



Scientist-in-Residence



Space Workshops Year 5 September and October 2021



This half-term, Year 5 have been focussing on their future in the solar system with Scientist-in-Residence Colin Stuart. Working in groups of fifteen, they worked through three different sessions each themed around a different aspect of the universe.

We kicked off with the fact that when Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot on another world he was 38 years old. With plans underway to send the first astronauts to Mars in the next three decades, the first Martian is currently at primary school. They could even be in Year 5 at St. Stephen's! The children learned about Mars' mountains, valleys and volcanoes, took part in real team building exercises from the European Space Agency's astronaut training programme and even discovered how the toilet on the International Space Station works (and what happens when it doesn't!).

By the second week we moved onto how space affects their everyday lives, often without them realising it. How 'birthday' is a space word and how all the food we eat is really repackaged solar energy. They got to know the constellations of the night sky and designed their own imaginary ones, before learning how humans (and dung beetles) use the stars for navigation.

In their final session we tackled perhaps the ultimate question about space: are we alone in the universe? The children discussed what makes Earth such a good cradle for life and how we go about looking for similar planets elsewhere in space. They looked at how the upcoming launch of the James Webb Space Telescope will help us hunt down water in the atmospheres of alien planets and they even used their imaginations to draw what they think an alien would look like.

Colin loved how they engaged with the workshops and the breadth of questions they had. *We used to tell children that "the sky is limit". Hopefully Year 5 now appreciate that this no longer applies to them.*

What the children thought of the Science workshops in their own words:

"It really made me think about space and I was so interested that I kept reading books about it to learn more." Giselle

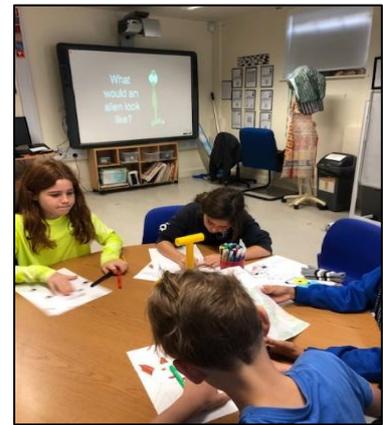
"I really liked learning all about the aliens and that there are millions of planets that will take decades of years to search for lifeforms." Lucas

"I liked learning about how children might be able to go to space in the future and I found that really encouraging that it could be me!" Ava

“It was really interesting and I liked learning about Mars. I had a really good experience.” Lilia

“Working with Colin was so good and I loved making my own star constellations on light up peg boards.” India

“I learned new things like why the earth is round and why our eyes are so small and how it’s all to do with the sun. I loved learning new vocabulary.” Igor



(top row: Colin demonstrating how to harvest oxygen from water using electricity)

(middle row: drawing aliens and designing their own constellations)

(bottom row: designing their own constellations and using torches to demonstrate how we find alien planets)

Kind regards,
Miss Kelly & Mrs Wordsworth
Science Co-ordinators