

SCHOOL NEWS

Red Nose Day | Eclipse | E-safety

Solar Eclipse

You may have heard in the news that on March 20th there will be the opportunity to witness a solar eclipse. It is expected to be the biggest eclipse for 15 years and is anticipated to occur between 8.45am and 10.45am.

As this is such a significant event we will be holding a special science day in school, using activities and online pictures to enhance the children's understanding of what is happening.

The eclipse can only be observed first hand, however, with the use of special solar glasses. We will only be taking children outside and staff who have these special glasses. These will NOT be provided by school and need to be purchased at home if you wish your child to partake in this event.

The glasses can be bought from several online sites but we would suggest having a look at: <http://www.eclipseglasses.co.uk> You may wish to buy in groups as this is cheaper. **Act fast** however, as last date for guaranteed delivery is **TODAY!!**



Fundraising for good causes and developing our pupils' understanding of charity work is an important part of our school ethos here at Etchells. Therefore, we will be holding a special Red Nose event next Friday.

Due to popular demand by the children, we will hold a special Red Nose cake sale in school. Donations of cakes for this would be very much appreciated - with or without a red nose theme. Please ask your child to bring any cakes to their classroom.

Children will be able to wear their red noses during the day, as well as an item of red if they wish, with their school uniform. This could be a T-shirt, sweatshirt, socks, scarf - anything, as long as it's red and is worn with school uniform.

Of course Red Nose Day is all about raising money and so we are asking for a minimum 50p donation for a cake, which will be donated straight to the charity.

Cakes will be sold at playtime, lunchtime and if we have any left, after school. If we decide to sell after school we will send out a text to inform you and hopefully, weather permitting, we will set a table up out on the playground.

Parents' Evenings

We would like to thank everyone who followed our requests to attend Parents' Evening without children. Several comments were made about the calm atmosphere and how it was easier to focus on looking through the children's work and talk with the teachers. Next Parents' Evening it would be good to have everyone respecting this rule and showing respect for the purpose of the evening.

I would also like to thank those parents who gave us some very constructive feedback about the new form of mid-term reports and how they reflect progress made in the new curriculum. I have been made aware of some very valid points which will be put into place next year.

World Book Day

A huge well done for the tremendous dressing up effort yesterday. The classes had a wonderful day, enjoying activities tailored around their theme. Please look at class pages on the website and our Twitter feed for photos.

e-safety

e-safety is always high on our list in keeping our children safe. Whilst we educate the children at school in this matter it is important that they carry out what they have learnt at home. There is a big focus at the moment with the use of Instagram and Snapchat with children of Primary age. There has been one incident in a Stockport school that has involved the police as the use of these forms of social networking was highly inappropriate. I ask you to be vigilant in your monitoring of their use. Banning children from them is not the answer as this form of communication is inevitably part of their lives. Teaching them to communicate safely is the key. I have attached to this newsletter two booklets produced by the LA for parents, specifically on the safe usage of Instagram and Snapchat. I urge you to read and consider them carefully.

Do you know how to set parental controls on an ipod or iPad? Many people don't - so here is a quick 'How to' guide:

- ◆ Go to settings
- ◆ Tap 'General'
- ◆ Tap 'restrictions' and then 'Enable restrictions'
- ◆ You will then be asked for a passcode. Make one up - you will be asked to enter this if your child attempts to access an area of the internet you have restricted.
- ◆ Scroll down to 'Allowed Content' and select what you would like to restrict. I would recommend restricting movies (select the age you are happy with), Music (block explicit content) and Websites (Limit Adult Content). You can also block specific websites here too.

We hope you find this information useful.

Kind regards,

Cathy Beddows and the Etchells staff

