

THE WOODCOTE TIMES

17.03.26

Woodcote spend one short day in the O2 arena

Year 5 and 6 students from Woodcote Primary perform in the world's largest children's choir at the O2 arena in London.

By Sophia

On Friday the 23rd of January 2026, year 5 and 6 students from Woodcote Primary school set off on a long but exciting journey from south Oxfordshire to central London. They were heading to the O2 Arena to take part in the world's largest children's choir Young Voices. There were over 8,000 other children performing with them a variety of songs and dances alongside guest performers and incredible dance crews.



At the beginning of the day, children from both classes gathered in the year 5 classroom where they

received important instructions and checked they had all the necessary items for the day. After the teachers checked the pupils had a pack lunch and dinner had handed in their medicines and inhalers, they were given their t-shirts. This year the t-shirts had a bold turquoise 2026 in centre surrounding the 2026 were a few pink stars.

The children eagerly boarded the coach at 9:30am. Then they found a person to

sit next to, all the children who got travel sick sat at the front of the bus. A lot of children had fidgets or games to play. After about 1 hour 15 the children got given 2 rich teas to eat. Once they had eaten the biscuits the children constantly asked, "how much longer,". After a while (2 hours 15) Woodcote arrived in London Greenwich.

It was 12:30 pm and the school had arrived at the O2. They hopped off the coach and marvelled at the building. Then the classes took some photos including one with their soon to retire head teacher Mrs Liz Hunt who was joining them for the last time laying down on the floor in front of the banner.



After the school had taken the photos the children entered the O2. We asked Maud age 10 how she felt when she first stepped into the O2 building this is what she told us, "I felt very excited and kind of nervous because it was somewhere new and I had never been there before but I was relieved we were finally there."

The children were ready for lunch but then they realised that there were about eight flights of stairs to climb! All the children were hungry so they climbed the stairs quickly as they looked at their surrounding area. They reached the top so now it was time for lunch.

Then they found a spot at the side of a corridor at about 1:00pm. People had things like sandwiches pasta, crisps and salads. One of the children forgot their dinner one the coach so a teacher had to go and get it of the coach, but it wasn't that bad because the teacher got Starbucks for him and the other teachers. The children ate their food and chatted about their journeys went to the bathrooms this took a while because the queues were very long. Once all this was done the children picked up their bags and prepared for the rehearsal.

The school entered the arena feeling amazed and excited! The arena was enormous and so was the stage. They could see some instruments including a keyboard, drums, percussion drums, guitar, bass guitar, banjo and signers. Once the school had found their seats they waited and made one more trip to the toilet. They sat it was time for the rehearsal!



David Lawrence came onto the stage, introduced himself and the band. David explained what the performance would be like. Then he listened to the choir sing and helped them with some notes. Then he practised the Sea Shanty melody whilst wearing a pirate hat and costume. He split them up for different parts in some songs. One of the guests came on and taught the choir a sign they had to do for a song (Must Be Love). After a while the rehearsal finished at 5:00pm.



Once the children had eaten their dinner the parents began to arrive and it was time for the performance to begin. The lights dimmed and everyone screamed and waved their Young Voices torches, it was quite the sensation. Then the first song came on All over the world, lights flashed everywhere and the children sang in a beautiful harmony! We asked Alfie 9 years old how he felt when the lights

dimmed and first song came on. This is what he told us, "I felt excited because I got to sing my heart out." Another good medley was the Wicked one where pink and green lights flashed a lot of the children especially liked Defying Gravity and One Short Day in the Emerald City. One of the guest performers Ruti sang a song called All You Need Is Love.

The choir sang Power in Me beautifully and danced the moves making it an amazing performance! Next the choir performed Something Inside So strong using British sign language. The children finished the night strong with disco fever they enjoyed the final song even though their throats were hoarse! As the music ended and the lights in the arena came on the children knew it was time to go home.