



BIRKENHEAD  
HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY

GDST  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

## Year 5 Curriculum Leaflet

Spring Term - Ferry Across the Mersey.

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an exciting term of learning we have prepared for your child! Year 5's themed curriculum unit, '**Ferry Across the Mersey**', will explore the origins of the Mersey ferry crossings and how the famous river led to the population growth in Liverpool and Birkenhead. The children will investigate the different rivers around the world and explore environmental concerns such as river pollution and how they can help control it. They will also explore the art and poetry associated with rivers including the amazing Razzle Dazzle ferries!

### How you can help your child learn at home:

- Visit your local library and explore books about: rivers around the world, wildlife in rivers, the artist Peter Blake and the story of the Titanic
- Perhaps take a walk along the different sides of the Mersey and photograph what you can see.
- Listen to and discuss the music from the Mersey beat scene including 'The Beatles' and 'Gerry and the Pacemakers'.
- Explore paintings and pictures of rivers
- Collect facts about different rivers and make a top trumps style game.
- Continue to practise skills at home using Spelling Shed, T.T Rockstars and Accelerated Reader.

### Home Learning Project:

This term's first project is to create a river collage - using a variety of materials. So get collecting!



### Topic Words to Learn:

Can you find out what each of these words mean? And can you spell them?

- Current delta estuary basin channel dock bank hydraulic action
- Irrigation sediment meander tributary saline upstream/downstream

# Ferry across the Mersey

## Y5 CURRICULUM MAP

### Humanities

In History and Geography we will:

Study a river of our own choice; using IT skills to research.

Make comparisons between rivers around the world.

Explore the physical geography of rivers – how are they formed? Introduce and develop technical vocabulary

Look at the human geography of a river – focusing in on the Mersey. Look at its' source and how cities and towns have developed by it.

Learn about the Story of the Titanic –one of the most famous exports to come from Cunard and Merseyside's ship building era.

### Educational Visits and/or Speakers

Birkenhead Prioory visit and a trip on the Mersey Ferry

Which is the longest river in the world?

### Science/DT

During this unit, we will be exploring forces and investigating air and water resistance.

We will also research the habitats of living things that dwell in and near the water, examining their lifecycles and the environmental effects of pollution in and around rivers.

### English

We will create poetry inspired by rivers, write imaginative recounts based on true stories, produce non-chronological reports to present our river research and devise persuasive letters highlighting our concerns for the environment.

### Maths

We will be learning about:

- perimeter and area
- fractions, decimals and percentages
- extending our multiplication and division skills
- improving our arithmetical fluency

Who wrote the famous song, 'Ferry across the Mersey'?

### Computing

This term we will create spreadsheets to display river facts and produce a tourist brochure for our chosen river.

### Art and DT

We will be looking at and discussing the work of pop artist Peter Blake and the famous Razzle Dazzle ships.

We will explore a system of pulleys and levers for opening bridges or lifting cargo onto ships and designing our own type of bridge to get across the Mersey.

### RE & PSHE

We will explore the Christian values associated with the first ferry crossings and the role that rivers play in many of the world's main religions. We will discuss the impact of disasters such as the sinking of the Titanic or the flooding of towns and cities in various countries.

PE & Music will continue to be taught alongside our themed unit, integrated where appropriate into our Project eXplore work