



24.5.21

Dear pupils of Carbeile Junior School,

Just as you may have heard in the news, NASA & The US Space Agency's [Ingenuity Mars helicopter](#) made its fifth successful flight on the Red Planet last month. China's remote-controlled [Zhurong rover](#), which landed on Mars a week ago, has also now driven down from its landing platform to explore the surface. Elon Musk's SpaceX is working flat out to land the first humans on Mars in 2024 and eventually establish a permanent human presence there.

You might even have noticed an orange-red, mysterious star in the sky at nightfall recently. It doesn't twinkle like other stars though. It is larger too. This is Mars, our closest planet. It is quite easy to see until around 11pm at the moment.

For many years here at the UK Space Agency, we have wondered if we could take our own people there. It is a very, very long journey which no humans have ever undertaken. What would our astronauts eat? How fit would they need to be? What might we find on The Red Planet? Could a rocket travel that far? What else is out there that we need to know about?

We would like you to help us find some answers before we begin planning our mission. In summary, *could we travel to Mars?!*

Your **Mission to Mars** challenge is to spend one week learning about space, about how vast the universe is, about rockets, astronauts and, of course, just what is up there, on the surface of the mysterious red planet, Mars.

Good learning and good luck,

NASA & the UK Space Agency.

PS. We have attached a short video message with further information.

PPS. If you've not seen Mars yet, ask your parents if you can have look. On a clear night, you will see just how magical it looks!