

Solar Eclipse at Brighstone, Friday 20th March.

The most spectacular eclipse of the Sun for 15 years will plunge Britain into twilight for two hours this month.

In a rare astronomical alignment the Moon will pass directly between the Sun and the Earth, blocking out most of the light from around 8.40am on March 20th and we would like to invite parents to come and watch it safely with their children. The eclipse will begin at around 8.20am and finish at 10.30. But we will be viewing from 8.45am onwards in the playground and field. We will register the children as normal and have our Special Solar Eclipse Assembly on the playground. From there children with parents can stand together and share this rare event.



According to the latest news these are the times.

Times are local for [Newport \(Isle of Wight\)](#) (GMT - Greenwich Mean Time).

Event	Time in Newport (Isle of Wight)	Direction	Altitude	Looks like
Partial Eclipse begins	Mar 20 at 8:23 AM	117° ↘	20.0°	
Maximum Eclipse	Mar 20 at 9:29 AM	132° ↘	28.6°	
Partial Eclipse ends	Mar 20 at 10:39 AM	151° ↓	35.5°	

How to Safely view the eclipse.

It is very important that you must never view the sun directly with the naked eye or with any optical device, such as binoculars or a telescope!

If you look at the sun, your eye-lens will concentrate the sun's light and focus it to a very small spot on the back of your retina. **This can cause permanent eye damage or blindness.** Additionally, there are no pain sensors back there so you won't even know it is happening!

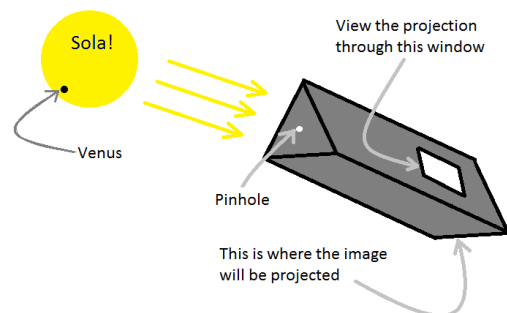
Yr 5 have been researching eclipses as part of their science studies and have come up with some easy devices to make at home. Here are some safe ways to view the eclipse we would like the children and yourselves to make to view the eclipse with us.

Pinhole projector.

1) Find or make a long box or tube.

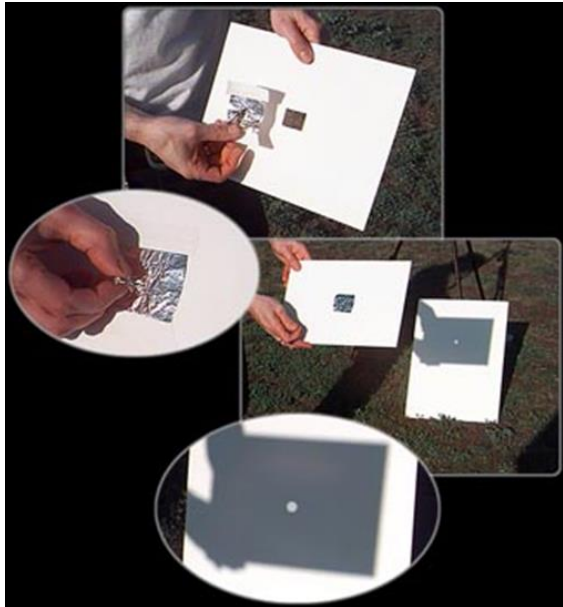


- 2) Cut a hole in the centre of one end of the box.
- 3) Tape a piece of foil over the hole.

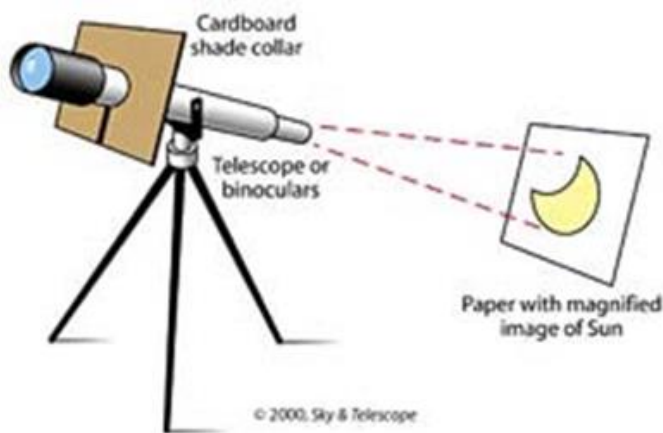
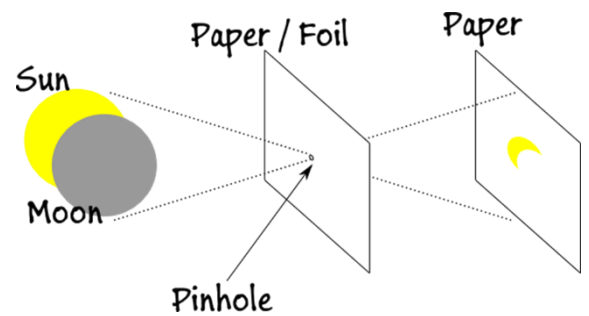


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- 4) Poke a small hole in the foil with a pin.
- 5) Cut a viewing hole in the side of the box.
- 6) Put a piece of white paper inside the end of the box near the viewing portal. Point the end of the box with the pinhole at the sun so that you see a round image on the paper at the other end. The round spot of light you see on the paper is a pinhole image of the sun. **Do not look through the pinhole at the sun!** Look only at the image on the paper.



Or you can make a simple projector using two pieces of card.



If you do have a telescope you can set it up to view the eclipse in the same way. These can be set up on the field to avoid accidents.

Or the one we like is this strange contraption. We are not sure if it will work but it would certainly look good on your head!

We hope the weather will be kind and allow us all to share this moment together but if it is raining or very cloudy we will not stay out for the whole time.

Pinhole projector using a box

