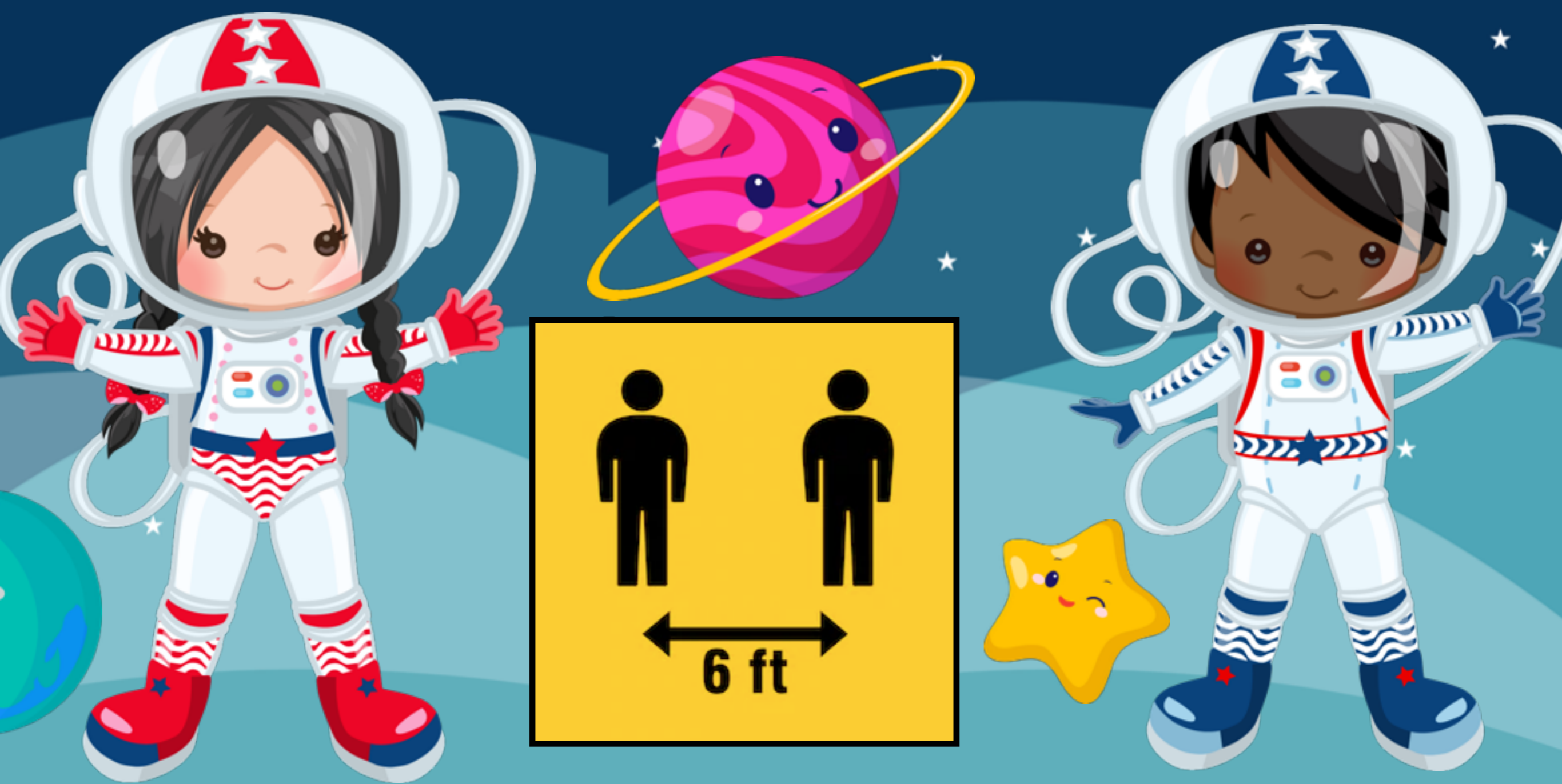


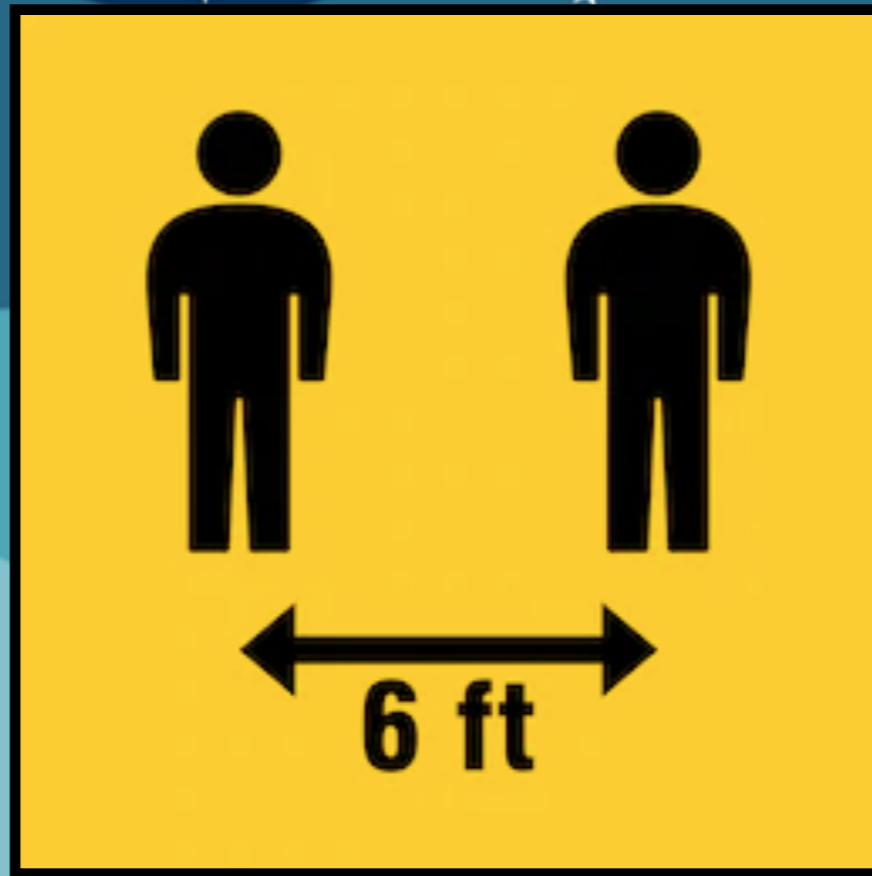
# Even Astronauts Practice Social