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Christmas celebrations on the children's ward

Father Christmas will be making an extra special visit to the children's ward at the RUH this Christmas Day to make it as special as possible.

Children staying on the ward will also wake up to a stocking at the end of every bed filled with treats and gifts that have been delivered during the night.

Jo Powell, Hospital Play Specialist at the RUH said: "It's really important that Father Christmas can still find the children even if they're not at home for Christmas day. Although we don't have a chimney here in the children's ward, we've given him a magic key so he can deliver his parcels to everyone."

But even Father Christmas needs a helping hand so the elves at John Lewis, together with those from the Disney Store and Virgin Mobile, have helped to make the children's Christmas magical.

Jo added: "Finding good presents is a challenge every year and it can be quite tough to get the right present for each child as we have such a huge range of ages and abilities as well as children who are nil by mouth or have special needs. We have babies and toddlers, right up to 17 year olds and we don't always know until Christmas Eve who will be staying with us. John Lewis at Cribbs Causeway has been fantastic."

To pack in even more festive cheer a Christmas Party is going to be held for all the children and their families on Tuesday the 23rd December. Another special visitor will be Muppet, the hospital visiting dog, coming along for plenty of Christmas cuddles.

Jo said: "The children have been working on craft activities over the past few days to prepare for Christmas, making cards to send to family and school friends, party hats to celebrate and presents for loved ones. Even though Christmas won't be the same for many of our children this year, hopefully we can make it as fun and festive as possible."

Ends

Notes for editors

There will be a photo opportunity with the hospital play specialists on 17 December (before 3pm) or a further opportunity with staff on the ward at the Christmas Party on Tuesday December 23, between 2-3pm. Please call Rachel on 01225 825849 for further information.