

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Science Newsletter

British Space Week



Autumn 2021



Space Capers With Atomic Tom

*It wouldn't be Space Week without a visit from Atomic Tom. This year he captivated his audience with his home-made '**Giant Smoke Ring Vortex Cannon.**' The vortex of air is generated because the air being expelled from the centre of the hole is traveling faster than the air moving around the edge of the hole. This activity demonstrates that air occupies space, with the fantastic rolling smoke rings an added bonus.*

Satellites

Back in the classroom, interactive lessons were the order of the day, as the children learned about and became satellites. In astronomy, a satellite is an object that orbits (goes around) a planet. There are several hundred natural satellites, or moons, in our Solar System. The children took to the playground to demonstrate how the planets move round in their orbits and how their moon(s) move round them.

Thousands of artificial (human-made) satellites have also been launched since 1957. These have many different uses, including taking pictures of the Sun, Earth, and other planets, and looking deep into space at black holes, and distant stars and galaxies. There are also communications satellites, weather satellites, and the International Space Station. The children learned how manmade satellites are used to bounce the signals from our phones to connect us to the other side of the world in 'quick time.'



World Space Week takes place annually in October. It is the largest space event in the world and an ideal time to use space-based activities to excite children about science and technology!

In this our second year of taking part in Space Week, our children have continued to demonstrate their enthusiasm for the subject.

Some of our competition entries are featured overleaf.



A Whole New World Competition



Did You Know...?

Earth is the only planet we know of with life on it. Scientists have estimated there are around 8.7 million different species of life on Earth, from bacteria to plants to animals.

There are 3 core things life on Earth needs:

1. Energy – Species like humans get their energy from the Sun; the Sun gives energy to the growing green plants that provide the food and oxygen. Life deep underground can get its energy from things like chemical reactions.
2. Food or nourishment – The 6 key elements found in food on Earth are Carbon (C), Hydrogen (H), Oxygen (O), Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Sulphur (S).
3. Liquid water – The planet needs to be the right temperature to sustain liquid water.

Competition Winners

These are some of the amazing competition entries we had. The children were very creative as they came up with lots of designs for a new planet. Entries came in the form of presentations, fact files and posters, as well as some amazing models. Well done everyone.



11-20 March
British
Science
Week
2022

