Whittingham
CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Whittingham, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 4UP | *Telephone:* 01665 574222
Email: Admin@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk

Wednesday 2nd May 2018.

Dear Parent/Legal Guardians,

As part of the Centenary Celebrations to commemorate the end of WW1 the children in Class 2 and Class 3 are involved in a WWI Singing Project run by Opera North.
This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to be taught by and sing alongside professional singers and musicians from Opera North. As well as working with children from Belford First School and Seahouses Primary School.

During two workshops, held in school on Monday 30th April and Monday 11th June, the children will learn a selection of music including war time morale boosting songs, alongside songs from composers who lived during WWI, including Edward Elgar and George Butterworth.

Between workshops the children are expected to learn all of the words to the songs by heart. We will of course be practicing in school but your child will also bring their song booklets home so they can be word perfect before the next workshop. Sarah Turnbull from Opera North, who led Monday's workshop, suggested that the children look at performances of these songs on YouTube to help them with their performance quality.

This project will culminate in a performance for parents at **Alnwick Playhouse** on **Wednesday 27th June at 6pm-7pm.** On this day the children will already be at the playhouse as they will be practicing with the other schools and Opera North performers from **1.30 pm**. *Transport will be provided to Alnwick Playhouse but it is expected that children will be picked up at the end of the performance (around 7 p.m.)*

Please note that this is also the day of the Leaver's Service at Newcastle Cathedral so arrangements are slightly different for the Year 6 children and there will be a letter to follow. The children will be given Opera North T shirts for the afternoon rehearsal and evening performance on the day and with this will need to wear their school trousers and school shoes. (The children will need to wear their school uniform to come to school).

The cost of a ticket for this performance is £3 which you will be able to purchase from the ticket office at The Playhouse; I will check when these go on sale and contact you with these details.

The performance will be woven together with a specially commissioned narrative (performed by a member of the Chorus of Opera North) which will tell the tale of a soldier as he prepares to go off to war, the experiences he faces during the war and the legacy of the war. For the final performance, all participating schools will join forces to perform alongside members of the Chorus of Opera North.

I think you will agree that this is an amazing project to be involved in, the children thoroughly enjoyed the first workshop on Monday and we were all impressed with the their singing including the Opera North performers.

On the day of the final performance the children will leave school after our school lunch but will need a snack, drink and a packed tea to take to The Playhouse.

Kind Regards
Mrs Fortescue

Please fill in and return the slip below by Monday 21st May 2018

My child/ren ---------- will be able to take

part in the Big Sing WWI final performance on Wednesday 27th June at Alnwick Playhouse.

I understand that transport is provided to the event and my child will be picked up by:

…….. (name) from the Playhouse after the performance.

Signed (Parent/Legal Guardian----------