

3rd March 2025



Dear Parents,

'*The Big Sing 2025: Celebrations*' at the Derngate Theatre is rapidly approaching, so we just wanted to share a few final pieces of information with you. The performance will take place on **Thursday March 13th 2025 at 6.30pm.**

We will be leaving school towards the end of lunch time to arrive at the Derngate for 1:10pm. Please book a hot lunch/ send packed lunch as usual - the children will eat at 12pm. The children will be transported **to** the Derngate by coach and will need to have the following things with them:

- A packed tea. Anything they don't use will need to be tucked neatly under their chair during the performance so, whilst we don't usually ask for a disposable tea, on this occasion it would be useful if it could be as disposable as possible! Please avoid sending any hot food in containers as we are not allowed to take hot food and hot drinks on to the stage. It would be useful if their packed tea was in a carrier bag or in a drawstring bag (like the ones used for PE kits). The key thing is that it's as small as possible and subtle - avoid anything sparkly or very brightly coloured as it will be seen from the stage!
- A drink (or two depending on the size of the bottle). Whilst we love our pupils to use reusable drinks bottles, the organisers have asked that you avoid sending metallic ones (like the Chillys bottles) where possible because if they knock these over with their feet during the performance, it could be quite disruptive. Reusable plastic bottles are fine to send (e.g. Sistema bottles).
- Full school uniform including maroon school jumper/cardigan and tie. Please ensure they are wearing their black school shoes. They are allowed to take coats but if the weather is favourable we will give them the option to leave these in school as the coats are stored backstage and it can be a slow process retrieving them and handing them out. The children will exit the coach on arrival and go straight into the building where they will remain until collection so if it is not raining we will offer the choice to travel without a coat if they wish. Please ensure that all coats (and all other items) are clearly named as this will speed up our ability to hand them out at the end.

The children **will not** need to bring their mobile phones to school on that day as we will not be taking phones with us to the theatre. If they do bring them in the morning then they will collect their phone from the classroom at the end of the following day.

On arrival at the Derngate, the children will rehearse with the musicians. After the rehearsal, the pupils will eat their packed tea at the venue. The performance will commence at 6.30pm and we expect that it will finish somewhere around 8pm. **All pupils will need to be collected from the Derngate theatre at the end of the performance - there is NO return coach as most pupils will have a family member in the audience.**

At the end of the performance, the schools will be allowed to exit the theatre, one school at a time, once every member of the audience has left the auditorium. Each school will make their way to our designated door in order for us to hand the children over to a responsible adult. Our designated door is **Door A** and it is likely that we will be the first school to exit from this door. From past experience, we have found it easier if just one member of the family waits a little way back from the designated door while the rest of your group waits away from the collection area. This reduces the amount of people around the door and by stepping back slightly from the door it avoids crowding and allows us to see everyone a little more clearly. Once you have collected your child, please try to move away from the area promptly as this will help us see who is left. A reminder about which door each school will be collected from will be announced in the auditorium and will be listed on screens in the foyer.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this event,

Yours sincerely,

Miss Maddock and Mrs Cox