

= School Reunion ( Doctor Who ) =

" School Reunion " is the third episode in the second series of the British science fiction television series Doctor Who . It first aired on 29 April 2006 . The episode 's narrative takes place some time after the events of " The Christmas Invasion " . In the episode 's TARDISODE , Mickey Smith alerts the Doctor and Rose Tyler to a comprehensive school where strange things are happening , such as UFO sightings . At the school , the Doctor encounters his former companion Sarah Jane Smith and the robotic dog , K9 Mark III , he sent her , who likewise were interested by the current events . Together , they discover the force behind the events , a race known as the Krillitanes , and work to prevent them gaining control of the universe .

The use of the Doctor 's previous companions , in particular Sarah Jane and K9 , was first proposed in 2003 to the BBC . After the episode was produced , Elisabeth Sladen was approached by the BBC to star in a spin @-@ off , The Sarah Jane Adventures , which also included K9 in several stories . The episode was positively reviewed , with an Appreciation Index of 85 % ( " Excellent " ) .

= = Plot = =

Mr. Finch , the headmaster of Deffry Vale School , has been changing the school to improve the students ' performance ; his changes include free lunches with special chips . The Doctor , under the alias " John Smith " , is undercover as a science teacher in the school , and his companion , Rose Tyler , is working undercover in the school 's cafeteria . The Doctor is surprised by the good behavior of the students and intrigued by the uncommon intelligence of one of his physics students . Both the Doctor and Rose relate the mysterious events around the school to the chips : Rose observes that the chip oil has an adverse effect on the other kitchen staff , who must use hazmat suits to handle the oil , while the Doctor notes that the chips themselves are making children more intelligent .

Mr. Finch 's successes have aroused media attention ? in particular , the attention of investigative journalist Sarah Jane Smith . While at first the Doctor feigns ignorance ( but is barely able to restrain his pleasure at seeing her again ) , when Sarah Jane discovers the TARDIS during the night , he reveals his identity to her . Sarah Jane meets Rose and Mickey , with an immediate rivalry sparking between the two women . As the group searches the school , they find thirteen bat @-@ like creatures asleep in Finch 's office . Returning to Sarah Jane 's car , the journalist reveals a battered , inactive K9 Mark III , who ? once repaired ? identifies the chip oil as Krillitane oil . Rose , unaware that the Doctor had even had past companions , confronts him ; he replies sadly that , while she can spend the rest of her life with him , he cannot spend the rest of his life with her , so he must remain aloof .

The following day , the group returns to the school to investigate further . The Doctor confronts Mr. Finch , who confirms that he and the others are Krillitanes ? a composite species that takes desirable attributes of the species they conquer . He attempts to subvert the Doctor , without success . Meanwhile , Sarah Jane and Rose , now getting on better than at their first meeting , try to unlock the programming on the school 's computers ; Mickey and K9 remain in Sarah Jane 's car for surveillance . With the Doctor 's help , they discover that the computers ? bolstered by the students ' enhanced intelligence ? are part of a Krillitane effort to solve the " Skasis Paradigm " , a theory of everything . As the paradigm is nearly solved , which would allow the Krillitanes full control over time and space , they seal the school . Mr. Finch propositions the Doctor a second time , tempting him with the ability to save the Time Lords and override human mortality . With Sarah Jane 's counseling , the Doctor refuses , and they run from Mr. Finch . After Kenny ( a student who had not eaten the chips ) alerts Mickey to the students ' plight , Mickey crashes Sarah Jane 's car through the school 's doors and unplugs the computers , allowing the children to flee . The Doctor leads the Krillitanes to the kitchen . Upon their arrival , K9 detonates the chip oil container , saturating the Krillitanes . The Krillitanes suddenly explode , destroying the school and K9 .

At episode 's end , Rose , Sarah Jane , Mickey , and the Doctor are standing in the TARDIS . Sarah Jane declines a second chance of travelling in the TARDIS , having finally decided to move on with

her life and stop waiting for the Doctor . Mickey says he would like to join the TARDIS crew , a suggestion of which Sarah Jane approves . She then asks Rose to stay with the Doctor , and to find her one @-@ day if she needs to . Sarah Jane then gets a chance to part properly with the Doctor , who leaves her with a brand new K9 as a parting gift .

