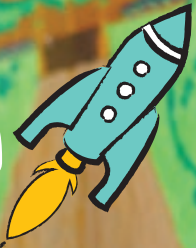


inspire

Your supporter magazine



Spring 2025



Aiming high

Inside

- Noah's story
- Update on Reuben
- See 'beyond our gates'


The Children's Trust
For children with brain injury

Welcome



I'd like to start by saying 'thank you'. Without supporters like you, the stories packed into this edition of *inspire* wouldn't be possible!

You help us provide outstanding education and specialist support for children with brain injury and neurodisability.

We're proud to share we have recently retained an Ofsted 'Good provider' rating for our residential care. Inspectors recognised our caring approach saying: "Staff provide genuine, nurturing care to children and look after them in a way that is thoughtful and kind".

We're always looking ahead and aiming high, embracing the latest technology and techniques to help the children and young people we support to live the best life possible.

Every single person here plays an important role which is why we're including a new staff profile section below, to show that caring really is a team effort.

Thank you for being part of our team.
Best wishes,

Mike Thiedke
Chief Executive



Sarah Joyce, Senior Gardener



Horticulturalist Sarah and her small team, which includes four volunteers, are responsible for the mammoth task of looking after our extensive 24-acre site. It includes lawns, a historic rose garden, woodland and a sensory garden. Our site has more than 1,000 shrubs and trees which are all protected. Each residential house has its own garden too. So Sarah and the team are busy all year round.

Sarah enjoys talking with children and their families. Many have spent months in hospital so our grounds are literally a 'breath of fresh air'. Children love asking Sarah questions,



Reuben gets a ride on the tractor

most often about her tractor! "It's lovely to see everyone enjoying our great outdoors," said Sarah, "I feel very privileged to work here and to be custodian of these historic grounds".



The Children's Trust, Tadworth Court,
Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5RU



01737 364 349



thechildrenstrust.org.uk



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TCT_2088 February 2025

Registered charity number 288018

Leading the way



ROBERT® in action helping Ibrahim with therapy

Our experienced team of therapists get to know the children and young people we support and use their expertise to create a tailored therapy plan. We integrate technology into our therapy, to help them achieve their individual goals.

As rehabilitation specialists, we were selected as the only UK paediatric centre to trial **ROBERT®**. This innovative robotic device offers intensive rehabilitation for arms and legs, allowing early mobilisation to help ensure the best possible recovery.

Another cutting-edge technology is **DIEGO**. It takes away the effect of gravity, so children



DIEGO Making therapy fun for Ben

can use their arms with less effort. Children can practice functional movements whilst playing fun computerised games, and re-learn everyday things, like eating and getting dressed.

To help children with physical disabilities to stand and move around more easily, we also use **Innowalk PRO**, a robotic therapy device.



National award winner

We're delighted to have won

Rehab outcome of the year at the Neuro Rehab Awards 2024. The judging panel praised our multidisciplinary team approach, noting how we work together with the children and families we support, to get the best outcomes.

Find out more at

thechildrenstrust.org.uk/news

Beyond our gates

Have you wondered what's beyond the gates at Tadworth Court? A country mansion has been here since the 17th century. Caring for children on site began in 1927 when Peter Reid left a legacy of £20,000 to create a country branch of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

In 1984 The Children's Trust became proud custodians. Today it's home to our specialist

rehabilitation service for children with acquired brain injury. We are trusted and recognised as the country's leading centre of excellence.

Our team of experts care for some of the most vulnerable children with brain injury, neurodisability and complex needs from right across the UK. Over the years, our amazing supporters have helped us create specialist, purpose-built facilities all on one historic site.



Let us show you around

- 1 Hydrotherapy pool** – for rehabilitation, physical development and wellbeing.
- 2 New Cheyne Centre** – our therapy centre, funded through legacy donations. A variety of sessions take place here including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, psychological support, music therapy and play therapy. It houses a gymnasium for physiotherapy sessions, an occupational therapy kitchen, a sensory room, a music room, a soft play facility as well as school classrooms.
- 3 The Children's Trust School** – for children with complex health and medical needs, alongside multiple barriers to learning.
- 4 Family accommodation** – we have a range of options for parents and carers to stay on-site.

- 5 Mansion** – including reception, offices, canteen and meeting rooms.
- 6 Rose garden** – heritage garden set out in original 17th century style.
- 7 Residential houses** – we have 8 residential homes located across our site for children visiting us for neurorehabilitation and for residential pupils from The Children's Trust School. Our residential houses provide a home from home atmosphere.



