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Headteacher: Mr Iain Horner

24th February 2025

RE: Choir – Festival of Voices

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are lucky enough to have secured the chance to sing at the **Festival of Voices** again this year, which takes place in Dorchester Abbey. This year is the 40th Festival of Voices, organised by NAPE (National Association for Primary Education) and it is always an exciting and rewarding experience for all involved. The concert offers a chance for children from all over the county to come together in a fantastic setting and enjoy singing. We are very lucky to be part of this event as it is very popular and there is often a waiting list of other schools who want to join in!



We would like to take a choir group to **Festival of Voices**, however we are limited to only **30 places**. We know that our Festival of Voices choir is usually very popular so, in the first instance, we would like to gauge interest in joining the choir. We will be looking for children who are able to commit to coming to rehearsals and to learning all of the songs.

Our concert will take place on **Monday 16th June** (a change to our usual Thursday!). On the day of the concert, we will travel by coach at approximately 2pm to Dorchester Abbey, where we will join with the other schools taking part, to rehearse from 3.15-5.15pm. The children will then have a picnic tea in the Abbey grounds, before the performance begins at **6.30pm**. The concert should finish at approximately **8pm**.



We will send further details about the day of the concert nearer the time.

Tickets

Audience tickets will be available (Price to be confirmed, but last year they were £8.00 for adults and £4.00 for children). Every audience member (including toddlers) will require a ticket. We are usually limited to 2 tickets per child, but if you would like more than that, then we will be able to request extra. Last year, most people were able to have the additional tickets that they requested and we are hopeful that we can do the same again this year. We will send out further information about tickets after Easter.

Choir sessions will run after school (day to be decided) until 4.30pm, starting in the first week of April. If your child would like to take part in the Festival of Voices, please return the slip below to indicate that your child is able to take part in the concert and that they **will attend choir rehearsals every week**. There are quite a few songs for us to learn by heart, so attendance each week and a commitment to learning the songs is very important.

Please also **indicate which days of the week your child would be able to attend**. We know that many children have other after-school commitments, so we wanted to find a day that is suitable for the largest number of potential choir members.

To help cover the costs of the participation fee and for the coach transport to take us to Dorchester Abbey, we will be asking for a contribution (approximately £8) for your child to take part. Further details about this will follow.

The slip should be returned by **Friday 14th March** to indicate your child's interest in taking part in the Festival of Voices choir. **We will then inform you if your child has been allocated a place and which dates the rehearsals will be on.**

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Salter or the school office.

Kind regards,

Mrs K. Salter

CHOIR / FESTIVAL OF VOICES REPLY SLIP

I give my permission for _____ to take part in the **FESTIVAL OF VOICES** on **Monday 16th June** (2pm – 8pm approx.). I understand that my child will need to commit to attending all choir sessions and learning the songs.

Please indicate the days which your child would be able to attend rehearsals on:

Tuesdays

Wednesdays

Thursdays

SIGNED: _____ (Parent/Guardian) DATE: _____

PLEASE RETURN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY FRIDAY 14TH MARCH