



# Love To Learn

7 November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

## **Y5/6 SENIOR CHOIR – YOUNG VOICES – WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY 2019 – BIRMINGHAM GENTING ARENA**

I am really excited to inform you that I have secured places for the Y5/6 Choir at the Young Voices Concert – the biggest primary school massed choir concert in the world!

For those of you who have been before you will know that this is no ordinary concert - this is a life-changing experience! Our children will be singing with around 5000 other children at the Birmingham Genting Arena, one of the largest arenas in the UK where celebrities and pop artists perform regularly. Young Voices uses the best lighting, sound and production teams to make the concert as spectacular as any other concert at the arena. The massed choir will sing a variety of songs with guest artists including Spandau Ballet's Tony Hadley. Please visit the Young Voices website at [www.youngvoices.co.uk](http://www.youngvoices.co.uk) for further information about the organisation and what exciting things to expect at the concert.

### **Before the Big Day**

#### Rehearsing

It is extremely important that the children learn **all the words and dance moves to the songs**. It really enhances the experience for them and song sheets are not allowed on the day.

This year we are putting on Young Voices rehearsals in the run-up to the concert. The rehearsals will take place after school every Thursday at 1515-1600 for the duration of Autumn Term 2 commencing this Thursday 8 November until Thursday 13 December. Children have a choir rehearsal prior to this and so the children will remain with me in the Studio. If your child cannot attend any of the rehearsals, please let me know in advance.

The children who wish to attend Young Voices must also practise the songs at home. The songs are available on the Young Voices website under the children's section. You will need a password to gain access to the music room which is PopMedley2019. This is a private Young Voices password. In addition, you can provide a blank CD with your child's name clearly labelled on it and I will copy the songs for you to practise at home. Words will also be coming home with your child.

#### Ordering A T-Shirt, Tiny Torch and Wristband

The children may wish to wear a Young Voices 2019 t-shirt, which costs £12.00 and comes with a mini-torch and a charity wristband. The Young Voices 2019 t-shirt is optional (see below). We will shortly send a t-shirt order to you separately through the

Parentmail Payments section. Additional tiny torches and wristbands are available to order individually at £1.00. T-shirt orders need to be completed by Monday 20 November. We will then place one order for everyone in our school and distribute them to you prior to the event.

As an alternative, children may wear a plain white t-shirt or a Young Voices t-shirt from any previous year.

Children should also wear dark, comfortable trousers such as leggings, jeans, jogging bottoms or skirts and comfortable shoes as there will be a lot of standing, dancing and jumping. They should also bring a coat – just in case!

### Ordering Parent Tickets

Parents and family members are invited to watch the final concert, which is an amazing experience. Attendance by parents at the concert is also optional but tickets sell out very fast so the sooner we get our order in, the better the seats we get! Tickets are available at a cost of £20.00 each. There are no concessions for children unless under 12 months old. Toddlers will need their own seat. We will shortly send a parent ticket order to you separately through the Parentmail Payments section. Parent ticket orders need to be completed by Monday 20 November. We will then place one order for everyone in our school and distribute the tickets to you prior to the event.

If you miss the school deadline, some tickets might be available when they go on general sale direct from Genting Arena but there were only a few left last year and they are at a higher cost.

### Permission to Attend

We require your permission for your child to attend this event. A permission form will be sent to you separately through Parentmail which you will need to complete now even though you need pay no money now unless you require a t-shirt or parent ticket. At the same time as completing the permission form please also add your contact numbers in case of an emergency.

### DVD Ordering

There is an opportunity to pre-order a DVD of the concert. Again, this is optional. DVDs cost £9.99. We will shortly send a DVD order to you separately through the Parentmail Payments section. DVD orders need to be completed by 1 February 2019. We will then place one order for everyone in our school and distribute them to you as soon as they arrive, after the event.

