

Welcome

Murray, Nicky, Jake and Georgina would like to thank you for coming tonight. Your support is very much appreciated.

We cannot believe that a year has passed. Archie has achieved so much in the last 12 months; in November 2008 Archie started Nursery at Woodlands Special Needs School. WOW! What a school! Since joining Woodlands we feel that everyone is striving for the same goals: To give Archie the support he needs to reach his full potential, for him to gain independence - we now have a **team that works**.

Before Woodlands we spent 16 months in the Disablement Centre and unfortunately they failed Archie; it was a very frustrating and a disappointing experience.

In February/March of this year we made a decision to go to Dorset for private prosthetics, it was at a time where we had the funds and the knowledge. After 7 trips to Dorset Archie had his new legs (shoes). In May we felt it was the first day of the rest of his life, this was a very positive day.

Archie puts his new legs on every morning before school. The nursery staff and the physiotherapists keep them on for as long as Archie is comfortable, Archie needs to strengthen his stomach and buttock muscles as he has been on his bottom for 16 months. Archie receives physiotherapy everyday at Woodlands, he also has hydrotherapy twice a week and has access to the white and dark rooms, soft play and P.C. work.

Archie's vision has improved; he can track moving objects and is very interested in his environment. Archie will not accept any help; he would rather spend an hour doing something that should take 5 minutes than doing it with help; "Don't help Archie, I do it myself" he says.

In June we returned to Dorset for a checkup. The physiotherapist told us that Archie's lower back was working too hard and that he was not using his pelvis and his hips, so he had adjustments made to his legs. His legs are at a 15 degree angle to help his back and to improve pelvis and hip functions, the general idea is to reduce the degrees over the next few months.

Archie has a good balance; he tries to kick out to walk - he is very determined. We do not know how long it will take for Archie to walk but I do know it will be a big day for us; I'll want to announce to the world "My baby is walking again".

Thank you to Dorset (orthopaedic) and the staff at Woodlands School.

In May I had a meeting with Mr. Stephen Waite who is Chief Operating Officer of the Primary Care Trust. We discussed all the issues surrounding Archie's care with the Disablement Centre, I gave him my list of complaints about Archie's prosthetics and physiotherapy. The outcome of this meeting ended up with Archie's Dorset prosthetics being funded for a year by the Primary Care Trust, they have also agreed to improve the service for children requiring prosthetic support from an early age. This outcome was very pleasing.

So for now there is no time for relaxing; we have got to keep fund-raising for Archie's future care.

'Don't mistake swine flu for meningitis'

A charity is urging people not to mistake the symptoms of meningitis with those of swine flu. The Meningitis Trust says that while both start out with common flu-like symptoms, telling the difference can be potentially life-saving.

Meningitis can strike in minutes and kill within hours. The rash commonly associated with meningitis does not appear in all cases, so it is vital people are aware of the other symptoms; fever (possibly with cold feet and hands), headache, stiff neck, dislike of bright lights, drowsiness, joint pain, diarrhoea and confusion. In babies an unusual cry, dislike of being handled and refusing feeds are also signs that can point to meningitis. If in doubt seek urgent medical advice.

The Meningitis Trust has a free-24-hour nurse-led helpline on 0800 028 18 28 or visit their website at www.meningitis-trust.org NHS Direct has an online symptoms checker to help differentiate meningitis and swine flu www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk



Please, please keep raising awareness. It is so important to our family. Remember that meningitis can kill in hours.



This year Archie's fund paid for the cost (£3000) of a room for one year at Ronald McDonald house in Bristol. These rooms are vital for families with critically ill children; they provide a home whilst a family is experiencing the most devastating and worrying time of their lives. Denise and her staff are also there to advise, comfort and help.

Thank you for your support and kindness.



Recent Photographs

We would like to share some recent photographs with you.

A day at Polruan.
Birthday cake with Auntie Don Don
Tea cups with Auntie Mandy
Hydro pool with Nana
Driving a mini with Nanny Mo Mo
On the boat with Dad
On the boat with my sister Georgina
Other photo's I spent an hour posing for the Evening Herald.

As you can see Archie's progress is incredible, what will another year bring.



A BIG Thank you...

Venus Training and Consultancy www.venus.co.uk for sponsoring Archie's website for the first year and for their continued support with other venues and words of encouragement.

Roger Viles (Website Designer) roger@minimwebsitedesign.co.uk Roger took over the cost of Archie's website in February 2009. If there is anyone interested in the up keep of Archie's website please contact Roger.

All fundraisers

Nana (Archie's Nana) - Wonderful paintings and handmade cards

Seymour Arms - Sponsored 24 hour pool and darts competition

Tom Varcoe - Sponsored Kayaking around Cornwall

Barclays bank - Sponsored pig race

Barclays bank - "18 Branch Modeathon"

Morval Rally - Tractor Run

Dad, Ellie, Steve and Christine - Supporting Meningitis UK

Katie and Peter - Pub quiz night

Red Vegas - Gig

Paul and Sharon - Santa Fun Run

Liskeard Lions - New Year's Day Dip

All Plymouth Half Marathon Runners and Supporters

Gary Jones, Kev Hall, David O' Connor, Dave Carville and Craig Williams - Chanty Cycle Ride,
Plymouth-->Wales

Stoke Damerall Church, Marilyn and Rhona - An evening of classical music

Michaela (Archie's tissue viability nurse) - Study day on Scars and Wound care

Friends and families of Dunstone Primary School - Coffee Morning

Liz Venables - 50th birthday

Shannon Small (9 years old) - She ran a mile a day for 12 weeks in the school playground

Venus Girls - Music at The Fortescue

Mark for his Sponsored Slim

And many many more...

These are just some of the fantastic fundraising events held for Archie. To view so many more wonderful events and donations go to www.archiestory.co.uk

If you have any ideas for fundraising please email barton.nicola@yahoo.co.uk

We hope you have a great evening and we thank you so much for coming.

Please keep raising awareness for meningitis.