



Queen Eleanor's Church of England Junior School
An Academy in the Good Shepherd Trust*
Queen Eleanor's Road, Onslow Village, Guildford, GU2 7SD
E-mail: office@queen-eleanors.surrey.sch.uk
Tel: 01483 561323



"A caring, supportive community, grounded in a Christian ethos, where children are inspired to explore their potential and develop skills for life."

Head Teacher: Jo Davies

18th June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)

Upon advice from the GST, we have been regularly checking our oak trees for the presence of the Oak Processionary Moth, the occurrence of which have been increasing in Surrey. Yesterday, a caterpillar was discovered in one of our trees.

The tree has been cordoned off and the Forestry Commission have been notified. We have shown the children the following video to explain about the moth and to ensure that they do not enter the cordoned off area.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Jf2p9oEmwQ&feature=youtu.be>

Please see below, further information relating to the presence of these caterpillars:

Health Risks

The caterpillar of this moth emerges in April every year and their tiny hairs contain a protein which can cause itchy skin rashes and less frequently, eye and throat irritations and breathing difficulties in people and animals. The hairs can be blown in the wind and left in their nests in and under oak trees.

March and April - nests should not be approached at any time.

May to July - **this is the greatest risk period** when the caterpillars are most numerous.

Health advice

If you or a pupil comes into contact with the larvae or caterpillars by accident, please follow the health advice about dealing with caterpillar hairs on the NHS website. If you have an itching skin rash and/or conjunctivitis or other symptoms, contact a GP, or call NHS Direct on 111.

Animals may also be affected and must be kept away from the area

We are currently in communication with contractors regarding the safe removal of the OPM.

Should you have any further concerns or questions please contact the school via e-mail or telephone.

Kind regards,

The School Office