

Christopher's Smile

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coz kids get cancer too



Christopher's Smile was set up in October 2008 by Karen and Kevin

Capel following the tragic death of our only son Christopher from medulloblastoma, an aggressive childhood brain tumour. Christopher was born in June 2002 and was a happy, lively fun loving child who was liked by all. He was a typical 4 year old boy who loved building things and whose favourite colour was of course blue.

In October 2006 Christopher was diagnosed with a brain tumour and our family was never to be the same again.

Neurosurgery and intensive chemotherapy left Christopher with hair loss, a permanent hearing deficit, visual impairment, the inability to walk, plus chronic fatigue and sickness. Although

the treatment appeared successful at first, 21 months after the first diagnosis, Christopher lost his courageous battle and passed away nine days before his sixth birthday. Throughout his ordeal, Christopher was determined to be just like any other kid and he never gave up smiling and his passion for living.

No words can ever describe how we felt watching our son battle with a cruel disease and we continue to suffer in our grief and with our sense of loss. We would dearly love to create something good out of the bad we have endured and to that end we have set up "Christopher's Smile" to help fund research into childhood cancer at the Institute of Cancer Research.



The aim is to raise money to fund development of new anti-cancer agents which specifically target the molecular mechanisms that drive childhood cancer without the devastating side effects of current treatments. These drugs will provide an effective cure for all and save the lives of the 25 % of children who currently do not survive their disease.

There is a very significant unmet need for drug development for paediatric cancer. To date no drugs have been made specifically to treat child cancers and internationally there is no centre which has a major programme and facilities in this area. Also, it is not profitable for pharmaceutical companies to undertake

research into these conditions because of the smaller markets involved. However, The Institute of Cancer Research's priorities are driven by clinical need and the likelihood of success, not financial gain.

If through Christopher's Smile we are able to bring a cure one day nearer so at least one child and their family avoid the tortures endured by us, every ounce of effort will be worthwhile.

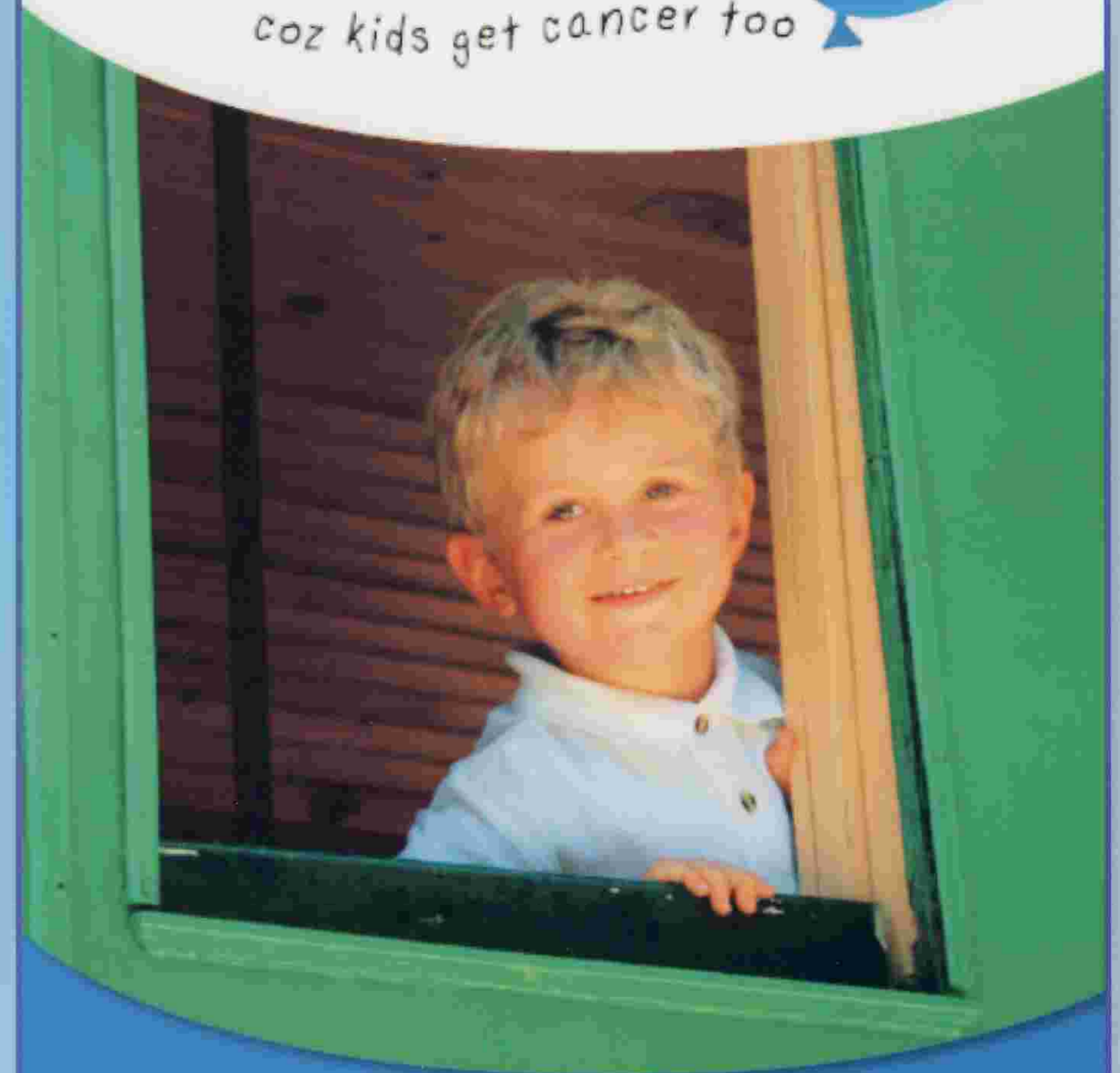
To help us achieve our aim or to learn more about Christopher's Smile visit our website www.christopherssmile.org.uk or contact us at info@christopherssmile.org.uk



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