



Taking care of each other
Always trying our best
Everyone learning together

Horndon-on-the-Hill C. of E. Primary School

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Chair of Governors : Mrs L Fergus

Vice Chair of Governors : Mrs H Gentry

17th March 2015

Dear Parent,

Eclipse of the Sun 9.31 a.m. Friday 20th March

The moon will be passing in front of the sun on Friday morning. This is not a complete eclipse but very close and should be a spectacular event which you may want your child to experience. As the eclipse progresses it should become cold and dark like a normal twilight and birds should stop singing.

It is dangerous to look directly at the sun at any time but there are safe ways of observing an eclipse: using special CE marked solar viewing glasses, projecting the image onto a large sheet of paper, or making a pin hole camera to view it. An even simpler way is to stand with your back to the sun and hold a colander over a piece of white paper. Multiple eclipse images can then be seen on the paper. For any of this the sun needs to be visible in the sky and we know that cloudy weather is currently predicted for Friday. However, it is worth being prepared for a break in the clouds as the next similar event is not until 2026.

We are giving blanket permission for children to come in late on Friday if their parents want to view the eclipse with them safely before coming to school.

The teachers will risk assess their classes and may take them outside to experience the eclipse. With younger children, they may watch it on the screens and experience the darkness. If they have brought CE marked viewers to school and their classes are outside, they will be allowed to use them and we hope to make pin hole cameras and other devices. Please let us know if you do not want your child to be outside during the eclipse or if you intend to watch it with your child and arrive late. Should they be arriving late, please can you ensure your child has a packed lunch as we will not be able to provide school dinners.

We cannot take the responsibility of doing this with younger children but if they are in school they will watch the eclipse on TV and be able to see the general effects through the window.

Whatever their age; please repeat our message to your children that they should never look directly at the sun.

Regards

Mr. Martinson

Re : Eclipse of the Sun 9.31 a.m. Friday 20th March

I do not wish for my child to be outside during the eclipse.

I will bring my child in late on Friday and I will provide a packed lunch.

(Please delete as required).

Name of child : _____ Signed: _____ (Parent/Carer)