Distancing

By Kristen Ehret

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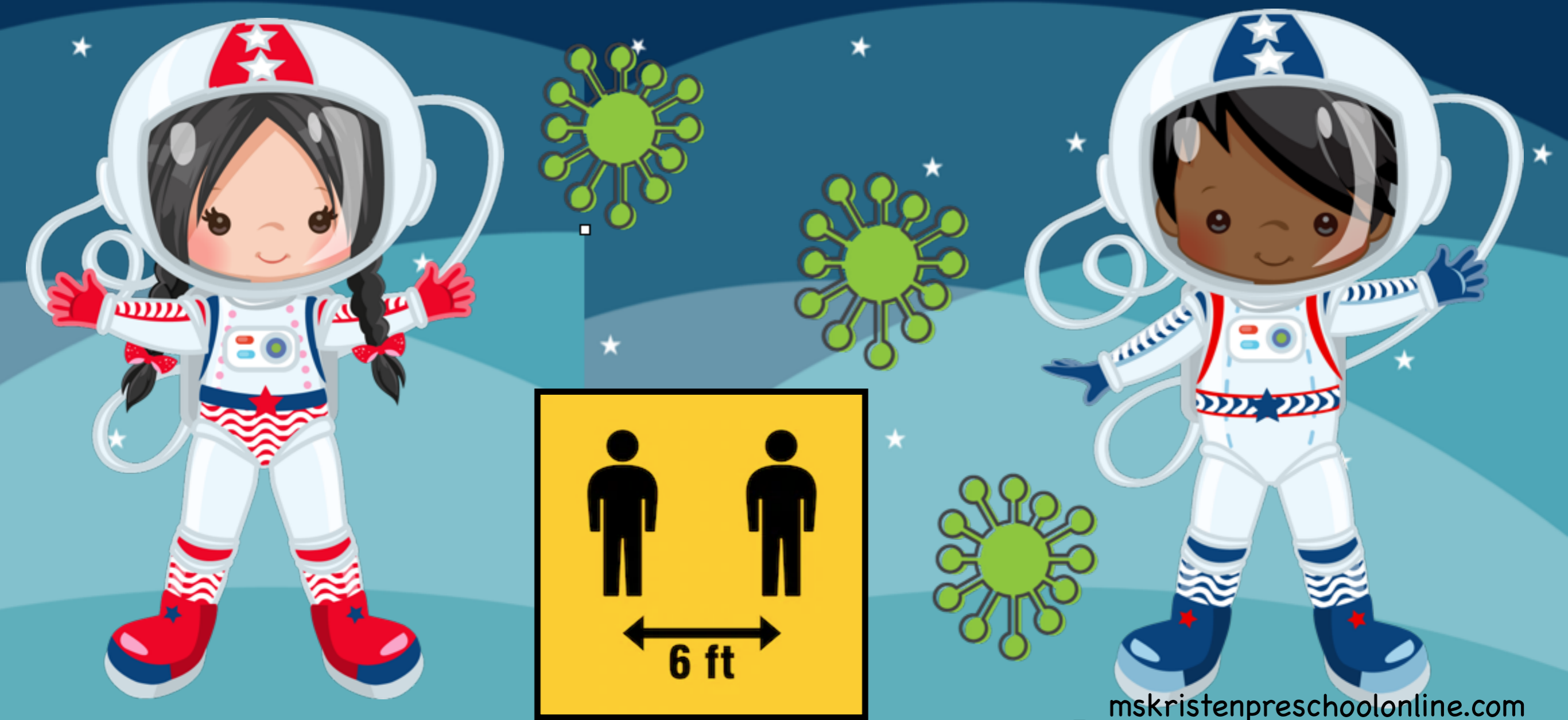


