Anisha’s school is hosting the National Schools Science Fair and whoever has the best experiment wins an amazing prize. Actually, not just amazing, it’s an intergalactic prize – a trip to a national space centre! And the winner gets to meet a REAL-LIFE ASTRONAUT! How cool is that?

Anisha, Milo and Govi’s project, THE VOLCANO DEMONSTRATION, has been picked to represent their school. Have a go at making a volcano at home, here’s how…

You will need:
- An empty plastic bottle with a wide neck or a clean glass jar
- White vinegar
- Washing-up liquid
- Food dye (red and yellow works well for lava)
- Bicarbonate of soda

Instructions:
1. Half fill the glass jar or bottle with white vinegar.
2. Add a good squirt of washing-up liquid, and a few drops of food dye.
3. Gently swirl the bottle or jar to mix the contents.
4. Place the bottle or jar onto a baking tray or dish…or this could get very messy.
5. Now add a heaped teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda to the bottle or jar and wait for the volcano to erupt!

What’s going on?
When you mix vinegar and bicarbonate of soda, it makes a gas called carbon dioxide. This forms bubbles in the vinegar. The bubbles of gas react with the washing-up liquid to make foam. The whole combination reacts so much that foam pours out – just like a volcano!