= = = Continuity = = =

" School Reunion " is the first appearance of Sarah Jane Smith and K9 since The Five Doctors . It answers the question of where Sarah was left at the end of The Hand of Fear : Aberdeen . Rose mentions visiting " the year 5 billion " , a reference to her first trip with the Ninth Doctor in The End of the World . The bragging match between Sarah and Rose also references other stories : Sarah has met the Daleks , " lots of robots " , anti @-@ matter monsters , mummies , dinosaurs , and the Loch Ness Monster , whereas Rose has met ghosts , " Slitheen in Downing Street " , the Dalek Emperor , gas @-@ masked zombies , and a werewolf .

= = Production = =

The concept of Sarah @-@ Jane and K9 returning to Doctor Who was an idea of Russell T Davies from pitching the show in 2003 . Such a use would show what would happen after a companion left the Doctor , without dwelling too much on the classic series . It was Davies ' full intention for Sarah Jane to be used for this , and while Sladen originally declined a request , thinking her role would not be important , she changed her mind when she realised she would be the focal point of the adventure . After production of the episode was finished , Sladen was approached about a full spin @-@ off series , The Sarah Jane Adventures , which was formally announced on 14 September 2006 .

The episode went through several changes in production : working titles included " Old Friends " and " Black Ops " , the latter being set in an army base . Davies requested that Whithouse set it in a school instead , mainly for simplicity , but also for a desire for the Doctor to masquerade as a school teacher . Additionally , the Krillitanes were to be named " Krillians " until the BBC found the name was trademarked , and Finch 's forename was originally Hector , until the BBC found a real teacher by the same name , and renamed him Lucas . K9 's eye grill was initially filmed flashing in sync with his lines , not unlike the Daleks , until Phil Collinson saw the footage and nixed the practice ( which was inconsistent with the robot dog 's past appearances ) . A scene that was cut was of Milo 's brain being " shorted out " by the Doctor 's rapid @-@ fire questions at the beginning of the episode , which was later alluded to in the episode .

The episode , originally in the second production block , was produced in the first block along with " The Christmas Invasion " and " New Earth " . Two high schools in Wales were used for filming : Fitzalan High School in Leckwith was used on 23 August and 24 August 2005 , for filming the first conversation between the Doctor and Finch , and for the playground , kitchen , and cafeteria scenes , and Duffryn High School in Newport , which was used between 25 August and 6 September for the remainder of the episode , with filming delayed due to asbestos being discovered in Duffryn High School 's structure . The scenes in the schools utilised dozens of children as extras . Pick @-@ up shots were later completed on 7 September and 8 September , with filming of the cafe scene delayed due to drunk and disorderly conduct from members of the public .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

The episode was watched by 8 @.@ 3 million viewers , the twelfth most @-@ watched programme of the week , with an Appreciation Index score of 85 % . Jacob Clifton of Television Without Pity gave the episode an A + rating , and jokingly stated that he " didn 't know why the Doctor was fucking around [ during the Physics lesson ] : he taught Physics at Coal Hill School way back in ' 63 " . Ahsan Haque of IGN gave the episode an 8 @.@ 7 out of 10 ( " Great " ) and commented that the episode had " fantastic character moments " and " brilliant CGI effects " , and that " if you 're

willing to accept the Scooby @-@ Doo storyline , then the strong nostalgic vibes present in this episode should be enough to carry this episode into a must @-@ see category . " , and K9 and Sarah @-@ Jane alone made the episode worth watching for fans of the classic series . The episode was subsequently nominated for the 2007 Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation , Short Form , an award that was won by the following episode " The Girl in the Fireplace " .

= = = Reviews = = =

" School Reunion " reviews at Outpost Gallifrey

" School Reunion " reviews at The Doctor Who Ratings Guide