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A REAL SCREAM



LITTLE MIRACLE: Tiana Mackay, 11 months, is home again after her third life-saving operation. Here she is pictured with her parents Kevin Mackay and Lisa King.

DEREHAM

Our brave girl is home

By **EMMA KNIGHTS**

After enduring three serious heart operations in less than a year it will be an extra special Christmas for brave baby Tiana and her family.

For her mum and dad Lisa King and Kevin Mackay have finally been able to bring their little girl home after her latest operation meant she had to spend more than two months in hospital.

Mr Mackay said having Tiana back in Dereham with them and her big brother Dylan, seven, would be "the best Christmas present ever," adding that the family are so excited that they have already decorated their tree and put up their festive decorations.

And December will be a double celebration for them all because it is also the month Tiana will celebrate her first birthday.

Tiana was born with two heart defects: a very rare one called Alcapa, meaning the coronary artery was in the wrong place, and mitral regurgitation, where the heart's mitral valve does not close tightly, stopping the blood from flowing efficiently through the heart and the body.

So far the inspiring youngster has had three major operations, with the most recent one being at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) on September 9 when she had to have her heart's mitral valve replaced after she developed an infection.

Complications after the operation meant Tiana had to stay at GOSH until November 10 when she was transferred to the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (N&N), and last week she was

finally allowed home.

Mr Mackay, 36, said: "It is absolutely fantastic to have Tiana home because it has been such a long road with so many ups and downs.

"Tiana has settled back at home very well and we are all looking forward to an exceptionally special first birthday and Christmas.

"She is full of smiles and giggles. We are very proud of her.

"We have got our Christmas decorations up already because we were so excited to have her home. All of us are getting into the Christmas spirit."

Miss King, 29, said: "We could not quite believe it when we finally brought Tiana home. We were very happy. Dylan was over the moon because Dylan and Tiana both dote on each other - Tiana always has a smile for her brother.

"It is just nice to be all back together at home doing normal things. We would like to say a huge thanks to staff at GOSH and the N&N."

Mr Mackay, who in August did a parachute jump to raise funds for GOSH, said: "We have now reached our target of £2,000 which will be sent to Great Ormond Street Hospital once we've had time to collect it from all those that have given so generously."

People can still give money to Tiana's fund until January 31. For details of how to donate money or visit Tiana's website go to www.edp24.co.uk/dailylinks



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