When an astronaut named Timothy saw his best friend Esperanza, he said “why are you so far away?”



## Social Distancing

Esperanza said, “I’m practicing social distancing.” “What’s ‘social distancing’?” asked Timothy. “Social distancing means that we need to stand six feet apart so we don’t get sick with the Coronavirus,” said Esperanza.



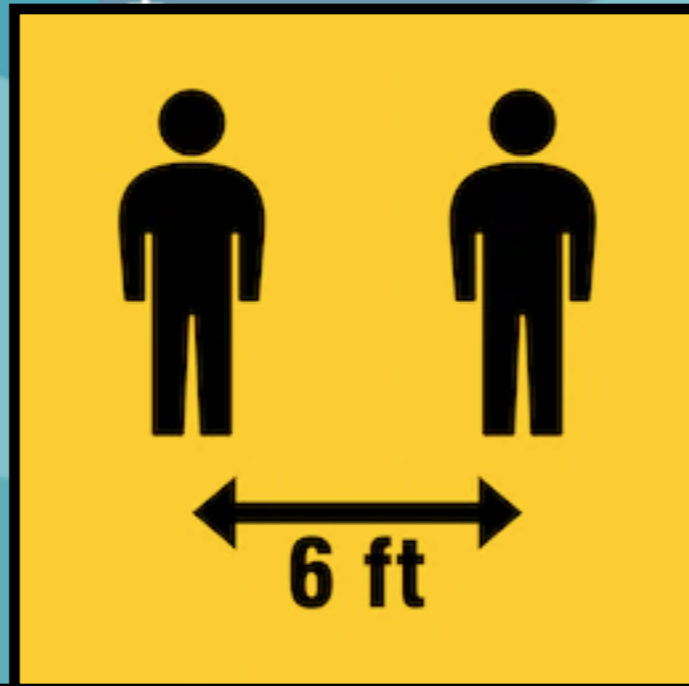
“The Coronavirus can spread through a cough or a sneeze. This virus that is making people sick spreads through being close to other people. That’s why we can’t be around a lot of other people right now (besides those already in our home). The grownups are trying to keep everyone safe from getting sick,” said Esperanza.



