

Mole Valley children thank Tim Peake for the chance to grow 'Rocket Seeds'

By TomVKlaveren

(<http://www.dorkingandleatherheadadvertiser.co.uk/people/TomVKlaveren/profile.html>) | Posted: June 27, 2016

•

0 COMMENTS 4 SHARES



The 5th Dorking Beavers and Polesden Lacey Infant School took part in the project

Comments (0)

Seeds from outer space are being grown in Mole Valley.

The spores, which have taken a Star Trek-esque trip to "the final frontier" are now being planted back on earth to test the effects space has on their growth capacity.

Children from the district have relished the opportunity to take part in the National Rocket Science Experiment which is part of Major Tim Peake's historic journey to the International Space Station (ISS).

Polesden Lacey Infant School and the 5th Dorking

(<http://www.dorkingandleatherheadadvertiser.co.uk/dorking>) Beavers were among more than 10,000 schools and community groups to receive "rocket seeds" that had spent six months on the ISS.

Both groups received 2kg of seeds separated into two packs, one red and one blue, only one of these packs had been taken by Major Peake into space and the children were tasked with working out which was which.



David Jones, 6, who is a member of the 5th Dorking Beavers said: "It's exciting trying to guess which seeds have been in space,"

As part of the project the children planted all of the seeds and monitored them carefully for six weeks, recording and measuring data about each plant as it grew.

The children counted how many of the seeds from each packet germinated, how many leaves grew on each plant, how many plants were alive each week, how tall the plants were on certain dates and how many were alive and healthy at the end of the experiment.



The project and the results that the children collect will help provide crucial information on the impact of micro-gravity on seed germination and help scientists to examine if it would be possible for humans to grow food on other planets.

At the end of the six weeks all results collected by the two groups were entered into the national database before children got the chance to vote on which packet of seeds they thought had been sent to space.

The children of Polesden Lacey Infant School's "Badger" class choose blue and were later confirmed to be correct by a special video message from Major Peake himself.

Major Peake recently returned from his six month mission to the ISS, during which he completed almost 3,000 orbits of the earth - a distance of 78 million miles.

Head teacher Rosie Keedy said: "We really enjoyed taking part in the rocket seeds experiment.

"It was very exciting to be a part of an experiment that no one had ever done before and we are proud that our results have helped scientists to understand more about taking seeds into space."

The children also sent their own video thank you message to Major Peake for helping to inspire the rocket seeds project.

Full results, analysed by professional statisticians, will be published in September and more information can be found at www.principia.org.uk/activity/rocketscience
(<http://www.principia.org.uk/activity/rocketscience>)