

Dear Parent/Carer

Watoto Choir - 31st January 2018 at 7pm

We are delighted that the acclaimed Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda will be performing in concert at Edwinstree Middle School on the 31 January 2018. We would love to fill our hall with guests who are keen to support this amazing choir, and the work they do raising funds for the Ugandan children's charity and their peers in Uganda. The concert will start at 7pm and last for one hour, doors will open from 6:30pm and refreshments will be available before, and after the concert.

The Watoto Choir was formed back in 1994 and has seen 3,000 Ugandan orphans join since its inception. It was created to raise funds for the thousands of Ugandan orphans the Watoto Christian Charity has supported over the past twenty years. Watoto is the Swahili word for "children", the native language in Uganda.

The Choir will be visiting Edwinstree as part of the current UK tour which consists of 18 children between the ages of six and twelve, plus an adult entourage of ten adults, including musicians and chaperones. Further information about the Watoto Choir can be found on their website and the full tour schedule can be viewed online at:

<http://www.watoto.com/the-choir/see-the-choir>.

To reserve a seat to enjoy this amazing choir please log on to:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/watoto-uk-8539931976>

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely



Jo Gant
Headteacher

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A Canadian couple Gary and Marilyn Skinner, founded the Watoto Children's Choir back in 1994 and the charity alongside it. Following four years of pastoral ministry in Canada, the Skinners moved to Zambia as missionaries in 1979. In 1982, Gary moved his young family to Kampala, the war-torn capital of Uganda, to plant an English-speaking church in the heart of the city.

Gary Skinner says:

"God's heart for the marginalised is not just to see individuals rescued, but rather to see them thrive as their lives are transformed".

The Watoto Charity rescues thousands of Ugandan orphaned children from poverty, war and disease. The stories of the children are real and represent thousands who are experiencing this transformation.

The ministry has also been extended to reach out to vulnerable women as well as the war-affected community in Northern Uganda including the many child soldiers who were forced to become weapons of war. Since 1994, the Watoto Children's Choir has travelled all around the world as advocates for the children of Africa. The Edwinstree concert, like all others, is free of charge, however donations are collected at the end of the event. The children who join the choir get to travel the world and get away from the poverty, war and disease that has been such a big part of most of their lives and the other choir members become their new family.

"After losing my parents I felt alone, with no one to love me. Now I know that God is my father. He loves and cares for me. As I travel on the choir, I am going to show people that God loves them too," says six-year-old Jackie Nakku.

Every child in the choir has suffered the loss of one, or both of their parents, but they have been rescued and now live in a Watoto village. The children in the choir receive physical care, medical intervention including HIV and AIDS treatment, education, formal and vocational, counselling, emotional well-being, as well as moral and spiritual discipleship, said Gunn, who will soon be moving to India.

Watoto Villages have also been established over the past several years. The homes for children and mothers are constructed in the form of small, vibrant communities referred to as 'villages'. Each village contains a nursery school, kindergarten, primary school, high school, water project, medical clinic and a multi-purpose hall for use as a church and community centre. Currently, Watoto has three children's villages – one in Gulu, northern Uganda and two in Kampala, Uganda, looking after almost 3,000 children.
