

Katherine gets ready for date with destiny

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TODAY marks the start of a new dawn for 33-year-old leukaemia sufferer Katherine Sinfield.

The reception class teacher from Balfour Street, was admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham today in preparation for a bone marrow transplant.

Speaking before her return to the hospital where she was a patient for seven-and-a-half weeks earlier this year, Katherine said: "Being told that you have got to spend a month in hospital would fill most people with fear, but for me, it marks the start of my return to health. I was diagnosed with Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia (CML) in April, and although conventional tablets kept the condition under control for a few weeks, it was decided very quickly that I would need a bone marrow transplant.

"Considering that only one-in-three people find a match, I was extremely lucky to find one within a few weeks. I cannot thank the Anthony Nolan charity and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital

enough for their outstanding work."

Katherine will spend today undergoing fairly routine pre-admission tests before starting a regime of radiotherapy tomorrow which will last until the end of the week. Her weekend will be spent hooked to powerful chemotherapy drips and immune-suppressant drugs.

Katherine said: "The first week of my stay is designed to destroy all of my own bone marrow.

"Your body's bone marrow is responsible for the production of white blood cells which fight infection. What happens when you have CML is that your body produces lots of immature white cells. As these cells are not fully developed, your body is continually prone to infection.

"By the end of this week, I will not have any of my own bone marrow or white blood cells left – this is preparing me for the transplant.

"My donor will visit their respective hospital next Monday and then I will receive a bag of their donated stem cells next Tuesday.

"The process sounds simple but there are risks and side-effects."



FINGERS CROSSED . . . Katherine and Stephen Sinfield await good news over the coming weeks.

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TASTY TREATS . . . Twycross Zoo will hold a pumpkin competition with the entries eventually being consumed by its meerkats

TWYCROSS Zoo is holding its Halloween Spooktacular this half term, with a host of scary celebrations set to take place.

Visitors can take a terrifying trip on the Ghost Train, join the zoo's discovery team for a Myths and Legends tour, check out their Scary Scarecrow

display, have their faces painted like a zombie, and make themselves jump on the bouncy castle.

Visitors can also tuck into devilish treats such as pumpkin soup, hot dogs, toffee apples and even ice their own gingerbread ghost.

The zoo is also holding a Pumpkin

Carving Competition on Saturday, October 26.

The best three pumpkins will be chosen by a panel of judges at 1pm and prizes will be given out, before the pumpkins are filled with tasty treats and given to the mob of meerkats as enrichment.



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