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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you had a lovely long weekend, celebrated VE Day and got to enjoy the glorious sunshine whilst it was with us.

I am sure that you watched the Prime Minister intently like myself last night. Like you, I have only just seen the announcement and at this stage I cannot answer all your questions. We are waiting to receive more information from government about what this means for our school. However, in the short-term, nothing has changed. I will provide further information in the coming days and weeks once I am able to do so after consulting with senior leaders and all staff.

As it's Monday, I have included a combination of thought of the week and this week's Headteacher's school assembly, which is based on a topic being discussed in the news this week.

**This week's assembly is focused on:**



**SpaceX founder, Elon Musk, has a dream of providing the whole world with high speed internet using satellites in the sky. Mr Musk recently announced on Twitter that the firm's Starlink service will be available to certain locations in six months. The project aims to have the devices form a constellation around the planet from a distance of 200 miles to 700 miles above the surface and transmit data to stations and customers on the ground.**

## Question: Who does outer space belong to?

You may watch this week's Virtual Assembly here: [www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

Or discuss yourself as follows:

### Listen, think, share

- Look at this week's picture (above) and talk about what we can see.
- **Does anyone know what's happening?**
- Discuss that a company called SpaceX have been sending satellites into orbit to provide internet everywhere, including even in the most remote places like the Amazon rainforest! The photo was taken by someone who spotted them flying across the sky!
- Read through the information found on the assembly resource, which provides an overview of what SpaceX do, below.

Assembly Resource

Read through the information below, which provides an overview of what SpaceX do. Do you think the project is a good idea?

#### What is Starlink?

Starlink is a satellite constellation, being constructed by a company called SpaceX, to provide satellite internet access for the whole world. The constellation will consist of thousands of mass-produced small satellites in low Earth orbit.

Not everyone is happy about the Starlink project, including some astronomers at the Rubin Observatory in Chile, who have said that the satellites are affecting between 30% and 50% of observations. SpaceX have said that they are looking to reduce the brightness of the satellites over time.



An illustration of what the Starlink satellites will look like, showing 4,400 satellites from the project's first phase.

Once fully deployed, the SpaceX system will pass over virtually all parts of the Earth's surface and therefore have the ability to provide a global service.

A representative from SpaceX

#### Interesting Facts about Starlink:

- It is expected to cost around £7 billion to complete the project.
- Elon Musk, the founder of SpaceX, wants to use any money that is made from the project to help fund his ambition of creating the first city in Mars!
- It is hoped that the project will provide access to 3 billion people, who currently do not have internet access.

- **Do you think the project is a good idea?**
- Explain that some people do not think the project should have been allowed to go ahead for reasons such as satellites causing light pollution.
- Watch this week's useful video which shows the satellites flying through space as seen from in the UK: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-52391758](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-52391758)
- **Did you see them?** Lots of people noticed them and didn't know what they were!
- If you had noticed them and not known what they were, what might you have thought?
- Tell the children about the Outer Space Treaty, this is an agreement made by 109 countries to protect outer space and allow anyone to explore. All the countries are in agreement that outer space doesn't belong to one country

- As technology gets better and more people are able to send things into space, do you think the treaty may need to change, considering objects we may send, such as satellites, to outer space?

### Reflection

Outer space doesn't belong to any one of us, but to the universe! Just like we take care of our own planet, Earth, it's important we encourage and support others to ensure the protection of outer space and the wider universe!

### This Week's Useful Vocabulary

- **Satellite** – an object that is sent into space to collect information or for communication.
- **Constellation** – a group of stars that form a pattern or shape and have a name.
- **Remote** – somewhere that is far away from the places where most people live.
- **Treaty** – a written agreement between countries.
- **Location** – a place where something happens or is situated.
- **Devices** – objects that have been invented for a particular purpose, especially a mechanical or electronic piece of equipment.

Assemblies are normally 30 minutes and are a nice way to start your Monday or to use when your children need a break from learning, enjoy!!

Finally, my thought for the week is based on kindness. Something that indeed makes the world go around but also has never been more important!!

As always I hope that you are all safe. Have an enjoyable week and thank you for all your support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Wood  
**Associate Headteacher**

