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Thanks for Ollie



OLLIE Young's parents thanked supporters for their fundraising efforts on what would have been his seventh birthday, today.

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Ollie's birthday gift for brain research

> £40,000 raised in youngster's memory

By LAURA HERBERT

THE parents of Ollie Young have thanked supporters for raising cash in his memory on what would have been his seventh birthday today.

Little Ollie, of Woosehill, died a year ago yesterday aged six from a brain tumour. The Young family plan to mark Ollie's birthday privately and will release fireworks and balloons at 7.08pm tonight, the time Ollie was born in 2006.

Family, friends and supporters of the Ollie Young Foundation (OYF) are also invited to do the same, or mark the time by lighting candles, or remembering him in their thoughts and prayers.

Ollie's mum Sarah said: "It still doesn't seem possible, these past 15 months since Ollie's diagnosis sometimes feels very surreal, as though I'm living in some dream. We miss him desperately.

"This is such an emotional week for us on top of what has been an incredibly difficult time.

"But to everyone who has helped us along the way, I know I couldn't have done it without you. So, thank you."

Following his death, Ollie's parents and brother Alfie launched the foundation to fund research into brain tumours and so far



Ollie Young would have been seven years old today.

£40,000 has been raised to help the Brain Tumour Research charity.

Ollie's dad Simon added: "No one should doubt our appreciation for everyone who has baked or bought cakes, taken part in a sponsored event for us, purchased some Ollie Young Foundation merchandise or put their hands in their pockets for one of the many other fundraising activities.

"People care so much about what

we are trying to achieve that they will literally run 100 miles for us, as our friend Shaun Edwards will be doing soon. It's all incredible, and so heartwarming."

A proportion of the fundraising will go to Helen & Douglas House hospice and childhood cancer charity CLIC Sargent, after the Young family were helped by both charities.

The OYF made its first purchase of a £3,000 hoist for Helen & Douglas House in December.

Supporters have helped raise funds by organising events including race nights, carol concerts, a 10k race, a fundraising party hosted by Wokingham Gossip Girls (WGG) and an auction.

Mrs Young added: "We'll be saying 'happy birthday' privately to Ollie in a way we know he'd have loved and many of our friends and family are planning to do something similar to remember him, too.

"Going forward we'll continue with our efforts to fund research into paediatric brain tumours, which is a massively under-funded area.

"In Ollie's memory we wish to help to increase life expectancy for brain tumour patients, improve their quality of life and, ultimately, save lives."