *during* the school day, we ask you to call or email the office and the message will be forwarded to the Homeroom teachers. **Students do not have access to their phones during the day as they are required to leave them in their bags.** We also remind you that students need to sign out at the office if they are leaving the school grounds during school time. They are also required to be wearing full school uniform.

Sunscreen

Whilst we have sunscreen available in each room, it is a good idea to apply a layer in the morning at home so children are well protected at the beginning of the day.

Homework

All homework will be recorded in Google Classroom that students are able to access at home. The amount of work given over the course of the week will be able to be completed within 30 minutes of work per night on average. Homework will typically include Reading and Mathematics, with occasional tasks from other subjects, depending on the teacher.

Stationery

Each student has been issued with a stationery pack to start the year with. More stationery items can be purchased through the office. Class teachers have copies of an order form that students can use and these are then charged to school accounts. As teachers, we have also found that it is helpful if students bring in a cheap pair of headphones to keep in the classroom to assist with audiobooks and text to voice apps on the computers. These need to be named. It is not recommended that students bring expensive or gaming headphones as these can easily be lost or broken.

Brain Food

Every morning at 10am we have a "brain food break". Please allow your child to pack an additional healthy snack such as fruit. A reminder to please avoid nuts and nut products. Boarders are able to



take extra fruit from the boarding house before school for their brain food break.

School Hours

Children will be supervised in the classroom from 8.00am onwards and the school day finishes at 3.20pm. Any children that are not collected by 3.30pm will be supervised at After School Care in the Library.

Camp

Camp for Year 6 is coming up in Week 5. We will stay at Lake Taupo for 4 nights from Monday, 24th February to Friday, 28th February. More information including a timetable and what to bring can be found on the school website. Click [HERE](#) for the 2025 Camp Gear List. Please feel free to talk to your child's classroom teacher if you need more information.



LEARNING IN YEAR 6

We will be starting the year with a Big Idea for the school is **Who We Are**. In Year 6, students will be examining this through an inquiry into the students' unique personalities and understanding that their wellbeing is interconnected with their physical, mental, spiritual, and social experiences, and that they have agency in nurturing it.

We will also be focussing on the school values of Caring, Excellence, Integrity, Creativity, Resilience and Respect.

This Big Idea will be reflected throughout all curriculum areas. As such I have included a brief outline of the learning that will be taking place this term for your interest.

LEARNING IN TERM 1

Reading – Year 6 Teachers

We are looking 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 understanding the main message and purpose of the text and tailored to the learning needs of the individual students in the class.

Writing – Year 6 Teachers

We are using different stimuli to encourage and inspire our writing and setting individual goals. We are looking at the structure of different types of writing and writing for purpose and in Term 1 this will be mainly recounts, letters and writing that supports our big idea.



Mathematics – Year 6 Teachers / Reverend Pickering

Students are looking at the Number strand with particular focus on place value and the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Emphasis is placed on using these in practical situations and with word

problems. Mathematics classes are grouped according to learning needs.

Social Science

This term we are making an inquiry into Who We are. As we move through the term, students will be examining this by recognizing that they have unique personalities and understanding that their wellbeing is interconnected with their physical, mental, spiritual, and social experiences, and that they have agency in nurturing it.

Students will explore their various interests and social groups they may belong to and heritages that they relate to. This will be collated into a personal website.

Science – Mrs Donald

Students will start Term 1 learning about Health and Safety in the laboratory. We will then move on to acid and base chemistry, testing pH levels and neutralisation. In the second half of the term students will learn different forensic techniques. Science lessons will be a mix of hands-on practicals with bookwork to record learning. Please remember that covered shoes are required for all Science lessons - so students will need to bring their sports shoes on their Science lesson day... it may pay to put a reminder on the fridge or calendar!

Technology – Miss McMaster

This term, our focus will be on Digital Citizenship, emphasizing "Who We Are" in the online space. We will begin by establishing guidelines and etiquette for technology use, working together to create a shared understanding of our expectations at school. Our goal is for students to use technology effectively, safely, and critically. Additionally, our lessons will develop key digital skills, including organising and saving files, conducting effective online searches, evaluating sources, and creating digital content.

Physical Education

No "I" in team

Students will explore the concepts of teamwork, leadership, decision-making, and cooperation through games that provide physical, social, and mental challenges, reflecting on the question, "Where do I fit in?"

Play by the Rules

Students will explore the importance of rules and the concept of fairness by participating in a variety of games and activities. They will be encouraged to consider the question, "Is that fair?" throughout these experiences.

Frisbee vs. Golf

Students will explore a variety of frisbee throws to enhance distance, accuracy, and control, culminating in the application of these skills in Frisbee Golf and Ultimate Frisbee. This will also indirectly develop the fundamental skill of catching.

Christian Education – Reverend Pickering



This term students will consolidate their knowledge of Jesus and the Bible, and engage with the key ideas relating to the seasons of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Drawing on the Bible and Christian literature, students will evaluate what meaning and relevance these historic events might have for us in our modern world.

Music – Mrs McIntyre

Students will be working on establishing a tuneful singing voice through learning a range of songs while also learning to play three or more chords on the Ukulele. We will also be listening to and discussing a range of Ukulele performances.

Drama- Mrs Walker

During Term 1, Year 6 students learn to use the theatre conventions of freeze-frame, mime, narrator, roleplay and slow motion to create simple dramatic narratives within a range of genres. They work collaboratively in group situations and take part in a variety of student driven performances. Later this term, Year 6 students will be able to audition for the 2025 Opera, “Shrek the Musical”.

Art – Mrs Wing

The Year 6 students are learning about the elements of art and the building blocks used by artists to create an artwork. Each lesson they will develop an art technique using a variety of mediums. The students will create a series of artworks based on the art techniques being taught.

Pottery – Mrs Wathen

In Pottery students are learning to use routines and procedures in the room. This term they will cover basic techniques of joining, form, mark making and glazing. Students will explore the pottery techniques necessary to create artworks inspired by “Kiwiana”. Introduction to the wheel and extruder and slab roller will take place early in the term.

Languages - Mrs Grant

In Term 1, Year 6 *gakusei* (students) will begin an exciting journey into Japanese language and culture — *Nihon* (日本) and *Nihongo* (日本語). Building on their web page creation skills, students will develop digital art and interactive multimedia activities focused on Japanese culture and language. These creations will be showcased in the library, allowing them to share their new knowledge with the wider school community. Through this experience, students will explore cultural identity, global connections, reflecting on who they are in our diverse world.

Library – Mrs Huggins

The focus throughout the year in the Library is to respond to the needs of individual classes and students, with specific reference to developing key **library skills**, encouraging a **love of literature** and supporting teachers to build up a toolkit of **inquiry skills**.

Each library session will include

some time for children to choose and read books and also a short teaching session.



Students in Year 6 will be asked to step outside their reading comfort zone at opportune moments throughout the year.

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

Kind regards

Darren Bryan,
Sarah Gregory
Laurene Merritt
Barbara Nicholson

Year 6 Teachers