



Westcroft

Stanhope

Bishop Auckland

Co Durham

DL13 2NU

Head Teacher: Mrs D Cross

School Number 840 3087

Tel: 01388 528218

Email: admin@stanhopebarrington.org.uk

Website: <https://www.stanhopebarrington.org.uk/>

Dear Year 5 Parents

18th February 2025

Re: Planetarium visit and workshop

This half term our children in Year 5 have been learning about Earth & Space. They have really enjoyed the topic and engaged in our lessons extremely well. They have been inquisitive and curious and it has been a delight to see their sense of wonder whilst learning about our solar system, planets and stars.

As a result of this enthusiasm I thought it would be great to invite Sophie Carroll from Cosmic Wonders to come along with her inflatable Planetarium and deliver a workshop for our children. As such, she will be coming into school on Wednesday 5th March 2025 for the afternoon to work with our Year 5 science class.

Planetarium:

Sophie will run a show about the search for alien life in the solar system. The show will run for approximately 30 minutes.

Constellation workshop:

She will then show the class a 'virtual stargazing' programme and show them how to recognise certain constellations, how to find the north star etc. This would be approximately 15 minutes. We will then do a craft activity recreating these constellations - this would last around 30 minutes.

As you may already know, our dark skies are one of the key special qualities of living in the North Pennines. We are lucky enough to live in the darkest mainland National Landscape and one of the darkest places in England. Visitors flock to our area to star gaze and watch the changing skies above us and it is really important that our children appreciate the very special nature of our local environment.

I am extremely grateful to the North Pennines National Landscape for their contribution towards the cost of this workshop. The remainder of the cost is being met from the PTA account and therefore there is no cost to parents and families for this amazing experience.

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Yours sincerely

Mrs D Cross

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Head Teacher

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