



Learning Exploration: Barnstaple: A Town Built on Trade

Building on children's understanding of our local area from the Autumn term's geographical focus, children will develop an understanding of the history of our local area – in particular, our town: Barnstaple. This will enable children to gain a sense of identity as well as community and to understand that the Barnstaple of today has been shaped by the thriving trades of the past.



Hook into learning:

Y5 will take part in a visit to the Barnstaple Guildhall. Children will experience a historical tour of Barnstaple to give them a first-hand understanding of the landmarks of Barnstaple and key areas in our local history, alongside learning about the impact of trade in our local area.

Journey through the exploration

Our learning will begin by exploring the history of Barnstaple and answering the key question: **how was Barnstaple founded and named?** Children will also **explore Barnstaple's history in relation to the chronology of historical events in the wider world.** While investigating the chronology of Barnstaple's history, children will answer the key question: **how has Barnstaple changed in size and importance over history?** At the heart of this exploration, children will investigate the importance of trade to Barnstaple: **what is the importance of trade in Barnstaple's history and which goods were traded?** In addition, children will **identify and understand the importance of historical landmarks** (some of which have a key role in Barnstaple's trade history). While studying Barnstaple's past, children will discover **how the diversity of our area was influenced by the movement of groups of people.** Finally, children will finish the exploration by **exploring the history of Newport Community Primary Academy.**



Parent/Carer Curriculum Information

Year 5

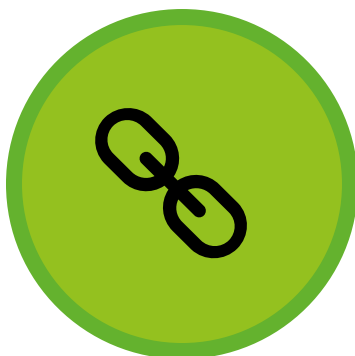
Linked subjects

Through this exploration, learning will be linked where appropriate, including in the following subjects:

- **History**
- **Art - clay**

The following subjects will be taught discretely:

- **Science**
- **Computing**
- **PSHE**
- **Primary Languages**
- **RE**
- **PE**



Writing

Children will explore the following genres of writing:

- **Non-fiction** using 'The Planetarium'.
- **Poetry** based on 'The Sea' by James Reeves.

Opportunities for writing across the curriculum:

- **Explanations** in Science
- **Report writing** linked to visit.

Maths

Children will explore:

- **Position and direction**
- **Decimals**
- **Negative numbers**



Parent/Carer Curriculum Information

Year 5

Opportunities to build cultural capital

Cultural capital is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said, and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

At NCSPA, we aim to build cultural capital through experiences such as trips, visitors, music and providing local links.

For Year 5, options this term may include:

- Visit to the Guildhall, tour of Barnstaple and a mock trial
- Year 5 Cricket festival
- Magistrates visit to school
- Year 5 & 6 End of year performance
- Visit to Barnstaple museum linked to Brannam's pottery and clay work.



Opportunities to address Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Exploring the diversity of Barnstaple over time, with different groups of people moving into the local area, will allow children to develop empathy for various groups and understand the importance of inclusion for all and how this has contributed to our local history.



Further curriculum information

If you would like any further information regarding the curriculum, please:

- Speak to Mrs Hemmings, Mrs Williams or Mrs Edgell
- Speak to Mrs Gregory (our curriculum lead).
- See your child's class information on Seesaw.
- Visit the Curriculum pages on our website.

Opportunities for shared outcomes

Our aim is that children will have the opportunity to produce or take part in the following:

- Year 5 & 6 End of year performance
- Mock Trial at the Guildhall



Summer Term 2, 2026