

Jabe's Update, Autumn 2007

In April, we took Jabe and Tyger up to a Calvert Trust Activity Centre in The Lake District. This was a great opportunity for Jabe to abseil, climb, horse-ride and sail. In the evenings he had the opportunity to socialise. He's the best net-worker that we know! He has made friends all over the place. If you're one of them, you haven't been forgotten, he just struggles to keep up with his e-mail!



As shown above, Jabe likes to be very active and he has become a very enthusiastic member of a local sports club for children who use wheelchairs - The Upside Down Sports Club. The club meets one Saturday a month for sport and occasionally for other activities, such as a BBQ that we hosted in July. The club is a great place for Jabe to feel part of a group as it's hard for him to make friends with able bodied children.

This September, Jabe started Hartford Junior School. He was quite nervous about this new beginning but he's settled very quickly and now loves it. He continues to really enjoy most subjects whilst tolerating reading and writing! He is also doing well with his swimming and has the long term aim of swimming at the Paralympics.

There's so much he wants to fit into his life!

In the past Jabe has benefited from 2 weeks of intensive therapy during his visits to the Bobath Centre. He is keen to go again, but the NHS has now 'withdrawn' funding for this, and so we are considering sending him privately. Generally, we would like Jabe to receive more Physiotherapy and Speech Therapy. The therapists have a huge case load and each child gets less than would be beneficial.

We have a care agency that provides some really valuable support, but unfortunately they often have limited availability and their charges are high - so, we are currently looking into getting an au pair to help out with the family.

Our car has proved to be a great buy - enabling Jabe to take his powered wheelchair out and be much more independent. We are very grateful to those of you who helped us to buy it. Since the purchase of the car, the trust fund expenditure has largely been related to the maintenance of the powered wheelchair and adapted bath. Looking forward, our main aim is to raise money so that we can ensure Jabe's long term financial security. He is always going to require carers to help him with basic care needs. Many disabled people live in poverty, and we want to ensure that this is not the case for Jabe.

We hope that you would like to support us this year by purchasing Christmas Cards.

Our thanks for your support,

Zac and Julie Peake