Hello boys and girls. Are you ready to be little scientists this week? Let's get started

Have a chat….What do you see in the picture? Where do you think this place is? What happens in space? Would you like to go to the moon? Why/Why not?

WATCH THIS FUN VIDEO CLIP OF HOW ASTRONAUTS EAT FOOD IN SPACE

Why is the food floating about?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OINZX0SFVn8

Have a little chat about Gravity

- This week we will focus on Gravity and Air Resistance. Have a little chat at home.
- We have something called gravity that stops us from floating away. How funny is that!!! Think of times we see gravity - we are all walking firmly on the ground (not floating around), when we throw a ball in the air, what happens? what happens when you jump? Give it a try! Would it be the same if we were in space or on the moon? Why do you think that?

Air Resistance

- So now you know a little bit about gravity (the pull of the earth on objects/people), I would like you to explore air resistance- the force of air working against a moving object.
- The best way to learn about science is through play and exploration. Trial and error.
- I would like you to design a parachute for a little lego character (or something similar) at home. (lots of examples on youtube but try your own first!)

Making your own parachute

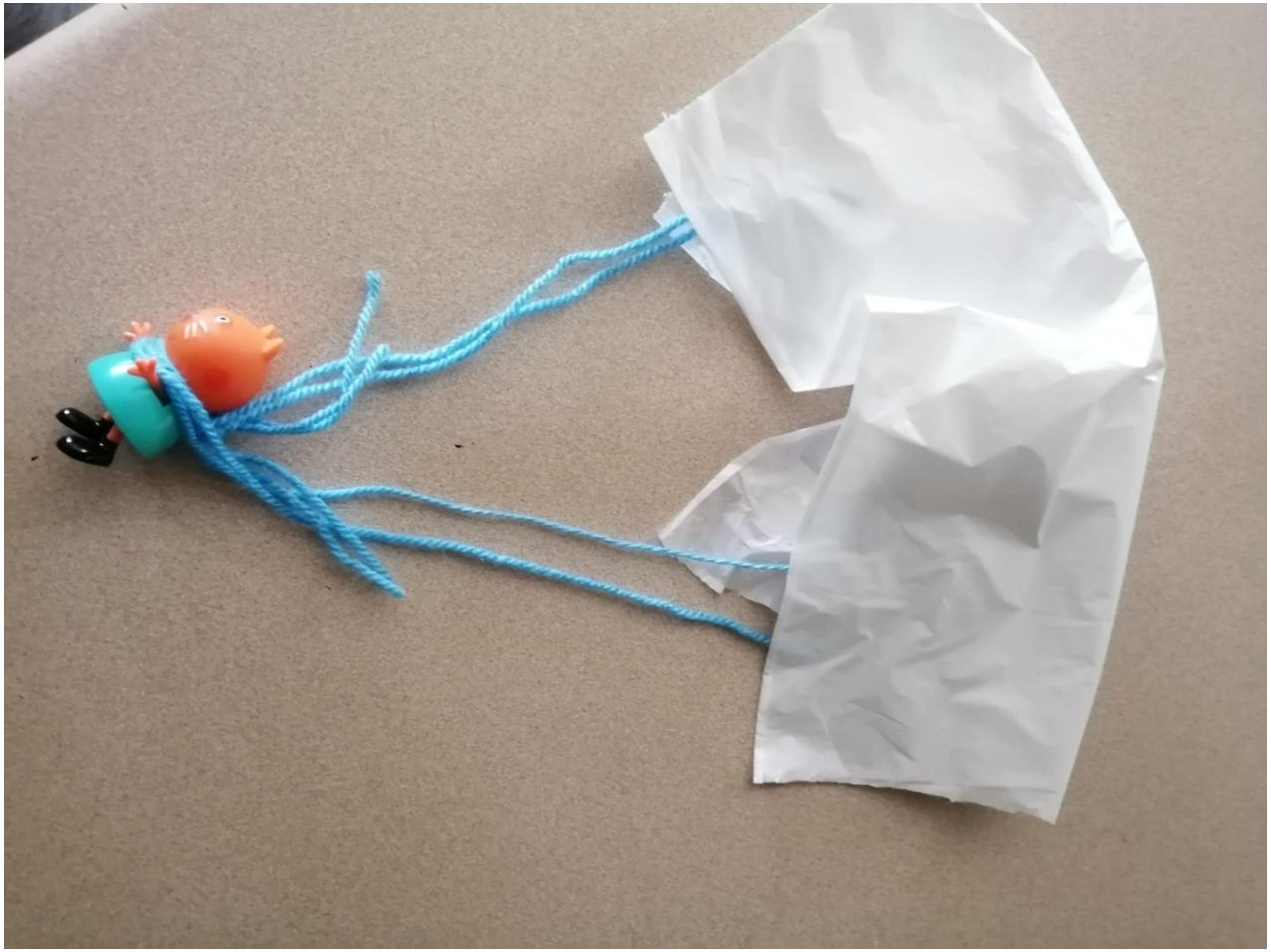
- I had a little trial or 2 myself at home and had great fun. It got very competitive at one stage! This is one example of my parachute. (Please don't laugh - I am still working on making him fall slower by increasing the air resistance.)

Here are some materials you can use(you can use any plastic bags)

Cut a square of plastic (you can experiment with different shapes to see what works best) Cut four pieces of thread in equal length.

Sellotape the string to each corner

Then sellotape the ends to your little character.



Here I tried making a bigger parachute. The higher you can let it fall from the better.

Experiment

- Remember you want your little parachuter to drop slowly to the ground so you might need a few trials to see what works best. (To test how good your parachute actually is, drop your parachuter and a similar lego character without a parachute from the same height and at the same time- which one hits the ground first? Why?)

Be Scientists!!!

- Here are some questions to investigate:

• Which shape of parachute gives the slowest fall to a Lego character? round? square? rectangular? big? small? hole in the middle of parachute? no hole?

• What material makes a parachute that gives the slowest fall to a Lego character?

I am really interested to see what you discover. You are all little scientists - The more questions you ask yourself the more you will discover!

Have lots of fun!! I am looking forward to seeing photos/videos on our school website

- Finally, have a look at this video clip of a man called Felix parachuting from space!!! Wait and watch for the moment he pulls his parachute. Wow!!!!!
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9oKEJ1pXPw

Have fantastic week!!!