

OXHEY FIRST SCHOOL
A HAPPY PLACE TO LEARN AND GROW
Excellence, Teamwork, Equality, Respect



Inspiring Excellence Together



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Dear Parents/Carers,

With the Young Voices event in Manchester approaching quickly, I thought I would write with some final details and reminders for the day.

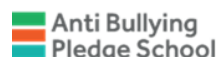
The date of the concert is **Wednesday 29th January 2020**. The choir have been working very hard in school to learn the songs and dance routines but as we have limited rehearsal time I would encourage all choir members to practice as much as possible at home. Access to all the songs and dance moves can be accessed online by googling **uphillprimaryschoolyoungvoices**. Whilst your child should not worry if they cannot remember every word, the better prepared s/he is, the more they will get out of the event!

T-shirts and tickets will arrive in school in the next couple of weeks. To minimise the risk of orders being mislaid, you will be asked to come in to the office to sign for your items, rather than sending them home with the children. Please look out for a text-alert to indicate when orders are ready to collect.

Children are asked to wear plain dark trousers, leggings or skirts on the day to both the rehearsal and evening concert (school trousers/skirts are fine) and either a plain white t-shirt or their official Young Voices t-shirt. Your child is permitted to come to school dressed ready for the event on the morning of the 29th January. Please also ensure your child has his/her Oxhey sweatshirt or cardigan on to distinguish our school from the remaining choir during transition times. A reminder that your child should bring their 'tiny torch' with them on the day (free with their t-shirt) as they will be able to use these during the concert. No other torches, lights, glow sticks or reflective materials are permitted into the arena, due to filming and lighting restrictions.

We will be travelling with Hollinshead's coaches to the MEN Arena and hope to depart at approximately 12:15pm. All choir members will be allowed an early lunch in order to be ready to depart punctually. It may be advisable to order your child a hot school lunch on the day, if they do not usually have one, as s/he **will require a packed tea and a drink to take with them**. Please note, the school kitchen are unable to supply packed teas, so you should provide your own child with one. Please ensure you pack enough food/drink to sustain them throughout the evening. Glass bottles are not permitted in the arena so please only send plastic cartons or bottles. **Please also note that backpacks/rucksacks are not permitted within the arena so please send your child with a named carrier bag which can be discarded or a shopper-style bag.**

When we arrive at the arena there will be an afternoon rehearsal, which will continue through to approximately 5:00pm, with a few scheduled breaks. There will be an hour-long break for tea (children will not be allowed to leave the arena during this time but we are permitted to move around). All personal belongings will kept beneath your child's seat for the duration of the rehearsal and concert. Doors will open for the audience at 6:00pm and please **remember backpacks/rucksacks are not permitted for audience members** either in the arena. Look out for our Oxhey First



School banner which will indicate where we are sitting. The concert will commence at 7:00pm and conclude at approximately 9:05pm.

The main priority of Young Voices, apart from its musical ethos is the safety of the children involved. Every measure will be taken to ensure your child is kept safe throughout the event both by the Manchester Arena team and naturally by us. Your child will be assigned to one of the five adults chaperoning our choir throughout the event and they will move around as a group for toileting etc. No child will be allowed to wander around the arena alone. Full risk assessments have been produced by Young Voices and are available in school, on request.

Once the concert has finished, Young Voices co-ordinate exiting the arena very efficiently and schools are directed to leave one block at a time. Due to the logistics of safely handing children over to their parents after the concert, Young Voices suggest that choirs return to school on the coach immediately afterwards and parents collect them from their school building. As we will not be allocated an official 'meeting point' for parents within the arena (due to the thousands of children attending the event) we will follow Young Voices recommendations on this matter. As we exit the arena I will encourage our children to put on their green Oxhey sweatshirts/cardigans, preferably with the school's rainbow logo on (as everyone will be wearing white) making them more visible to us.

Last year, we arrived back at school at approximately 10:45pm. We will send out a text message to alert you when we have boarded the coach safely and subsequently arrived back at school. As it will be a late night for the choir, Mrs Jukes has agreed that they may come into school later the following morning. We politely request that if your child needs to arrive late they do so between 10:30 and 10:45 so as not to disrupt lessons for others. There is no need to notify school unless your child is **unable to attend at all** the following day.

If you have paid via ParentPay for seats on the **parent coach**, please note it will leave Oxhey First School as close to **4:15pm** as possible. Please ensure you arrive in plenty of time to leave punctually. Mrs. Jukes has given permission for parents to leave their cars on our school carpark, but please ensure you do not block any staff cars in! There will be an 'Oxhey Parent Coach' sign displayed in the window of the parent bus to help you locate it easily after the event and the driver will provide you with details of where he will be parked. Please endeavor to return to the coach immediately after the event, rather than purchasing further refreshments/merchandise etc to ensure both choir and parent transport arrive back at school at a similar time. Further information about the MEN Arena and FAQ's for parents are available on the parent section of the YV website.

The day is a very exciting one, but also a very long one and we appreciate you may have concerns as parents. However, please assume that no news is good news and we will endeavor to send text messages periodically to keep you informed of how we are getting on. In case of **emergencies only**, I can be contacted on **07739312769** or a message can be sent to us via the school office **01782 513000**.

A final checklist:

- Parents sign for tickets from the school office
- Children come to school wearing dark trousers/skirts/leggings and white t-shirt/YV t-shirt on the day
- School jumpers required, preferably with the rainbow logo
- All children require a packed tea and drinks in plastic bottles/cartons
- No backpacks/rucksacks
- Don't forget your child's official YV 'tiny torch'
- DVD's of the event are available to purchase from the YV website following the event.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions. We look forward to a fabulous day!

Many thanks for your continued support
Mrs. L Holt

