

Cuddly Toys in Space!

This is an article about a class of primary school pupils. They sent a cuddly toy and a camera into the sky as part of a science experiment.

School kids send cuddly toy on a space mission

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No! It's a small, cuddly dog attached to a giant balloon...

The cuddly mutt was sent on his mission by students at Morecambe Bay Community primary school as part of a science project.

Attached to a huge helium balloon (much bigger than your average!) and armed with a **GoPro** camera, little Sam was released from the Midland Hotel in Morecambe at 12:05pm on Tuesday 5 April — to a chorus of cheers from his classmates.

The fluffy explorer rose at a rate of 6m per second and managed to reach an **altitude** of 15.5 miles (25km!) before **descending** back to Earth — *and what a view he got!*

The balloon, which was designed to burst at a certain altitude, drifted

back down to Earth via parachute and landed in a field near Burnley, with all the equipment still attached.

All except, that is, little Sam — who despite being fitted with a **GPS tracker**, hasn't been found since.

“Unfortunately Sam became detached upon his descent and has now gone missing,” said Trudi Wilkinson, Business Manager at the school. “We have a rough idea where he landed from the data recorded, but have 340 very worried children about our **intrepid** Sam.”

As a result, the school's local radio station has now started a FindSam campaign to return the courageous canine to his hometown.

Fingers crossed the daredevil doggy returns home safe and sound!

An abridged extract from www.ngkids.co.uk

GoPro — a type of camera
altitude — height
descending — falling

GPS tracker — a small computer used to help locate objects
intrepid — fearless

1 Explain in your own words why the children sent Sam into space.

.....

1 mark

2 Find and copy a word or phrase from the text that suggests the helium balloon was large.

.....

1 mark

3 In which season was Sam sent into space? Circle one.

spring summer autumn winter

1 mark

4 How do you think the children felt when Sam was released? Explain your answer.

.....

2 marks

5 Why did the balloon burst?

.....

1 mark

6 Did Sam fall to Earth quickly or slowly? How can you tell?

.....

2 marks

7 Explain in your own words why the children are worried.

.....

2 marks

.....

Total
out of 10

Answers

1. E.g. Because they were doing a science project.
2. huge OR much bigger than your average
3. spring
4. E.g. I think that they were excited because they started cheering.
5. E.g. Because it was designed to burst when it got to a certain height.
6. E.g. Slowly. The article says the balloon "drifted" down.
7. E.g. Because they don't know where Sam is and they want to find him.