

# STARGAZING LIVE!



**Further to the report in Chilton News last Friday, we are delighted to bring our Prep parents further coverage and photos of the Stargazing Live event held at Chilton last Thursday. Firstly, here is a report from Joanne Richardson, Chilton's Space Ambassador:**

**Esero-UK Space Ambassador Visit to Chilton Cantelo School – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

Chilton Cantelo School is one of only 500 schools in the whole of the UK who are currently taking part in the "Tim Peake Primary Project." This came as a result of Mr Isack registering the school's interest back in early 2015. The project is run by ESERO-UK and funded by both the UK Space Agency and the European Space Agency. The aim of the project is to inspire children in STEM subjects (ie Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) by using the context of Space and Space Exploration.

ESERO-UK has a network of 50 Space Ambassadors working in various regional locations within the United Kingdom. These are people not only from teaching backgrounds, but also business and space experts. The one allocated to Chilton Cantelo School is Jo Richardson aka Space Detectives!!



Jo herself has been running the highly successful business called Space Detectives for almost two years but has at least seven years' experience in Space Education Outreach, having worked for bodies such as BBC Stargazing Live, Exmoor National Park, The National Trust and various astronomical clubs in delivering space education to the general public. Jo is also married to Pete Richardson



who is a two year finalist in the International Astrophotography of the Year. Some of his pictures are currently on display at the Royal Observatory in London. They both operate from their home observatory in Somerset.



Part of Jo's Space Ambassador remit is to work within her cluster schools for the duration of the Tim Peake Mission to the ISS. During that time, Jo will be running several workshops with the children and encouraging the teaching staff to do the same in her absence, using the free resources provided to the school via ESERO-UK.

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016, Jo came along and delivered a whole afternoon and evening of space activity! During the day, the children were taught about Tim's Mission. They looked at the Soyuz Rocket, the International Space Station itself and talked about how



astronauts not only train but how they live and work in space as well. Years 5 and 6 were later split into teams of six. Within the teams, two were chosen to be Structural Engineers, two were Solar Panel Engineers and two were Modular Engineers. Each team had to design and then assemble a large ISS Model. The results were amazing and helped the children understand the dynamics of working within a team and how to problem solve.



During the afternoon, Jo had arranged for BBC coverage of the workshop and two children, George

Spencer and Sienna Balhetchet, were chosen to conduct an interview with the press for later broadcast on air! Click on the following link to listen to their interview (it starts 53½ mins in!): <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03cvozq#play>



The evening event encompassed the BBC Stargazing Live Theme, which this year is all about Tim Peake. Both children and parents alike were treated to various Space Detective activities

from straw rocket building to star patterns made using marshmallows!! The evening was also facilitated with the help of the Crewkerne Astronomical Society who provided telescopes for everyone to look through and expert knowledge to answer all of those questions!!

All in all it was a fabulous day and evening - the children were left (in the words of a teacher) "Buzzing!"

**Jo will be returning later in the year to continue her Space Ambassador role.....**

#### Report from Mr Isack:

Wow!! What a stellar day the Prep School had on Thursday. First, Joanne Richardson, a Space Ambassador, who is linked to the Tim Peake Primary School Project, gave a talk to the Prep students about Major Peake, the International Space Station and the activities that are taking place at Chilton this year. This was followed by Years 5 & 6 working in teams of six to build their own ISS. **The completed models are on display in the Provost Room.**

At 2.00pm, George Spencer and Sienna Balhetchet, became the focus of the whole county as they were interviewed by BBC Somerset over the phone!

Jo also brought in many things for display which included a piece of meteorite which landed in Russia over three billion years ago!! Yes, three billion years ago! The children were astounded and when they were able to handle it, could not believe how heavy it was.

In the evening was the 'Stargazing Live' event!! Jo set up a number of activities including marshmallow constellations and rocket building. The Crewkerne Astronomical Society provided various telescopes which allowed us all to see Orion and the Nebula in his belt, and in particular, very



clear images of the Moon and its craters. The weather was excellent and was probably responsible for drawing in double the number of people we expected!



#### Report from the students:

*"On Thursday, 14th January the whole of the Prep had an amazing opportunity—that was to learn about space and what life is like on the International Space Station. We were very fortunate to be picked and we thank Mr Isack very much for putting our name in the application. First we learnt about Tim's mission which was called Principia. Then the Year 5 & 6s were challenged to make a model of the International Space Station. This was really fun. To finish off our amazeballs day, we got to look through telescopes and see beautiful stars up close. Everyone had a great day and all loved it."* (Emma Gompertz, Katie Honeywell & Emma Svensson)

**Thank you all for making the event such an interesting, exciting and lively success. We look forward to more events with Jo in the coming months.**



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