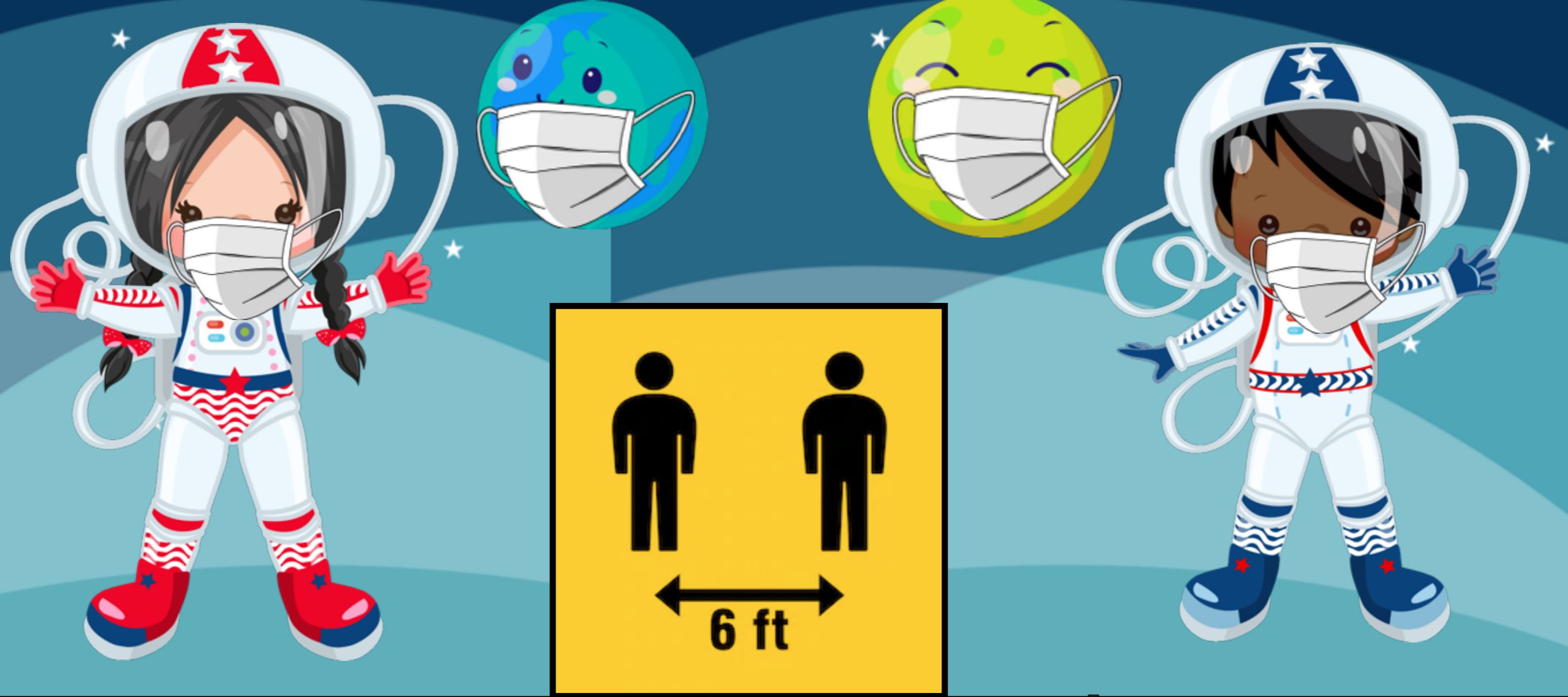
“How far is six feet?” asked Timothy. “Six feet is about the size of a giant sea turtle on Earth . Your grown up can also show you how far six feet is,” said Esperanza. “But the best thing you can do right now is to stay home.”