### Travel

This trip is classed as optional. That means that it is not a required activity under the national curriculum. If you wish your child to attend, you will need to cover the cost of the transport which will be £20.00. Depending on the number of children attending, this amount may slightly change. If you do not wish your child to attend, he/she may stay in school and will attend lessons with another class for the duration of the visit.

Remissions are available for this activity if parents are in genuine financial difficulty. However, funding is limited and there is no guarantee that all requests can be met. Parents in receipt of certain benefits, such as those applicable to Free School Meals,

may request assistance with the costs of activities by contacting Mrs Town at the school office in confidence at the earliest opportunity. Decisions regarding funding will be made at the discretion of the Principal on a case by case basis.

We will shortly send the travel payment request to you separately through the Parentmail Payments section. Travel payments need to be completed by 1 January 2018.

### Security, Safety And Wellbeing

The security, safety and wellbeing of your children is our main priority. Genting Arena and the Young Voices organisers have stepped up security measures to ensure the safety of everyone. There will be bag searches and extra security checks. Although it is an exciting day, it is also a very long and tiring day. It is very loud, busy and there are lots of lights. If you feel that your child would not enjoy the experience, there are other choir concerts which they can attend. Likewise, if your child is unwell on the day, they will not enjoy the experience so please do not force them to go. Last year we had a few poorly children who would have been better off at home, resting. We will not be back at school until approximately 1030pm.

### Parent Helpers

We can take with us a limited number of parent helpers. If you would like to help please let me know via the office and I will call you via the phone number we hold for you at school. Please be aware that before deciding if you want to help or not that this year Young Voices are charging a chaperone fee which is the same price as an audience ticket of £20.00. You will also be part of the concert and will require your own Young Voices t-shirt or a plain white top which will be at your cost. You will also need to know all the words and dance moves to all the songs. Remember that you may also appear on the DVD!

### Medication

If your child has an epi-pen or asthma inhaler in school, we will take these with us automatically. If your child requires any other medication, including travel sickness pills, please let me know via the permission form on Parentmail. Medication will need to be sent into school with your child on the morning of 23 January 2019, clearly labelled with child's name, medication name, dosage amount and time, in a sealed envelope.

### Contact Information

As the trip returns late to the school please ensure that you have entered your current mobile number onto Parentmail as it is possible that we will need to send a text to you if we are delayed returning due to traffic issues. Please also add your mobile number to the permission form on Parentmail so that we can contact you individually during the trip if required.

### What To Expect On The Day And What To Bring

The children should come to school in their Young Voices clothing. The children will leave school during the morning to arrive in Birmingham at 1330 for registration at the venue. They will need to take with them a packed lunch and a packed tea, drink and snacks (to last them the whole day and evening) in a rucksack which will be stowed under their seat. At 1415 the rehearsal will start. Between 1700 and 1800 the children will have their packed tea. The concert starts at 1900 and finishes at 2050. To ensure

the safety of all the children in our care we will take them all back on the coach. Under no circumstances will we let you take your child from the Arena as it gets very complicated and increases the risk of children getting lost. The coach will return to school where you will be able to pick up your child at approximately 2230.

#### What To Do Now

- Complete the permission form and add your mobile number separately on Parentmail.
- If you require a Young Voices 2018 t-shirt, complete the order through the Payments section of Parentmail before 20 November 2018
- If you require tickets to attend the concert, complete the order through the Payments section of Parentmail before 20 November 2018
- Complete the travel order through the Payments section of Parentmail before 1 January 2019
- If you require a DVD, complete the DVD order through the Payments section of Parentmail before 1 February 2019
- Before the event, ensure that your mobile number(s) is correct on Parentmail
- If you are an agreed chaperone, don't forget to pay for yourself and order your t-shirt etc as required

Further concert information will be sent out to you on our return after the Christmas holidays.

This is a really amazing event, which we have attended for the past three years. Your children will really enjoy the experience and I do hope that they will be able to attend.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Vicki Mills  
Choir Director