

# ***THE WOODCOTE TIMES***

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## **ONE SHORT DAY FOR WOODCOTE AT THE O2**

Children from year 5 and 6 at Woodcote go to the world's biggest choir in the O2 arena in London

By Teddy

On Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January, Year 5 and 6 from Woodcote Primary School set off on a long journey all the way from south Oxfordshire to central London. They were heading to the O2 arena in Greenwich to take part in the world's biggest choir event, Young Voices. They were joined by 8,000 other children to perform a variety of songs and dances alongside guest performers and award-winning dance crews.

At the start of the day children from both classes gathered in Year 5 to get ready for their long journey to the O2. We asked a child a question which was how did you feel when you were getting ready to go to the O2?

(Isaac 9) "I was nervous and exited because I had never been there before."

Then the children were checked for lunches and dinner. After children were checked they were given their young voices T-shirts to get changed into. The children were then reminded to behave throughout the day. Then the children set off for the couch that would take them on their long journey.

On the couch journey the children got out fidget toys and books. Some children fell asleep on the couch journey though. There was a lot of chatting and when they entered London the children got more excited and started looking out of the windows. When they first saw the O2 they started to shout that the O2 was there.



When they arrived, the time was 12:30 in the morning. The children were then led to the O2 which they could see from far away. After arriving the children gathered for a photo in front of the O2 with their retiring head teacher. The headteacher's name was Mrs Hunt who had been their headteacher for twelve years. Upon entering the arena, the children were dismayed to find that they had to climb eight sets of stairs to get to their floor and eat lunch.



After lunch the children were led into the O2 to find their seats. They were amazed at the size of the choir in the O2, but they were surprised that eight thousand children could fit in the choir and around eight thousand parents. Their seats were looking down on the back of the stage, but they could still see things well enough though.

After around fifteen minutes all the schools arrived and they started the rehearsal. The rehearsal started off with songs they played for fun. The children knew all the songs and sang along. Then they started playing the first song to practise it. They first played the song all the way through and then practised bits they had got wrong. They did the same thing for the rest of the songs and meddles. At the end they played all the songs all the way through. Then a few minutes later they were allowed to have their dinner.

After the children had eaten dinner, the parents were getting ready to come into the O2 arena. Then bright white lights came on, and the parents began to barge

in. The children couldn't really see their parents past the bright white lights though. Some children pulled out binoculars to see their parents though.

The children were given their torches but then suddenly the lights turned off and some people started screaming. The children pulled out their torches and started waving them around. The conductor called out that the performance had begun. They started with the first song which was 'All over the world'. While they sang the song cool lights came on and all the children jumped up and down. When the song ended, they were allowed to sit down for a few seconds then the next song started playing with more cool lights. They then finished the song and moved onto the next song. We asked a child a question the next day which was, how did you feel performing with the lights and in front of the parents?

(Laila 9) "It was really fun, but the thing is it was quite embarrassing because my mom saw me."

Then the next song went on, and swirly patterns appeared and made some children glow blue. Then the next song and the next song went on with rainbow lights, green and pink, orange lights and red lights. All the way the children sang, shouted and jumped until 00:00 am but also stayed awake.

Then they all filed out while holding a rope and climbed into the coach to go back

home. The trip home took around one and a half hours and a lot of people fell asleep on the coach. A few people didn't fall asleep though. When they arrived back a lot of children had to be waken up and taken away by their parents. One teacher fell asleep on the way back to Woodcote though. You weren't allowed fidget toys on the way back because you might wake up people.