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19th March 09

1000 cranes fly high in the children's ward

The children's ward at the RUH is flying high with the support of 1000 brightly coloured cranes.

Bath University Japanese Society brought hundreds of origami cranes that they made for Comic Relief to hang from the ceiling above reception. The students also ran a workshop on the ward with the children, play specialists and teachers to make their own origami cranes to bring the number up to 1000.

Thousand Origami Cranes (千羽鶴, Senbazuru or Zenbazuru) is a group of one thousand origami paper cranes held together by strings.

In modern Japan thousand origami cranes are commonly given to friends or family to wish recovery. Often it is done by collective effort – in schools often an entire class contributes a small number each to achieve the goal. It brings colours to the otherwise monotone view from a bed, not to mention the mental support provided by knowing they are cared for.

An ancient Japanese legend promises that anyone who folds a thousand origami cranes will be granted a wish by a crane, such as long life or recovery from illness or injury. The crane in Japan is one of the mystical or holy beasts (others include the dragon and tortoise), and is said to live for a thousand years.

Origami is an ancient Japanese craft of paper folding. Origami only uses a small number of different folds, but they can be combined in an infinite variety of ways to make extremely intricate designs. The Japanese do not see origami as an art form, but an integrated part of their culture and tradition.

Children at the RUH will have their spirits raised by the flying cranes and all played a small part in creating their own display.

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