



18 March 2015

Dear parents and carers

Solar Eclipse

As you will be aware, there is a Solar Eclipse on Friday 20 March. If conditions are good we should be able to see an almost total eclipse. The eclipse begins around 8:30am and will reach its peak around 9:30am. We will be one of few places on the globe to be able to witness it. As it is a very special event we feel it would be a brilliant, first-hand opportunity for pupils to be part of.

Of course, safety is our priority. The CLEAPSS safety advice for schools provided by Hertfordshire is in the downloads section on our website, along with a useful leaflet about the eclipse produced by The Royal Astronomical Society.

<http://www.thomascoram.herts.sch.uk/downloads/>

We will be making pinhole viewers in school to enable children to watch the eclipse in a safe way. A pinhole viewer is one of the easiest and safest ways to view the sun, eclipsed and uneclipsed. Although other eclipse-viewing methods (such as glasses) are available we cannot undertake a risk assessment of these methods or easily be assured of their safety. We will therefore **only** be allowing pupils to view the eclipse through the pinhole viewer they have made.

Weather permitting, we plan to watch part of the eclipse on the morning of Friday 20 March outside on the playground with those children who have made a pinhole viewer. If you prefer your child not to take part, please ensure your child's class teacher is aware. Pupils inside may watch a live stream of the eclipse from classrooms. More information about the event can be found here: <http://www.solareclipse2015.org.uk/london/>

Yours sincerely

Mr R Halls
Headteacher