**Jacob's Condition**

Jacob has cerebral palsy which means that he experiences stiffness or spasticity in his muscles and has difficulties with his mobility and co-ordination. This condition was caused by damage to the brain either before, during or shortly after birth.

Some children with cerebral palsy also have difficulties with talking, eating, hearing and sight but luckily Jacob is not affected in these areas, only with his mobility.

**Jacob's Treatment - Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy**

We have discovered that there is a treatment available that could help Jacob which is called Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR). The treatment is available in the U.S.A and has been performed on many children over the last 20 years with life changing results. The procedure has just started to be performed in this country at Frenchay Hospital in Bristol but it is not yet widely available in this country.

The operation involves cutting the faulty nerve roots in the spinal cord so that they cannot cause the muscles to stiffen and cause the spasticity. It is a major operation and involves intensive physiotherapy afterwards to achieve the best results. However, we have heard so many stories of children having this operation and then being able to do things that they couldn’t do before such as crawling and walking independently that we think that Jacob should be given the chance to have this life-changing operation too.