Tadworth Court has a long and proud history of caring for children

It all started with a legacy...

Imagine what you could help us achieve in years to come by leaving a gift to The Children's Trust in your Will.

Find out more:

thechildrenstrust.org.uk/something-special

Making music together



Children love music therapy because it's fun and creative. Music can activate and stimulate many different areas of the brain at the same time, helping strengthen and build new connections after a brain injury.

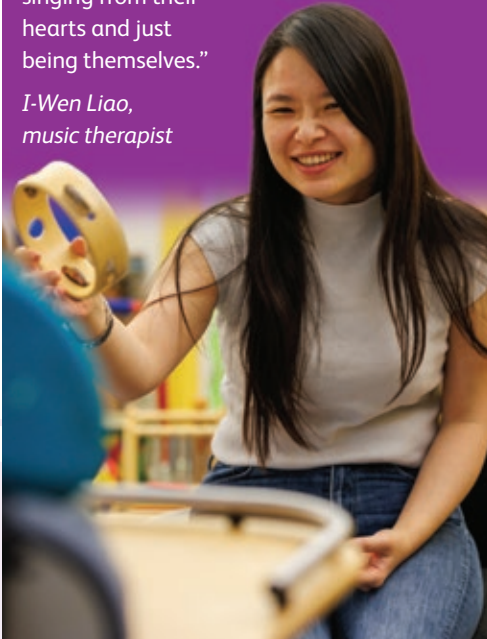
We use music therapy to support concentration, memory, attention, communication, movement and social skills. It can also help express emotions, reduce anxiety, boost mood and improve wellbeing.

"Where words fail, music speaks."

Hans Christian Andersen

"I'm part of the rehabilitation team and use music to connect and communicate. I work with around 15 children a week, individually or in group sessions. I love seeing how music really brings out the creativity in children. They have their own moment in music, singing from their hearts and just being themselves."

*I-Wen Liao,
music therapist*



Music therapy sessions are helping Ben to feel in control, express emotions and feel a positive sense of achievement.

Did you know?

Music therapy at The Children's Trust is funded entirely by kind donations from people like you.

110 young people engaged in life-enhancing music therapy last year.



Music has a powerful effect on the brain and plays a vital role in rehabilitation

A little note...

Your donations really do change lives

thechildrenstrust.org.uk/donate-inspire



Happy days!



Harvey at Kingswood's 'Pillage the Village' Halloween event

Our unique blend of specialist therapy, care and support includes play. It helps reduce children's anxieties, strengthen their resilience and express themselves. Your fantastic support means children have so much fun too.



Laura learning how to do graffiti art



Siddique taking part in some Diwali craft making



Indy meeting and learning all about a giant African land snail



Jai enjoying some archery at Sports Inclusion Day

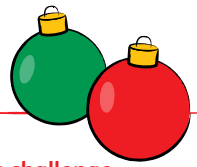


Finn using a sensory box



Zac having fun at our Sports Inclusion Day

Magical Christmas



Thank you for all the support with our festive fundraising activities to bring the magic of Christmas to children with brain injury. We raised over £200,000.



A huge thank you

Christmas Appeal

Our Christmas appeal highlighted how getting access to therapy quickly is so important for a child's recovery. It featured Reuben who came here after a stroke. We are grateful to supporters who helped us raise over £30,000.

Christmas Raffle

We invited supporters, friends and neighbours to enter our raffle which raised a record £22,000.

Winter Festival

Thanks to all the supporters who came along to our festive event which raised £23,000.

Shout out to our shops who supported our festive fundraising!

Thank you to our wonderful customers, volunteers and staff in our 14 shops.

The Big Give fundraising challenge

Thank you for helping us raise funds to support our vital transport services. With matched funding from The Big Give, we raised an incredible £118,000 in one week!

Elf Fun

Thanks to all the elves who took part in Elf Fun challenges and raised over £20,000.



Watch Reuben's heartwarming story

Scan the code or visit

thechildrenstrust.org.uk/christmas



Update: after intensive therapy at Tadworth, Reuben is back home and exceeding all expectations! He's using all his fingers to grasp and his words are coming back. To strengthen his core, he's started horse riding lessons.



Noah's story

Noah was three days old when a scan revealed a very large bleed on his brain. When Noah woke after brain surgery, his parents Heidii and Tom were devastated to hear that he had a severe brain injury.

