

# THE WOODCOTE TIMES

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## Wonderful Woodcote defies gravity

Year 5 and 6 from Woodcote Primary go to the O2 arena in London to perform in the world's biggest children's choir

By Isaac

On Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January, Year 5 and 6 children from Woodcote Primary School went on a long journey from South Oxfordshire to central London. They were going to the O2 arena in Greenwich to take part in the world's largest choir event, Young Voices. They were accompanied by over 8000 other children to perform a variety of songs and dances alongside guest performers and award-winning dance crews.

At the start of the school day, children from both classes gathered in Year 5 in order to receive important information and to check if they had all the correct equipment for the day. After the teachers made sure that they had lunch and dinner they were given their Young Voices t-shirts and asked to change. Children were reminded how to behave throughout the day then left the school and boarded the coach that would take them to the O2 arena.

The children got onto the coach in pairs that they sat next to for the coach journey. We asked Charlotte [10] how she thought the journey went, 'I had a funny journey with Isaac and Teddy keeping me entertained on the journey. The way there was a 2-hour long journey that started around 09:30 am.

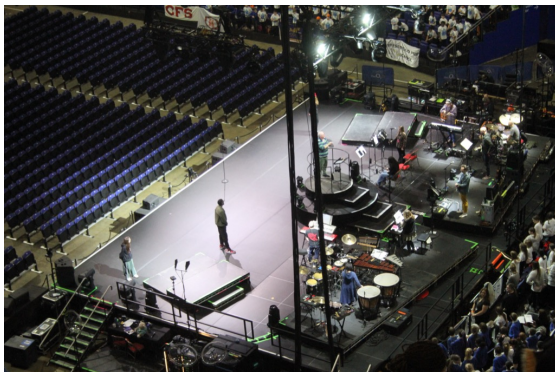
After the long coach journey, the children arrived at the car park. They were then led to the arena by their teachers. We asked Teddy [9] his thoughts on first seeing the arena, 'I thought the whole of the O2 was the arena and when I figured out that not all the O2 was the arena I was amazed shops could fit in it'. After arriving at the venue, they gathered for a photo with their retiring head teacher Mrs Liz Hunt. Upon arriving inside the arena, the children saw lots of stores expecting to see the arena. While being guided through they had to climb 8 flights of stairs before lunch.



Once the children had climbed the stairs they bundled together and sat down. Then everyone took out their lunches from their bags and started eating things like pasta, sandwiches and chicken. But 9-year-old Rosie forgot her lunch, so Year 5 teacher Mr Langley went back down the stairs to the coach to get her dinner and came back about

15 minutes later. Just before they went into the arena everyone went to the toilet so no one would need it during the rehearsal.

After the toilet break, they entered the massive arena surprising the Year 5s of how big it was because it was their first time. The teachers then led the children to their seats where they put their bags under the chairs and waited for 30 minutes for the other schools to arrive. Most of the students played games to make the time go faster one even playing chess. Then the stage became the main focus.



The music director Craig McLeish then introduced himself and the band and later the conductor came on stage and then the rehearsal officially began. The first song/medley they sang was the two-part song, you'll be in my heart/on my way. Once they had practiced the dual part feature in some of the medleys, they practiced the songs and before they knew it dinner had arrived.

Everyone then took out their dinners from their bags and opened them and started to eat. Once they had eaten, a large white fabric sign with Woodcote Primary School painted on it in capitals. It was so big some children were

covered by the sign while others held it up. Some of the children were blinded by the bright stage lights as the parents started flooding in .



Once all the parents had arrived the arena went dark and the children immediately started singing all over the world and got a loud round of applause. Next the children sang a song called move towards the light. We asked Isaac [10] his favourite song from the performance, 'My favourite song was Defying Gravity'. Soon after the Wicked medley started everyone went completely in time on Defying Gravity to make it a brilliant end to that medley.

The children then sang a beautiful song in BSL, and guest Ruti sang another great song. Another guest artist got the parents to sing shackles with the children and then sang popular songs from the pop medley. Finally, they sang Disco Fever and ending the performance the lights then came back on and the parents left. Woodcote students then exited the arena and went to the toilet before leaving.

They then left the arena and made their way to the coach and got on in pairs. On the journey back to school a major amount of children fell asleep. When

they arrived back it was 12:15 and they were barely awake and then they were picked up their parents.