



### **Fast and Furious for brave Keir from Starlight**

Thirteen year old Keir Thompson from Penrith in Cumbria recently had his wish of a lifetime to drive in a Lamborghini granted by Starlight Children's Foundation, the UK's leading wish granting charity for children with serious and terminal illnesses.

At 11 months old, Keir was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis a life-shortening condition that severely affects the major organs of the body and particularly the lungs, when he was only a few weeks old. To fight the illness, Keir has to take lots of medication every day and requires daily physiotherapy to keep his lungs clear. He has spent a long time in hospital and is a regular visitor at The Royal Victoria Hospital in Newcastle. Keir's condition means it is sometimes hard for him to enjoy the kind of activities other boys of his age take part in and because he uses a nippy bi-pap machine, a feeding machine and oxygen equipment at Night, staying with friends is very rare.

Like many boys his age Keir loves fast cars and has always wanted to ride in a sports car. When Starlight asked Keir what his wish would be it came as no surprise when he chose to ride in a Lamborghini sports car.

Starlight immediately set about granting Keir's wish and the charity was thrilled to be able to take up the very generous offer from supporter, Bill Chatterton, who had recently donated a 'Supercar Passenger Ride' he had been given by Vision Motorsport. (Bill is a regular member of staff at Vision Motorsport and the 'Supercar Passenger Ride' was a way of thanking him for his hard work). Bill had heard about Starlight and felt the pass might come in useful for the charity to help make a seriously child's dream come true.

Keir and his family traveled down to Oxfordshire and were met by Bill who was able to show them round the driving centre. Keir was treated to three laps in a yellow Lamborghini Gallardo and then got to have a very special bonus ride in an Atom which goes from 0-60 in 2 seconds! When Keir got out of the Atom he was completely speechless – he'd had the thrill of his life!

As part of his magical wish weekend, Starlight arranged for Keir and mum Paula, sister Amy and family friend Nigel Percival to stay near the driving centre at

Heythrop Park, a gorgeous country house hotel where the family could relax and enjoy all the hotel facilities after a very busy day at the track. Alan the hotel concierge arranged for the family to have a tour of the grounds by golf buggy.

Keir was also treated to an exclusive visit to Heythrop Zoological Gardens: The Home of Amazing Animals. Keir and his family spent the afternoon meeting lions, giraffes and camels. Keir and Amy had fed a camel and Keir even got to stroke a penguin (which I hear feels soft and fluffy).

Keir had the time of his life on his wish and his mum Paula said, *“We had a wonderful weekend, Keir has been bursting with happiness. I can’t thank everyone enough who was involved in making Keir’s dreams come true. Bill Chatterton was such a kind man to donate his driving pass and help make Keir’s dream a reality. And Vision Motorsport were kind to let Keir ride in two different sports cars, he loved both of them! Staying at the Hethrop Park Hotel was a real treat and all the staff were so patient and helpful and really made us feel so special. And our afternoon spent with all the animals at ‘Amazing Animals’ was absolutely amazing! We have all been very spoilt.”*

## **Information**

To refer a child for a wish or to make a donation, please go online at [www.starlight.org.uk](http://www.starlight.org.uk). For every £1 you donate, 93p goes towards helping Starlight’s very ill children.

For more information, please contact Janet Lindsay, [janet@starlight.org.uk](mailto:janet@starlight.org.uk)/ 020 7262 2881 # 230.

Starlight grants once-in-a-lifetime wishes for seriously and terminally ill children, restoring the magic and fun of childhood and giving the whole family happy memories to share, whatever the future holds.

Starlight also creates entertainment in every hospital and hospice throughout the UK. Sick children go to Starlight parties, laugh their way through pantomimes, go out on Starlight Escapes, play games and watch films on the Starlight Fun Centre, and enjoy the toys and puzzles of the Starlight Distraction Box. Happy children respond better to treatment and Starlight helps children to forget about their illness and simply have a bit of fun.