Noah came to The Children's Trust for specialist support two years later. Noah's brain injury meant that he was struggling with his coordination and balance and would frequently fall over and hurt himself. He had also lost communication skills which meant he was unable to ask for help and often felt frustrated.

Our team worked with his family to set goals for Noah. Mum Heidii said: "One of the main goals with Noah was to provide him with some stability in movement. We also wanted him to be able to integrate his right arm as a helper hand and learn to use his fingers, as his right arm, hand and fine motor skills were impacted by his brain injury."

We put a personalised therapy programme in place for Noah. Our specialist team worked with Noah in physiotherapy, occupational therapy, hydrotherapy, speech and language therapy and support from a psychologist. Play and leisure



Hydrotherapy was one of Noah's favourite activities

activities were incorporated into his treatment plan. His family stayed onsite and joined in with play therapy and family outings.

Noah's progress after his eight-week placement. Noah automatically used his right arm for two-handed activities. He could feed himself and enjoyed mealtimes. He communicated using linked sentences and a wider vocabulary.

How is Noah today? Noah returned to his nursery, where he has independently joined in with painting, drawing and building blocks. "Our aim is that by the time he goes to school, he's able to join in with his peers," said Heidii.



Noah is growing more independent by the day



Thank you for helping children like Noah



Read the whole story:
thechildrenstrust.org.uk/noahs-story

Vital volunteers



Volunteer driver Tim

Tim volunteers up to three times a week, driving children to medical appointments or on fun days out. His support means families can focus on what's important. Like having fun and enjoying a day out, or attending a hospital appointment without the stress of the journey, the worry and expense of parking or unloading equipment.

Sometimes Tim takes a family home after their placement here has ended, like 14 year old Harley who came to Tadworth Court for intensive rehabilitation after an accident on his scooter caused a serious brain injury. Before driving Harley home to Warwickshire, Tim was delighted to attend his bell ringing ceremony. It marked the end of Harley's treatment and was attended by staff and family members. On the trip Harley's excitement grew as he got closer



Harley ringing the bell

to home. "It was so rewarding to be part of his journey," says Tim.

"I wanted to find a local charity to get involved with. That was 13 years ago, and I've been volunteering ever since."

Tim, volunteer driver

Volunteer drivers...

- Take the children on days out – museum visits, boat trips, horse riding
- Transport children to appointments – dentist, hospital, optician
- Drive children and their families home – after their rehabilitation at Tadworth

In 2024 our transport team completed



Thank you for supporting our The Big Give transport campaign. With matched funding we raised an incredible **£118,000**.

Join our volunteer team

Find out more:

thechildrenstrust.org.uk/volunteering



Support our work



We know that every year, 40,000 children in the UK are left with a brain injury from an accident or illness, and it can be devastating. Amazing supporters like you help us give children and young people specialist rehabilitation and support to live the best life possible.

The sky's the limit!

Usually you'd find 86 year-old Pauline volunteering in our Sevenoaks charity shop. However last summer she took on a 12,000ft skydive and raised an incredible £5,200 for our work.



Would you skydive for children with brain injury? Find out more thechildrenstrust.org.uk/skydive

Going the extra mile

Aged 11, Chas's future hung in the balance after an accident on a family skiing trip resulted in a serious brain injury. Now 28, Chas



Chas is fundraising to say thank you for our support

is fundraising to help others with brain injury. He recently ran a half marathon for us and has involved his employer Swift too. They kindly sponsored our 2024 Winter Festival.

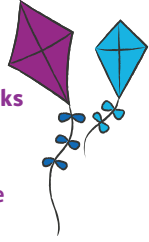
More fundraising ideas

London Landmarks Half Marathon

6 April 2025

Register at

thechildrenstrust.org.uk/landmarks



Sign up to our

40 miles in March virtual challenge

March 2025

Find out more at

thechildrenstrust.org.uk/40miles

Your charity of the year

Whether you are a school, association, club, business... we'd love you to support us all year round.

thechildrenstrust.org.uk/charity-of-the-year

Thank you for helping children like Siddique



Your donations make a difference

Please donate at

thechildrenstrust.org.uk/donate-inspire

You could win

£25,000

19

13

Play our Weekly Lottery
and support children
with brain injury
and neurodisability

Play for just £1 per week

and support children like Zac



Visit lottery.thechildrenstrust.org.uk

Call 0330 123 1475

Scan the QR code

Scan me



BeGambleAware.org[®]

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The Children's Trust
WEEKLY LOTTERY