

Bulphan Church of England Academy

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Headteacher

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10th January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Young Voices is not far away now. The arrangements for the day are fairly complicated so please bear with me.

Prior to the day of the concert:

- Your tickets for the concert will be sent home as soon as they arrive.

What the children need to bring on the day of the concert (23rd January 2020):

- Please send the children in wearing their school uniform and then they will change into their Young Voices t-shirts after break. All children will leave their shirts and ties in school to collect the next day. All participants have to wear dark trousers or black leggings so boys can wear their school trousers and girls should bring dark trousers or leggings to change into (no jeans). It is imperative that the children have their school logo jumper/cardigan with them on the day. This is so they can wear them when we are moving around the arena so that they are easily identifiable; there will be 7,500 other children there!
- Children must bring a coat as they will have to walk from and back to the coach park. Please do not send in hats, scarves, gloves etc. as they will easily get lost.
- **The children will need a packed tea.** We will eat lunch at school before we leave and our packed tea in between the rehearsal and performance later that day. Please pack their tea in a labelled carrier bag. This way they can be thrown away and the children don't have to worry about carrying a lunchbox at the end of the concert (no glass bottles/fizzy drinks in their packed tea please).
- The children will be singing all day so please pack plenty of water for them. Sports bottles or throw away bottles will be best. Please don't send expensive water bottles as they could easily be lost throughout the day and no fruit juice or fizzy drinks.

What will the day look like for the children?

- The coach will pick us up on the 23rd January at about 12 noon. The children will be in normal lessons up to break time. The children will then travel to the O2 arena with Miss Harris and Mrs Palser together with pupils and staff from St. Margarets.
- At 1.30pm the children will begin to be seated for the rehearsal.
- At 2.15pm the children will start their rehearsal.
- At 5pm the children get a break and an opportunity to eat their packed tea.
- At 6pm the children will go back into the arena and take their seats before the concert begins. This is when doors open for the parents to be seated.
- At 7pm the concert starts.
- I have been advised to tell you by Young Voices that no video cameras will be allowed into the arena. Anyone bringing one does this at their own risk and it may be confiscated by the arena.

*'God's word is a lamp to guide our feet and a light for our path'
Inspired by Psalm 119:105*

Also professional cameras are prohibited (this is any camera on which a lens can be removed). Normal cameras are fine! A DVD of the concert is being made which can be ordered after the event should you wish to.

Security at the O2

- We have been advised by the O2 Arena that as an additional security measures parents are not allowed to bring bags/rucksacks into the venue
- A small handbag will be permitted
- Please make sure you allow additional time to go through security.

What will happen at the end of the concert?

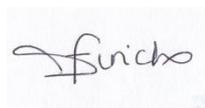
- The concert is due to finish at approximately 9.00pm. We cannot leave until told to do so by the Young Voices staff.
- The children will put on their jumpers/cardigans before leaving and we will also provide them with a sticky label showing a contact number for one of us. This is to provide another layer of safety for the children – not that we are expecting to need it!
- **All children will come back on the coach with the staff.** We have decided to take the Young Voices advice not to meet parents or allow children to be picked up from the O2. This is for the children's safety which I'm sure is your main concern also.
- When we are on our coach and are making our way back to school we will send a text from the school's text system (primarysite) to all parents giving an estimated time of arrival back at school. We expect our return arrival to be around 11pm.
- Once we arrive back at school the children will not have to wait outside if you are not there! We will open the school and wait in the warm until all children have been picked up. We appreciate those parents watching the performance may take longer than us to get back. This is not a problem.

The next day:

- We appreciate that the day will be extremely exciting for the children and a late evening meaning they will be tired the next day. Therefore we are happy for the children to start later the next day. If the children need some extra time to recover they may come into school for 10.30am and will not be classed as late. Anyone not arriving after this time will be marked as late/absent and the absence may be unauthorised. This is not compulsory and if you feel your child is ok to come at normal time that is obviously what we would prefer!
- **If your child is coming in late and would like a school dinner this must be ordered before 9.30. You can ring on the day or let us know in advance.**

I really hope that you and the children enjoy this amazing opportunity. Thank you for your on-going support and apologies for such a long and detailed letter! I hope any questions you may have had have been answered.

Happy singing!



Miss S. Finch
Headteacher

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