

# THE WOODCOTE TIMES

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## Woodcote have the Power in them

Year 5 and 6 pupils from Woodcote Primary go and perform in the world's biggest choir at the O2 in London

By Charlotte (10)

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of January Year 5 and 6 pupils from Woodcote Primary School set off on an exciting journey to London. They were heading from South Oxfordshire to central London. They were heading to the Young Voices O2 arena in Greenwich. They performed in the world's biggest choir and expressed themselves with singing and lots of cool dance moves. At the start of the school day, children from both classes came into Maple Class and sat down on the carpet. They then checked if they had what they needed for the day and made sure they had given any medicines to the teachers. After going through on how they should behave at the arena they finally got there long awaited Young Voices t-shirts. The t-shirts had a bright turquoise 26 on them and had written on them the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary there were also neon pink stars that stood out among the turquoise and white.

At 9:30 they boarded the bus and sat in ones or twos. Then they travelled for a while chatting to the people next to them or playing games. We asked Teddy (9 years old) what impressions he had on the couch journey. "It was good because I had a fidget toy which was really annoying to other people around me because it was loud." They travelled for a bit more than two hours. Eventually they arrived at the O2 at around 12:30pm.



After the long bus journey they walked to the entrance of the arena and posed for a photo with their retiring head teacher. After the photo they ultimately went into the O2. They then trudged up around eight flights of stairs until they actually reached the floor they wanted to reach. Then after going through a crowded corridor they reached the door they were planning to get to and sat down to have lunch.



They ate lunch in the corridor. People had a variety of different foods including: Hot tomato pasta with meatballs, sandwiches, macaroni cheese, more sandwiches and sushi. Through lunch people went to the loos while discovering that there were really big queues so you had to wait for quite a while. After finishing lunch at around 1:30 pm everyone gathered all their back-packs and bags and walked into the performance area.

After having their lunch the children walked into the performance area. We asked a child what was his first thoughts about the performance area and finding the seats. Isaac (9years old) "I felt partly lost because most of the seats looked the same." The children found their seats and sat down chatting and observing the seats excitedly. They pointed out to each other all the exciting things they saw like the lights and the speakers and wondered what the actual performance would be like.



After entering and sitting down in the seats, at 2:00 pm the rehearsal started. We asked Josephine (10 years old) what her thoughts were on the rehearsal "It was not what I expected but it was really funny when the conductor (David Lawrence) dressed up as a pirate in the Sea Shanty Medley but the performance was definitely better."

At around six o'clock the children and grown-ups had dinner and the parents started to walk in. The children held a large banner which said Woodcote Primary School hoping the parents would see it. Some children even tried to spot their own parents.



After dinner the performance started and all the lights went on and the Urban Striders danced a bit at the biggining. Then the 8,000 children and teachers started to sing the first song and when it had finished they sat down and a little speech or a guest artist spoke or sang and the children would sing a little bit and then sing one of their songs. Also the lights kept changing with each song they sang and the speakers changed volume with different songs.

At the end of the performance there was rainbow lighting which looked really cool. There was also a giant Mexican wave which started with the children and ended in the parents. We asked Sophia (10 years old) what she thought of the lights and the performance? "I really enjoyed the performance and I liked when the lights dimmed and everyone was waving their torches."



After the long performance ended the children waited till their number was called out and when they were called out they quickly went out of the performance area. It had been a long night and the children were eager to go home. They went to the toilets and found that the queues were bigger than before. When they eventually got to the bus they sat down in ones or twos again and most of them fell asleep. At 12:15 am they arrived back in Woodcote they were collected by their parents and sleepily went home to bed.