

Westfields


JUNIOR SCHOOL

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UNITE - INSPIRE - EXCEL

12th October 2018

Dear Parents,

As part of our Science curriculum, Year 5 have begun learning about Space. As the half term progresses, children will be learning about the stars, planets and galaxies. In order to 'bring to life' our study of Space, we would like to provide a unique opportunity for Year 5 to attend a day visit to Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium on Thursday 15th November.

The children will begin their day with Destination Space - an hour long workshop. With the aim to inspire future generations of scientists, the Science Centre has partnered up with the UK Space Agency to offer the Destination Space Workshop which 'recruits' and 'trains' the next generation of space scientists. We will learn some of the key skills needed to be not only an astronaut, but a scientist or engineer working in the space industry. Through problem-solving activities and experiments, pupils also get a chance to use their communication, mathematical and team-working skills to control a robot-arm and investigate two of the problems facing astronauts in space; floating liquids and the effects of a vacuum!

We will then explore the Science Centre through the hands on exhibits to revise and explore key concepts in our Science curriculum.

After lunch we will experience a live planetarium show. The show starts with a look at the night sky, with a focus on any planets currently visible. Then the presenter starts to show off when the planetarium takes off from Earth, and after a look back at our home world, travels in one seamless flight out to the edges of the Solar System to look back at the orbits of the planets before flying to visit each in turn. The content of the show varies in response to new discoveries and topical news items, but may include the chance to peek through Venus' clouds using radar; visit the Curiosity Rover on the surface of Mars; see eclipses on Jupiter or to fly through Saturn's rings. Every show is a little different as the presenter navigates an accurate 3-dimension model of the Universe in real-time. The show is finally followed by a question and answer session.

The *Planet Show* is a highly effective way to challenge misconceptions created by the distorted scales used in other media: pupils get an idea of how huge those distances really are compared to the sizes of the planets.



The Skills Network
ParentalEngagement
QualityStandard



On the day, children will need to be in school early, between 8.15am - 8:25am, dressed in their school uniform. We will be departing Westfields promptly at 8:45am by coach. We plan to return at around 4:30pm, as always a text will be sent to confirm our arrival time back at school if we experience any delays.

Children will need to bring a snack (as usual this should be fruit or vegetables) and a packed lunch with plenty to drink. Please ensure there are no glass bottles or fizzy drinks.

The cost for the travel and access to the centre, two unique activities and the science hands on activities is £17.50. This can be paid via Tucasi or can be brought into Reception in a sealed named envelope. Although this is a voluntary contribution, if we do not have enough contributions we will not be able to participate in this opportunity.

If your child needs any medication for travel sickness or prescribed medicine during the day, please complete and return a named medication form which will be available from Reception. All medicine must be handed to your child's class teacher on the day of the trip, be in the original container/packaging with a clearly marked expiry date, be in date and contained in a clear plastic bag with your child's name and class.

This promises to be a fantastic trip for the year group and one we are very much looking forward to. Please complete the reply slip below and **return by the 19th October**. If there are any questions about the trip, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

Many thanks,



Mr D Chaplin
Year 5 Team Leader

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Year 5 Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium

I give permission for _____ to travel by Hodges coach on the Year 5 visit to Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium.

I have enclosed £17.50 for the cost of the trip I have paid via Tucasi

I will ensure my child will be dropped off at school promptly between 8.15am-8.25am and will collect my child from school at 4.30pm.

I am able to help on this trip and have a current DBS certificate for Westfields Junior School

Signed: _____

Name: _____