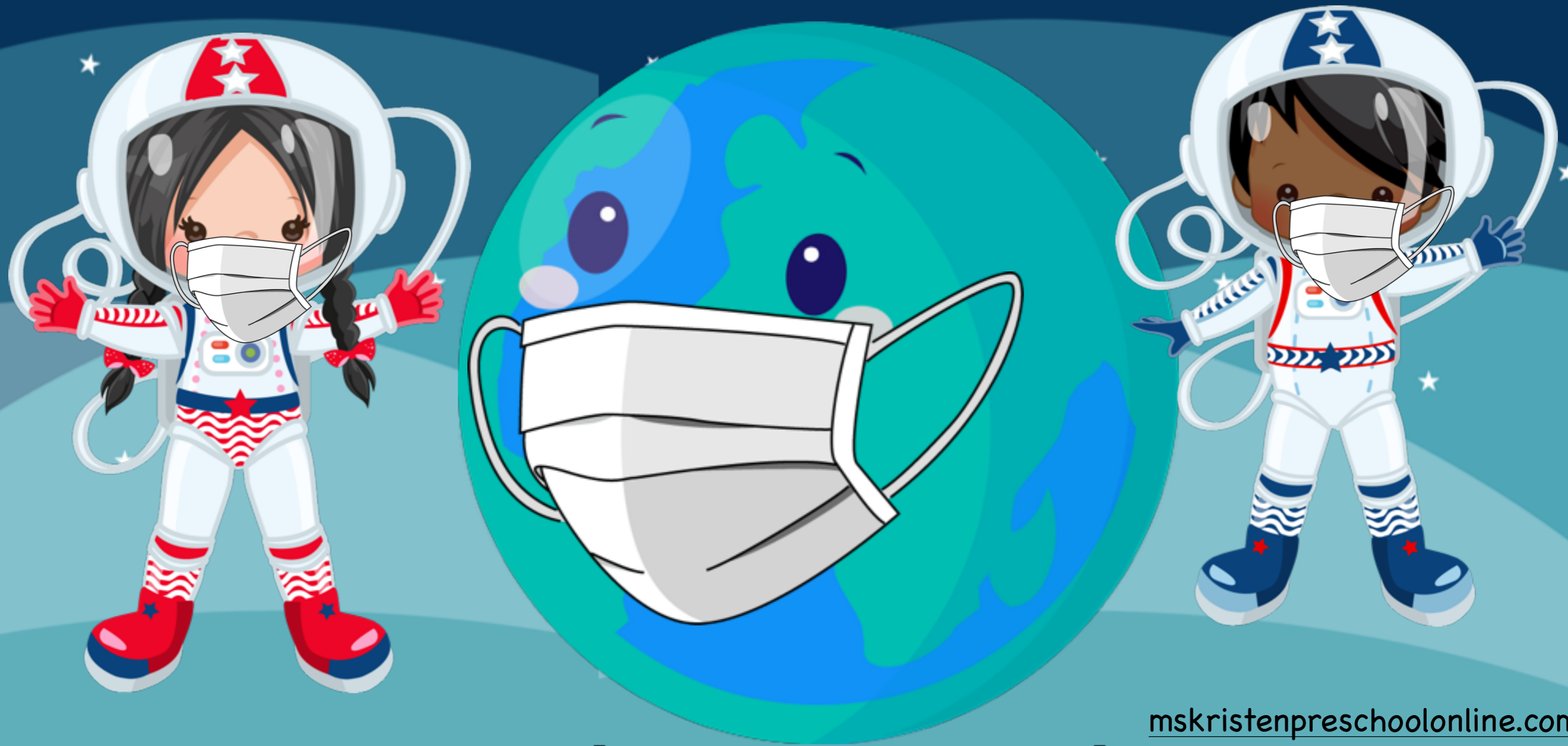
**MASK**



“But what do I do if I need to go out somewhere?” said Timothy.  
“Well,” Esperanza said, “if you and your parents do need to go somewhere, it’s important to wear a mask and to stand six feet away from other people. Staying home is the best thing to keep everyone safe, but if you do go out, just make sure to stand six feet apart from other people **and** wear a mask.”



“How long is this going to go on?” asked Timothy. “I really miss my friends, and I don’t like being at home *all* the time.” “Well,” Esperanza said, “the truth is that grown ups don’t know how long we will have to stay at home right now. But they are working hard to figure it out in order to keep everyone safe. We don’t want a lot of people to get sick from the Coronavirus.”



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“Do grown ups know when we can go back to school?” asked Timothy. “Well, said Esperanza, “grown ups don’t know that right now either. They are working hard every day to try to keep you and everyone safe. Sometimes, all we can do is wait for the answers to come. If we can put a person in space, we can figure this out.”



