

Friday 8 March 2024

Dear Parents

Y5 Voice in a Million FINAL ARRANGEMENTS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The concert is drawing nearer -just two weeks to go! Please read the following information carefully and make sure your child is aware of who will collect them either at the arena or at school.

Firstly, places on the coach are limited. We would really appreciate it if you are able to buy a ticket and then take your child home afterwards. Alternatively, as I know it's not possible for everyone to do this, could you please arrange collection of your child with another parent who is attending to free up spaces on the coach? Please let the office know if you can do this- we would be extremely grateful. Here is a link for buying tickets if you can.

[Audience tickets](#)

On the day

12.45pm Children will eat lunch at school. A hot school dinner is recommended as children will need a packed meal later before the concert. See below for more details.

1.40pm The coach leaves.

2.15pm approx. Coach arrives and we find our seats and have a rehearsal.

5.00pm Break for food

6.00pm The main doors open for the audience; all choir members must remain seated.

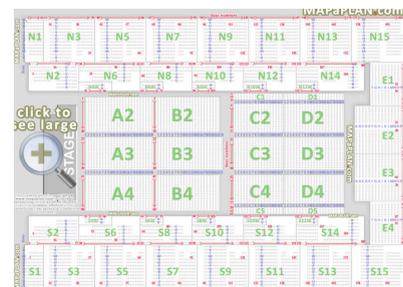
The show starts at 7.15pm. The show finishes at 9.50pm.

At the end of the event, the choir will exit first. **Audience remains seated. Please DO NOT come out early and walk with us to the meeting point - it is simpler if parents wait until children have exited.**

In the interest of safety, choir members are not permitted to mix with the audience/ parents before or during the event. Sorry about this but please don't try and come onto the arena floor. Security will stop you. We will look out for you and wave! Our seating area is section B2.

Collecting your child from the designated pick up area

- If you have chosen to collect your child after the event, the designated areas are marked **V I A and M**.
- **Ours is 'I'**. Stewards will direct you towards these on the day in front of the main entrance.
- **Please make sure a member of staff has seen you take your child so we can tick them off the list.**



What to wear on the day/ food and water

- Children should come to school in their PE kit as they will have PE on Wednesday morning. The VIAM t-shirts are all at the venue and teachers will distribute them to the children after we have eaten the packed dinner. Trainers or comfortable shoes are recommended too.
- The evening meal break is at 5.00pm after the rehearsal. It needs to be a packed meal containing no nuts, sweets, fizzy drinks, glass bottles or hot food.
- Children should bring a small rucksack or carrier bag that can go under their seat. We recommend a large bottle or two small bottles of water. Children will have a chance to refill them.
- As we will leave after lunch it is recommended that children have a hot school dinner that day too. If your child normally has a packed lunch but you would like them to have a hot meal that day please book this through [The Pantry](#).

Travelling to Wembley

- For travelling to Wembley SSE arena it is recommended to drive, as the train route is much longer. The journey is approximately 40 minutes by car. There is plenty of parking available in the multi storey car parks on site which is very reasonably priced.
- At the end of the concert (9.50 pm) children will leave the arena first. **We estimate we will arrive back at school at 11.00pm. Please ensure that if you are collecting at school that someone is there to collect them so that staff can go home quickly after discharging the children. The coach will be on the roundabout between Highlands School and Grange Park.**
- The following day, as the children will be tired, they may come to school at 10.00am . They should go straight to their classes and will be registered there. Siblings are expected to be at school at 8.45 am as normal.

The children are well rehearsed now, but if they are unsure about any of the songs, they are all on Google Classroom.

The VIAM team also asked me to make parents aware that as well as talking about fostering and adoption during the concert, they will talk about FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder). This is a rare condition and last year we met the adopted son of VIAM's founder, Jo Garofalo. As it is a sensitive topic, I have just been asked to make parents aware of it. I will be speaking to the children about it briefly before they go.

To summarise, children need the following on the day:

- a packed lunch (cold food, no nuts, fizzy drinks or glass bottles)
- a small bag to put it in (school bag is fine)
- a large bottle or two small bottles of water
- OPTIONAL: small torch, pen and paper, ear plugs (it can be quite loud)

- **ESSENTIAL:** plenty of enthusiasm and a good hearty voice!

Attention all concert attendees:

We kindly request that you refrain from purchasing and distributing popcorn, sweets, or any food items sold by VIAM on the concourse for your children. As the concert progresses, you will not have the opportunity to speak to your children, and even if you spot them queuing for the toilets, we ask that you resist the urge to provide them with additional snacks. It is essential for children to feel uninhibited to participate and sing along during the show, rather than being preoccupied with large bags of confectionery. Any child found with large sharing bags will be requested to retain them and take them home. Thank you for your cooperation in this.

Medication for children such as inhalers and epipens in case of reactions will be carried by the staff. Please ensure any inhalers your child may use are up to date.

I look forward to taking the children and seeing them sing their hearts out!

Yours sincerely

Debbie Hagen
Music Coordinator