

Selfless Dylan appears on Noel Edmonds' show

TV TREAT FOR LAD, 11, WITH BIG HEART



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HE'S the kindest lad in Britain, let alone the North.

So Dylan Ward more than deserves the early Christmas present we'll see him get on TV tonight, all thanks to celebrity presenter Noel Edmonds.

After losing his granddad to cancer, the 11-year-old, from Washington, set about raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The young artist spends all his spare time crafting special 'wonder boxes' – packages of toys, games and art materials to brighten days for sick youngsters stuck in hospitals across the region.

Dylan's selfless generosity touched the hearts of millions of folk last year when they saw him earn the Britain's Kindest Kid award in a Channel 5 competition.

And now, just over a year after he started making the boxes, his mum Ann Marie has teamed up with telly's Noel Edmonds to give him a present all of his own, to make him smile just as much as the youngsters he helps.

Viewers will be able to watch tonight as Noel surprises him while he's hosting a fundraising exhibition of his pictures – and whisks him away to grant his wish to have an encounter with a penguin, his favourite animal.

Ann Marie, 31, said: "I had tears in my eyes – the look on his face was an absolute picture. Dylan so deserves this. He does all this hard

work and isn't bothered about people knowing what he does or getting any recognition – it's just all about the charity.

"For Christmas all he's asked for is some more art materials to make up more boxes.

"I thought it would be lovely to get him something, so that's why I nominated him.

"He is penguin mad and has been ever since his grandad, who died two years ago, gave him a toy penguin. He collects them and he's made a winter wonderland in the conservatory complete with penguins.

"He's adopted one at Scarborough Sea Life Centre too, called Gonzo, but he's never seen them in real life.

"So Noel took him to meet Gonzo and he absolutely loved it."

Teaching assistant Ann Marie nominated Dylan for Noel's visit last summer and had to keep it a closely-guarded secret for weeks – she was even banned from telling Dylan's dad and her husband Stephen until the night before to make sure it stayed a surprise.

The TV show tonight will show it was all worth it... and there will be another surprise in store for Dylan which viewers will have to tune in to see – the ultimate penguin encounter in a faraway place.

She said: "It was just me who knew. Some relatives won't even know until they see the show."

Dylan has big plans for 2012, including expanding his wonder-box project.

And Dylan wants to create a business that sells wonder-boxes to the public, with most of the proceeds going to the Macmillan Cancer Support charity.

● Watch Dylan on Noel's Christmas Presents on Sky 1 tonight at 6.30pm.