

Ours started out with Daniel drinking like a fish for a few weeks in January this year. He would often say "It's a world record, I have just had 6 drinks in a row". I assumed it was a little game he was playing. He was very aggressive, not like him at all, and tired a lot of the time too. I looked on the internet and it pointed to diabetes but thought that no way could Daniel have it. I decided I should make an appointment at the doctors just to put my mind at rest. The day before his appointment his teacher came to see me in the playground and said that Daniel had been complaining of a stomach ache quite regularly.

On Wednesday 28 January 2008 we took Daniel to the doctors. I explained to the doctor what had been happening and straight away he tested Dan for ketones. I knew by the look on the Doctors face that it was Diabetes. We were told to go straight to the hospital. My husband and I were in total shock at this stage and still thought that the doctor was wrong. Got to hospital, they tested his blood and it was off the scale. We were asked if he had been losing weight and to be honest I didn't notice until he took his shirt off and I saw just how skinny he had become, I feel extremely guilty that I didn't notice the weight loss. We were told that we got him there on time as it was bordering on life threatening. I couldn't believe that in a matter of hours, I lives had completely changed. I felt even guiltier that the day before I had really shouted at Daniel for being naughty and now I realise that it was his extremely high blood glucose! Daniel was in hospital for 3 days and then we got him home and reality really hit us. Two months later he was diagnosed with Coeliac Disease so all in all, it has been a pretty Cr\*p year, but Daniel is a star and we are so proud at the way he has coped.

I still find it hard to accept sometimes and keep asking Why Daniel, my husband finds it a lot harder to accept which I think a lot of the Dad's do.

I have a photograph of Daniel taken on Boxing Day and he looks really unwell, skinny with dark rings around his eyes - **why didn't I notice this at the time?!** I can't look at those photographs now and have even chucked out the shirt he was wearing as it brings all those memories back!