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Buy this picture at www.buypicture.net Ruth Nickson 27061628
 Pupils wait their turn in the dome

Thanks sir, you're a star

STARS, planets and the Milky Way were lit up as if by magic at Thurlestone Primary School. Ex-teacher Simon Ould gathered pupils into a five-metre diameter dome to teach them about astronomy.

Mr Ould takes his two Space Odyssey domes to primary and secondary schools, Women's Institutes, Brownies, Cubs and fetes across the South West.

The Thurlestone school pupils erupted in spontaneous applause at the end of

his interactive space show.

Inside the dome, Mr Ould flipped switches to instantly light up the interior with a moving replica of the night sky, complete with the moon depicted in the accurate part of its cycle on the day the presentation takes place.

He said he was glad to be the only science teacher in the UK offering the planetarium presentations.

'It was a big risk for me to jack the teaching in, but I was so impressed by a simi-

lar projector show I saw two years ago that the very next day I took the plunge,' he said.

'I bring a wealth of astronomy knowledge, and an enthusiastic, passionate teaching style to each presentation, and it always fascinates my audiences no matter what age they are.

'I also get to travel to the most amazing places with my two domes.

'A couple of months ago I went to the Isles of Scilly. My presentation was seen

by every pupil on the islands, who came across by boat from all directions.'

Mr Ould takes his smaller dome to primary schools and the larger to secondary schools and big events, where up to 36 adults can fit very snugly in the inflatable construction.

Thurlestone school-teacher, June Richardson, said the children loved the experience.

'It brought the night sky alive for the pupils,' she said.