

News

Trust cares for patients

SOMERSET Trust was caring for 48 patients with coronavirus in hospital as of last Wednesday, figures show.

NHS England data shows the number of people being treated in hospital with Covid-19 by 8am on April 12 was down from 52 on the same day the previous week.

The number of beds at Somerset NHS Foundation Trust occupied by people who tested positive for Covid-19 increased in the last four weeks – 28 days ago, there were 40.

Across England there were 6,428 people in hospital with Covid as of April 12, with 135 of them in mechanical ventilation beds.

Nationally, the number of hospital patients with Covid-19 has decreased by 24 per cent in the last four weeks, while the number on mechanical ventilators has decreased by 27 per cent.

The figures also show that 55 new patients with Covid were admitted to hospital in Somerset NHS Foundation Trust in the week to April 10. This was up from 50 in the previous seven days.



Six-year-old Aiden with Gina Bradbury-Fox, Gemma Hunt and Julia Bradbury at the National Outdoor Expo. Image: Glen Minikin

Aiden helps kids enjoy the outdoors

TWO Somerset schools have been gifted kits of waterproofs and wellies so that pupils can play and learn outdoors.

Aiden Redfearn-Ward, who is six years old, together with The Outdoor Guide (TOG) Foundation, has donated 20 sets of wellington boots and waterproof clothing to Wiveliscombe Primary School and Puriton Primary School after a huge fundraising challenge.

Together, with his parents, Aiden set himself the challenge to hike the distance of a half marathon (13 miles) across Dartmoor so that he could share his love of the outdoors with other children.

Aiden exceeded his target by hiking an incredible 16 miles in total.

He said: "I love climbing mountains, playing outside and sleeping in a hammock when I go camping. I hope other kids can do this now too."

The project, whose ambassadors are TV presenter Julia Bradbury and CBeebies presenter

By Rachel Mead

Gemma Hunt, was co-founded in 2021 by Julia and her sister, Gina Bradbury Fox.

Gina said: "We are aiming to raise more than £6 million so that every state primary school in the UK can have 10 sets of waterproofs and wellies at their disposal.

"Nine children in every state-funded class of 30 are currently living below the poverty line with many families unable to afford outdoor clothing for their children.

"We wish for all kids to enjoy the outdoors, and with thanks to children like Aiden, we're making a real difference."

Aiden first met Julia Bradbury when he was an 18-month old enjoying a walking holiday in the Lake District.

At the time Julia was filming

ITV's 'Britain's 100 Favourite Walks' and the TV crew were amazed to see the toddler at the top of one of the UK's highest peaks so they soon set about capturing him on camera.

Since then Aiden met with Julia and Gina at the National Outdoor Expo where this year he was awarded the prestigious title of the first 'Junior Ambassador of The Outdoor Guide Foundation'.

Mike Seaman, the CEO of Raccoon Media Group, which runs the National Outdoor Expo, match-funded Aiden's fundraising - doubling the number of waterproofs and wellies gifted to Somerset Schools.

Mike said: "Aiden is a brilliant role model, and it was an absolute pleasure to meet him at the show and to match his fundraising.

"For someone so young to take on such a difficult challenge is truly inspiring, and I wonder if we might see him back at the National Outdoor Expo as a speaker one day!"

Coronation waste days

WASTE collections will take place on Monday, May 1, as part of special arrangements for the coronation period.

The crews will collect waste on the bank holiday for the first time, which will help to accommodate the extra scheduled day off for the Coronation of King Charles III.

If you normally have

your waste collected on the Monday, this will remain the same on May 1. Collections will be on the normal scheduled days throughout the rest of the week.

However, it is important to note that there will be no collections on bank holiday Monday, May 8. Collections will also take place one day later for the rest of that week.

For example, collections that usually take place on Friday, May 12 will instead take place on Saturday, May 13.

This allows crew members to join in on the celebrations.

For more information, please visit the Somerset Council website.

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