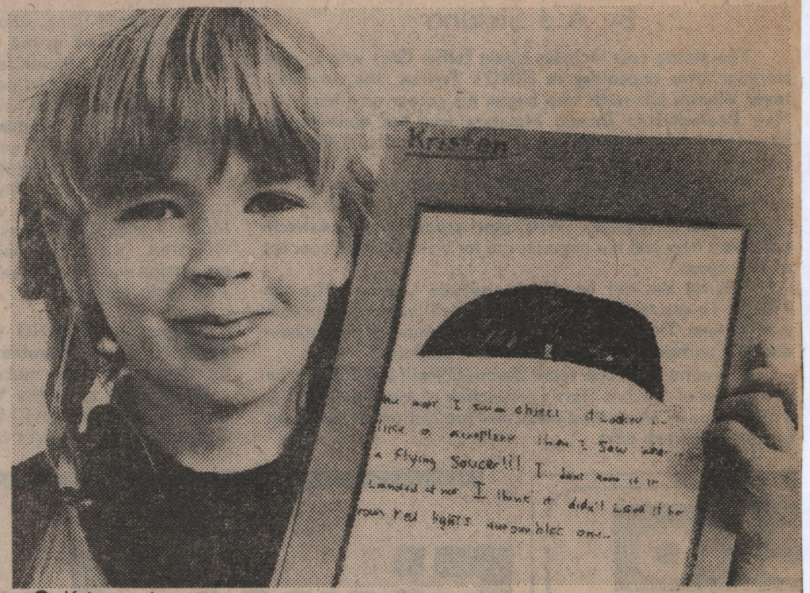
SOUTH WALES ECHO - FEB. 11. 1983

The Eglwys Wen file on UFOs

● Jonathan Hutchinson

● Beth Mort



● Kristen Jones

SPACE SHIPS and monsters aren't just kids stuff to one group of Cardiff schoolchildren. With a little bit of imagination, they have transformed the UFO they saw in the night sky to a colourful class project.

Eglwys Wen Primary School in Whitchurch, Cardiff, took great interest in the mysterious flying object that haunted the South Wales coastline last month.

"So many children (some of whom are pictured here) had seen the UFO with their parents, that I did a little census around the school," said teacher, Mrs Helen Williams, whose class of six and seven-year-olds were most active in the project.

"We found that 22 children and 29 parents had spotted the UFO, and so we decided to make a frieze with a picture of what they saw, and compile a folder with drawings and descriptions by the children."

The frieze, which took the children three days to complete, also contains a picture of the Cosmos spacecraft, which was in the news at the same time as our UFO in South Wales.

"It was an unusual and topical subject for a project," said Mrs Williams, "and I am interested in it myself."

The child's eye view of the flying triangle ranged from a verdict that it was really the Millennium Falcon spaceship from the film Star Wars, to the down-to-earth opinion it was a plane.

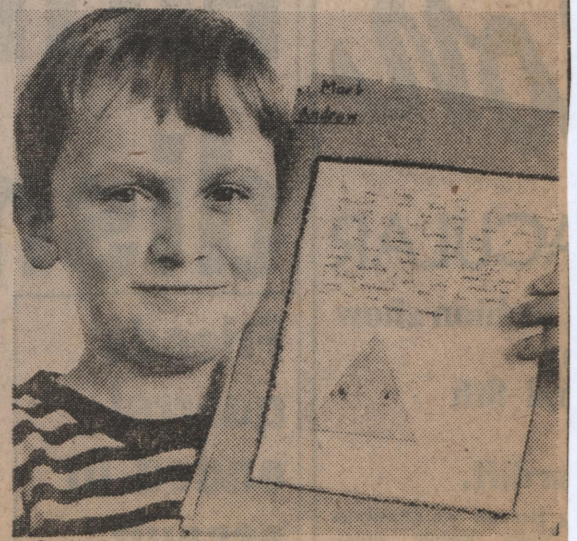
"It was like a flying saucer, moving round and round," said Jonathan Hutchinson, aged seven. "It was shadowy like a snake."

Mark Powell aged six, saw the object with his father from the bedroom window. "My Dad was scared and he went out," said Mark. "I was more brave than him, because I stayed and watched it, even though it frightened me."

Headmistress Mrs Betty Thomas said: "They have all been terribly interested in the project.

"It's a great idea for the class to follow it up, and children from other classes have joined in."

Let's hope those model monsters on display aren't out to threaten planet earth — but then, who knows what UFOs may bring?



● Andrew Hooper