



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion
Achievement
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Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our
learning community*

13th March 2015

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Solar Eclipse – Friday 20th March

As I am sure you are aware, we are due to witness a partial solar eclipse on Friday 20th March. We have to put together some information about how we intend to manage this as a school.

Most likely it will be cloudy/obscured but it will still get considerably darker from 8.30am to about 9.30am then lighten again. At its darkest 20% of the sun will still be visible to us. The longest duration of totality for this eclipse will be 2 minutes and 46 seconds as viewed off the coast of the Faroe Islands. This will mark the last total solar eclipse in Europe for over a decade, the next not being until August 12, 2026.

In KS3 science lessons teachers are explaining the phenomenon to students. We only plan to observe the eclipse with a few KS3 classes during Friday period 1 if it is feasible, and then using indirect projection methods (that is using card with a pinhole that lets light through onto a screen).

We are informing students that they should never, under any circumstances, look directly at the sun without appropriate protective eyewear. Whilst eclipse shades may be suggested by some individuals who wish to view the partial eclipse, safe use of such glasses depends on the quality and how they are used. If they are damaged in any way it will render them useless against the sun's damaging rays, even the slightest amount of sunlight escaping through the protective film on the glasses can damage one's eyes. Because of this risk we feel that we cannot safely control the use of such glasses and therefore cannot sanction their use on the day.

Instead, we are encouraging teachers to view the partial eclipse indirectly, perhaps by viewing it through the news on interactive whiteboards in classrooms, if appropriate.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Brown
Headteacher



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