

Chance to hear poetry from Michael Rosen and plenty of 'silly songs about Cambridge'

CHILDREN'S author, poet and broadcaster Michael Rosen will be joining school choirs to perform at a charity fundraiser event this evening.

The fundraiser, organised by Professor Helen Weinstein, director of Historyworks, aims to support charities working with the homeless and refugees, as part of the Holocaust Memorial Day programme.

Professor Weinstein said: "The first half is very silly. It's songs about Cambridge and its history. It's very important to me that whether the children have lived in Cambridge three weeks, or three years, they have a sense of belonging to Cambridge."

Hundreds of pupils have been learning their words ready to sing along to a selection of songs celebrating Cambridge's history, such as: 'The Parker's Piece Feast', 'Cambridge Navvies', 'Giant Lizards in the Sky', and 'Pterosaur Poo Rap'.

Three thousand children in Cambridge schools have also been writing their own poems inspired by the project, which centres on this year's theme of 'Home' and 'Torn from Home'.

Michael Rosen will be

performing poems requested by young people, including 'We're Going On a Bear Hunt', 'Chocolate Cake', and 'No Breathing in Class'.

Michael said: "It is a huge privilege to be given a chance to work with young people and be trusted by the schools in this field.

"These are sensitive and worrying themes to pursue, with children seeing war and conflict on the TV and often seeing homeless people and knowing people who have been made homeless in their own schools and communities, but I hope we handled the issues sensitively and I was very moved to see the way in which the young people from Cambridge responded with their poems, performances and singing.

"We have every right to feel optimistic."

The event is being held at Great St Mary's, Market Square, and is open to youngsters of all ages, as well as those still young at heart.

Admission is free, but donations are encouraged. Doors open at 5.30pm with the concert scheduled to start at 6pm.



Children's author Michael Rosen will perform verse requested by youngsters at Great St Mary's, Market Square