**Alien discovery is**

**Thought for the Week – 26th February**

**British Science Week – Science makes things possible**

**VERY close, says Brian Cox**

*PROFESSOR Brian Cox has said that he is confident that alien life will be discovered in the near future, and it could even be found within our solar system.*

By [SEAN MARTIN](https://www.express.co.uk/search?s=Sean%20Martin&b=1), December 2017

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Alien discovery is VERY close, says Brian Cox

The British physicist is optimistic about the prospects of finding life away from Earth, and believes that we are closer than ever to the significant discovery.

To begin with, Prof Cox envisions finding germ-like life within the solar system.

The 49-year old told [Wired](http://www.wired.co.uk/article/brian-cox-interview-alien-life-climate-change-donald-trump): “I think the chances of detecting microbial life beyond Earth are high. “If we went to Europa and went to Enceladus and went to Mars and had a good look, I wouldn’t be surprised if in one or more of those places you find microbes.” However, the chances of finding an intelligent species will be harder to come by, and the scientist says that it is a prospect that many people can not get their heads around. Prof Cox continued: “But whether that life becomes multicellular and ultimately intelligent is an entirely different question.  He believes eventually every civilisation kills themselves off, which is why no beings are yet to make a dominant impact on the universe.

Professor Cox was basing his argument around the Fermi Paradox which questions why humans are yet to make contact with aliens. In 1950, physicist Enrico Fermi – the creator of the world’s first nuclear reactor – came up with a paradox which says due to the age and size of the universe there is bound to be a civilisation much more advanced than ours, but why haven’t they contacted us?

The solution, many scientists argue, is once a civilisation reaches a certain size, it eventually kills itself off, either through war with advanced weapons or natural disaster.

He told the Sunday Times: “One solution to the Fermi paradox is that it is not possible to run a world that has the power to destroy itself and that needs global collaborative solutions to prevent that. It may be that the growth of science and engineering inevitably outstrips the development of political expertise, leading to disaster.”

* Can you define the underlined words?
* Copy them into your planners (page 12) and use them in a sentence