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Pupils have stars in their eyes



Years 4 and 5 with the dome, part of the Space Odyssey mobile planetarium (20918-1)

By Annabel Andrews

CHILDREN from Staverton Primary School experienced outer space from the safety of their school hall on Thursday.

Years 3 and 4 from the Skylarks and Foxes classes at the school were visited by the Space Odyssey travelling planetarium as part of their topic of light.

The dome-shaped inflatable planetarium visited as the culmination of a weeklong festival of light, during which the children also studied the Hindu festival of Diwali and the origins of Bonfire Night.

Planetarium owner Simon Ould, 35, showed the children simulations of the planets moving across the sky and pictures taken in space as recently as the day before.

Alex, nine, said: "It was fun because we learnt more about space and the stars."

Jake, eight, added: "My favourite bit was at the end, it felt like we were moving but it was just the stars spinning."

Marie Veale, science co-ordinator at the school, said: "I think they loved it, it was amazing."

A former teacher Mr Ould set up Space Odyssey three years ago after seeing the effect planetariums had on his students.

Since then, he has invited 43,000 schoolchildren into the dome.

He said: "The kids' eyes just light up. But it's not just about that. I think about trying to get them to learn something - you can see the penne drop."



Staverton School pupils Kim, Catlin, Olivia and Isaac inside the planetarium (20918-6)