17th November 2017

Dear Choir Families,

I hope that you are all well and that the children have been busy practising their Young Voices songs and dance moves! I am writing to you today with a bit more information about the Young Voices concert, as well as details of our Christmas performances.

*Christmas performances:*

**St Mary’s Community Carols**

**Where**: St Mary’s Church

**When**: Wednesday 6th December, 7pm (end time TBC)

**Other info:** Children to arrive at 6.30pm and meet in 1K’s classroom (enter via the church entrance then go through the hall and round to the infant block). All are welcome to stay for the carols and service.

**Community Coffee Morning & Carols**

**Where:** Christian Life Centre, Simms Lane

**When:** Thursday 7th December, 10.30am - 12.30pm

**Other info:** The children will walk down to the centre from school and return in time for lunch. We will need some volunteers to come with us. Please email me (omb16@coppice.worcs.sch.uk) if you can help.

*Young Voices:*

**Coach payment**

Now that we have confirmed final numbers for the concert, we have been able to calculate the coach cost, which is £10 per pupil. This has been set up on ParentPay and will need paying before the concert on January 26th.

**Security**

If you have been to a public performance recently, you will be aware of the heightened security measures in place. Please read the following carefully and, if you are attending the concert, pay particular attention to the guidance for concert goers.

 *Security Information for Parents and Teachers – Genting Arena Birmingham

What the arenas are doing to improve security and safety of the children:
All arenas now employ more security staff, both uniformed and non-uniform on post, some of which are specifically trained in abnormal & suspicious behaviour.
Full pat down on adults, and wanding on anyone under the age of 18
Bag searches and bag size restrictions. Bags larger than a laptop case will be searched and confiscated for collection post event.
Critical incident procedures being reviewed by Security at the venue. Additional staff training has been implemented since the increase of incidents within the last year.
There are many other additional security measures in place which may be different at each arena based on up to date advice from their local police teams. Some of which may not be public knowledge due to the sensitivity of the information.

What Young Voices is doing to improve security and safety of the children:
This year we are not listing the concerts on the Arena websites so unless someone is a parent at a school they are unlikely to find out about the events.
If people book their tickets through the arena they will be asked what school they are from so we can deter any ticket bookers not directly linked to a school
The concert is finishing 10 mins early so that we can move schools out of the building slightly slower to ease congestion.

Useful information for your visit

Schools Arrival
When schools arrive they will be subject to random checks but teachers will still be able to bring water, banners, first aid kits and other items in their risk assessment into the arenas. However bulky items will be checked first.
Teachers and chaperones arriving with the choirs will be issued with a wristband this year so that adults sitting in the choir area can be easily identified.

Parents Arrival
Parents are advised to arrive early (between 5pm and 5.30pm ideally) to that they leave adequate time to go through security
Parent and all members of the audience must be prepared for bag checks, searches and airport style security on the entrances of the arenas.
Our best advice is to leave bags at home if possible as this speeds up the queue and will get everyone into the arenas much quicker. If parents have to bring bags only small bags will be allowed so please leave backpacks and larger bags at home.

School Egress
Schools are given detailed egress plans for how to leave the arena after the concert - please follow these and also follow any instructions given from the stage at the end of the concert or any of the venue security staff.
Schools are to meet parents back at their school to reunite them with their children rather than at the arena. This is the safest way to get children back to their parents following the concert.

In the case of emergencies
Parents and teachers are advised to simply follow the instructions of the arena staff should there be any kind of emergency as they are trained to deal with a range of situations and will be able to advise you on the best course of action at the time.*

Many thanks for your continued support. Please email or speak with me after rehearsals if you have any further questions.

Mrs Blundell