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Dear Parents and Carers,

The Solar Eclipse

As I am sure you are all aware, there is going to be a solar eclipse tomorrow. This is an exciting phenomenon and we will be talking about the eclipse in school. The eclipse is due to take place around 9.15am. To ensure the children do not damage their eyes by viewing the eclipse without correct equipment the school will be streaming the live screening of the event through the class interactive white boards.

Here is some information about the eclipse:

An important opportunity

Solar eclipses are a comparatively rare phenomenon and represent a significant event in people's lives. They graphically demonstrate important scientific ideas as well as offering a wealth of opportunities for study across the curriculum. With a degree of advanced planning the safety risks can be managed successfully in a school context, giving pupils access to an experience to remember.

What are the hazards of viewing the sun?

Viewing the sun directly is hazardous; eye injury or blindness can be caused. The sun is no less dangerous to look at during an eclipse than on a normal sunny day. The key difference is that on a normal sunny day pupils have no reason to look at the sun (and so no special precautions are needed when pupils are outside). During an eclipse event there is an obvious incentive to look directly at the sun which dramatically increases the risk.

There is a very real danger of permanent damage to the retina caused by radiation emitted by the sun. Looking directly through pinholes, sun glasses, polarisers, smoked glass, photographic negatives, plastic bags, compact discs, aluminium foil, Mylar blankets, etc. does not provide adequate protection. Similarly viewing the eclipse from inside behind normal window glass, including where a reflective film has been applied, is also unsafe.

Best Wishes

Mr S James
Head Teacher

Learning Together, Believing Together

East Sussex County Council

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