

On the mend, little smiler who battled brain tumour threat

■ Reilly had a growth the size of a tennis ball

■ Family amazed by the tot's speedy recovery

EXCLUSIVE
ALICE MCKEEGAN

ATODDLER with a potentially fatal illness has stunned his family and doctors with his amazing recovery.

Reilly Hughes-Beaumont, three, was diagnosed with a tennis ball-sized brain tumour in November.

His parents, Jenny Hughes and Paul Beaumont, both 26, knew something was wrong when he started vomiting and became uneasy on his feet.

Within the space of a week, their previously bright and energetic tot was unable to walk or even crawl – and he had to undergo emergency life-saving surgery at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

Reilly was seriously ill and

spent three weeks in hospital but was allowed back to his home in Cheadle Hulme, Stockport, for Christmas.

Surgeons managed to remove the majority of his tumour but they were unable to get rid of it entirely because of its size and position.

They warned his family that it could regrow, meaning he could need more operations in the future, but Reilly continues to recover well.

He has returned to pre-school and is back on his feet, relearning all the skills he had lost through the illness.

Jenny said: "The first sign of a problem was when Reilly began walking around with his arms out, as if he couldn't see.

"Doctors didn't know what was wrong with him and although they knew it was something serious when Reilly lost his mobility, they were still shocked to discover a tennis ball-sized tumour attached to his brain.

"We were told it would take him a long time to recover as it was really serious but he has amazed us all with the way he has coped.

He wants to be just like all the

other boys he knows and doesn't let anything stop him.

"Reilly is so determined and always has a smile, the best smile in the world, no matter what. Without that attitude, I really don't think he would have made it."

Reilly's illness has devastated his family in more ways than one.

His parents and eight-year-old sister Paige had to move from their flat to a house because of his mobility problems. But friends and children's charity React have rallied to support them.

Chiefs at React donated a specialist car seat costing hundreds of pounds after he outgrew his old one because of steroid treatment.

"It really can be a struggle providing Reilly with all the equipment he needs so I would like to thank all the wonderful people who have helped us over the past year and made such a difference," said Jenny.

"The new car seat is so important to Reilly and he finds it so comfortable that he falls asleep in it. It's another worry off our minds."



➤ **BACK AT SCHOOL** Reilly Hughes-Beaumont, who had a brain tumour, with mum Jenny Hughes and dad Paul Beaumont