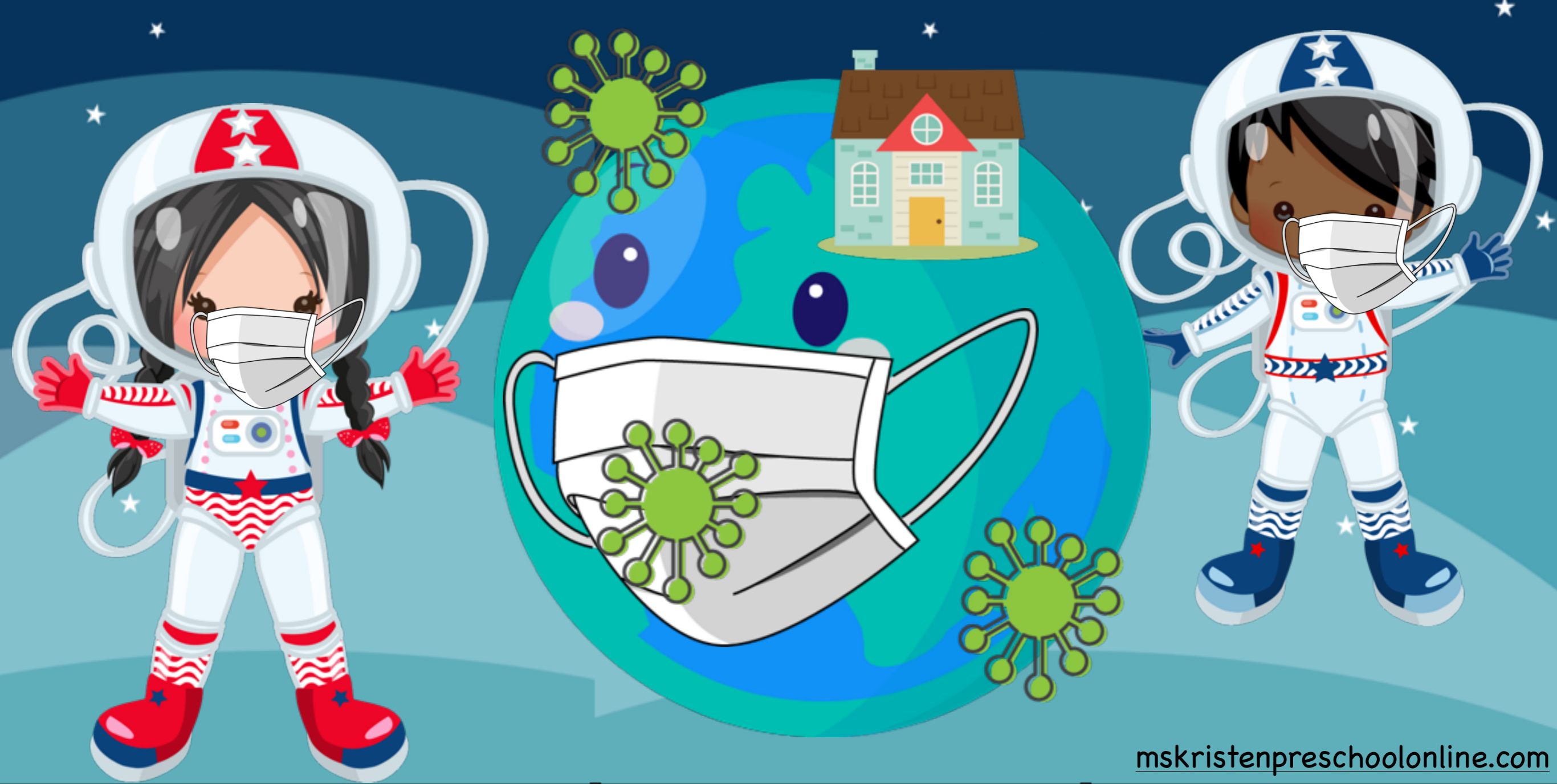


“Well, I don’t like being at home so much right now. I’m so tired of the Coronavirus” said Timothy. “I miss my friends at school. I miss going to the park and playing, and I miss doing fun things outside with my family.”



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“I miss those things too,” said Esperanza. “But you’re doing a very important job right now by being at home. You are taking care of a lot of people. It may not seem like it, but you are doing a very big job, and it is not easy to be patient. It’s also okay if you feel frustrated sometimes. Doing an important job isn’t always easy.”



“Really?” said Timothy. “I’m doing an important job.” “You are doing some of the most important work right now because you are saving people’s lives,” said Esperanza.



“So, I’m kind of like a superhero?” said Timothy. “Yes, Timothy, right now you are being a superhero by giving up the things you love for other people. When you see people wearing masks, those are superhero masks.”



“Well, I’ll definitely wear my mask so I can be a superhero too,” said Timothy. So Timothy and Esperanza went back to their homes, and put on their masks and capes and drew pictures for their friends. They were true superheroes.

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