

# Message From Noah's Family

When our son Noah was born at 24 weeks old, he weighed a tiny 1lb 10oz, which is less than the weight of a pineapple!

We had a rollercoaster ride during his time in hospital. It was a few steps forward and a few steps back due to

chronic lung disease and an open duct in his heart. He had infection after infection. Countless transfusions, antibiotics, X-rays, brain scans, and also treatment for suspected meningitis.

When Noah was three weeks old, we were told the worst news that any parent could hear, Noah wouldn't be with us by the end of the day. We had him baptized, and stayed by his side.

In the end, Noah pulled through. And we'll never forget the moment, five weeks later, when we were able to hold him. But at ten weeks old he became poorly again, and was transferred to Evelina London Children's hospital to treat a severe bowel condition and an eye disease

"If it wasn't for the Ronald McDonald House we wouldn't have been able to stay by Noah's side each day." that could have blinded him. We didn't have a clue what we were doing or where we were going to stay – and there was no way we could afford a hotel or train travel each day. But we couldn't leave Noah on his own.

If it wasn't for the Ronald McDonald House we wouldn't have been able to stay in London by Noah's side each day. Having a bed, a shower – and evening meals cooked by volunteers – was such a weight off our minds. And it meant we could be close to Noah every day.

Noah has come a long way since his stay in hospital and is continuing to do really well. He is babbling and making lots of new sounds. He says 'da da' and 'ma ma'! He loves walking with his walker and will spend hours walking up and down the front room.

Thank you to everyone who raises money for Ronald McDonald House Charities, it helps families like ours that have a sick child in hospital, gives somewhere to sleep, wash, cook and just rest knowing their child is in the safe hands of the hospital. If it wasn't for the Charity giving us a room to stay whilst Noah was in hospital we couldn't have been by his side every single day.

From Amy and Steven Noah's mum and dad



## A-Z of Fundraising Ideas

Stuck for fundraising ideas? There are plenty of ways you and your class can fundraise at school to raise money for Ronald **McDonald House Charities. Happy fundraising!** 

- Art Attack Hold an arts & craft morning in your classrooms and turn it into a competition - why not charge an entry fee?
- Ready, steady bake! -Get baking and sell homemade cakes at lunch time for everyone to enjoy
- Competition Show off your talents: this could be a singing competition, dancing competition or even a race!
- Disco Get your dancing shoes on and hold a school
- Easter Decorate your own Easter Eggs and sell them to family and friends
- Face Painting Get creative at your summer fetes with a face painting
- Garden Party During warmer days hold a garden party. This could be at school or in your own garden and invite friends
- Halloween Get spooky and dress up on Halloween, why not add some fun games like apple-bobbing?



- **Indoor Games** Get together to bring in games from home and set up a gaming room at lunch time
- Jumble Sale Re-purpose unwanted items and hold a jumble sale at lunch time
- Karaoke Sing your heart out and hold a karaoke afternoon after school. invite friends and family to
- Laughter Are you an aspiring comedian? Why not organise a comedy show
- Mile of Pennies Make a mile of pennies in your school. Ask all your class to help by donating their coins
- Name the Teddy Ask a local shop to donate a teddy and ask friends to guess the
- Orchestra Organise a musical show with everyone who plays an instrument
- Pyjama Day Everyone loves a PJ day! Be super comfy and wear your favourite pyjamas to school
- Quizzes Put together some guizzes and hold a quiz evening after school. Get parents to join in and source some prizes from your local businesses
- Raffle This a great way to raise funds. You could contact your local businesses and ask them to donate items
- Sports Day Tie in fundraising with your sports day. You could have a drinks stand near the finish line and charge for drinks

- Teddy Bears' Picnic One for the summer months and a real classic
- Uniform day Get all the teachers to come in for the day in school uniform
- Valentines Put together sweet jars in Valentine's colours and sell them at lunch
- Walking Organise a sponsored walk, 5k, 10k or more - get the parents involved too
- Xmas wrapping Set up a Christmas wrapping stall and wrap presents for your friends and family
- on the wild side and host a safari party



# **Event Checklist**

#### **Getting Started**

BEFORE

- Megs There's no end to the number of fundraising activities you can run to help raise money for Ronald McDonald House Charities. Find the right idea for your class using our A to Z of fundraising ideas
- **Set your fundraising goal** How much would you like to raise? Download our totaliser to see your money add up
- Choose a date Make sure it doesn't clash with any other school events
- **Sponsorship forms** Download our sponsorship form to take home and get friends and family to sponsor your event

#### **Planning**

- Find a suitable venue Will you need to use the school hall, a classroom or field?
- Decide if you need help Do you need help from other classes or parents?
- How will you raise the money? Ticket sales, raffles, sponsorship are all good starting points
- Do you have α local House who can help you?

  Let the House know, they would love to hear from you! See our keep in touch page

#### **Permission**

**Do you need permission?** – Will you need permission from the Head Teacher or parents?

#### Spread the word

- **Do you need posters and flyers?** Download our poster templates to kick start your event
- How will you spread the word? An announcement in the school assembly, a note in class registers, or a letter for students to take home, are all good ways of spreading the word
- Can you make use of the school's Facebook and Twitter
  pages to spread the word? Ask your teachers to help out!

#### Logistics

- What do you need to take with you on the day?
- Do you need a cash float?
- Do you have enough time for the class to help set up?

Once you've got an idea of what type of event you want to hold – here's a checklist full of helpful tips to get you organised in the run up to the big day.

#### On The Day

During Event

- Take lots of pictures Make sure you get the names of everyone in your pictures and consent to use their images. We can provide a photo consent form if required
- Enjoy the event! Now is the time to enjoy all the hard work you have put into making it happen!

#### After

After

- Count how much you've raised!
- Send out thank you letters or cards to parents or teachers who helped you organise the event
- Update your fundraising board in the classroom. Add photos and total raised
- Shout about it! Ask the class to hold a special assembly to tell everyone about your event
- Tell us how the event went and share your photos and stories. We can send the class a certificate and thank you letter for the hourd.
- Send any cheques made payable to Ronald McDonald House Charities.
   Please see our paying-in form for further details

### **Keeping Families Close**

