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PRESS RELEASE

Best foot forward for NHS staff

They may not be climbing a mountain literally but two young brothers from Halesowen will be walking nine miles – the distance it takes to reach the summit of Snowdon – to raise money for Russells Hall Hospital.

Jacob Beecroft, aged eight, and his five-year-old brother Noah, will be stepping out on their charity trek this Saturday (MAY 9) with proud dad Russ leading the adventure.

The football fanatic boys, who attend Lutley Primary School, were eager to do their bit to support NHS staff fighting to save lives during the coronavirus outbreak.

Mr Beecroft said: “They look forward to the clap for carers every Thursday and there’s lots of banging on saucepans. This event has really inspired them to want to help our NHS staff who are the heroes in this battle.”

Starting from home the hikers will make their way across fields to the Hagley Obelisk, a well-known local landmark on Wychbury Hill. Here, they will receive some much-needed refreshment – and words of encouragement – from mum Michele and their grandad, at a safe social distance! They will then head towards Clent and tackle a steep walk to reach the Four Stones monument. After a short rest to admire the views the trio will retrace their steps.

The family have smashed their fundraising target of £100 and raised £700 so far. People can make a donation by visiting the JustGiving page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/michele-beecroft

Chief executive of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust Diane Wake said: “Thank you so much to Jacob and Noah for putting their best foot forward to raise funds for the Trust. Fingers crossed the weather will be good for them.

“This is another heart-warming example of how people all across Dudley want to show their appreciation for our NHS staff who are working tirelessly to care for patients during the pandemic. We have been overwhelmed by the public’s support which is really keeping us going at this difficult time.”

Mr Beecroft, who works at Tata, has been making face shields for staff at other NHS hospitals. But he and his wife, who are also parents to one-year-old Isaac, were keen to do the sponsored walk for Russells Hall Hospital.

Mr Beecroft added: “It is close to our hearts as all our three sons were born there. We are over the moon with the amount raised already as times are hard for a lot of people, but I think this situation has brought everyone closer together.”

As well as fundraising, Jacob and Noah have been painting rainbows for their elderly neighbours to display in the window. To keep entertained during lockdown they have been camping in the garden and even rolling up their sleeves to do a spot of cleaning around the house!

CAPTION

Jacob and Noah Beecroft will be doing a sponsored walk for The Dudley Group NHS Charity.

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