

FIRST HAND ALDER HEY EXPERIENCE

By Harry Woods



WHY I GO TO ALDER HEY

The reason that I have to attend Alder Hey is because when I was seven months old, I got a rare disease called Meningitis Septicaemia Type B.



MY OPERATION IN NOVEMBER

On 26th November, I am having an operation to lengthen my leg. They use a precise nail which lengthens my leg by five centimetres and I will be off school for up to two months. A few times a day, I will need to put a special machine on my leg. The operation will cost £10 000.

On the morning of my operation, I will be up at 6a.m. and have something little to eat before 6.30a.m. I will be allowed to have little sips of water before I go to the hospital at 11a.m. When I get to the hospital, the nurse will ask me a few questions to see how I am feeling. They will check my weight and height and also my temperature and oxygen. My doctor and the doctor who helps me go to sleep will come to talk to me to see if I am OK and talk to me about what will happen. When it's time for my operation, they will walk me to the theatre and I will get on to the bed. They

give me a gas mask to help me to go to sleep. I told my Mum last time that it smelled like strawberries!

Next, I will wake up and my operation will be over. I will still feel really sleepy but when I wake up I will be hungry and thirsty so the nurse will bring me toast and water. The nurse will keep checking on me through the night to see how I am doing. My Mum is allowed to sleep in a small bed next to me so I am not on my own.

I like it when I go to my own room because it has its own bathroom and a TV on the wall. It has a light strip across the wall that changed colour so that you don't have to put the big bright light on.

HOW I WILL FEEL AFTERWARDS

After I get the all clear that I can go home and rest, I try my best to get well. Every Thursday, I get to go swimming in a special pool inside the hospital with other children like me and my Mum can watch. I also go to physio where I do leg exercises, play football, go on the treadmill and lots of other fun things.



I give Alder Hey 5/5 for their amazing care and for all the nurses who are kind and friendly and look after me!

