

Sun on Sunday's Christmas Blankets for Babies Appeal

The Sun on Sunday have partnered with Bliss, the UK's leading charity dedicated to babies born premature or sick, to sprinkle some much needed festive cheer. One in seven babies are born needing neonatal care in the UK and the figure is rising. Up to 8,000 will spend their first Christmas in neonatal units this year. We are asking you to knit a blanket for these brave babies as their first Christmas present in one of the 192 neonatal units across the UK. And we will deliver these special gifts to babies in hospitals across the country.

HOW TO HELP

Suggested blanket pattern:

PATTERN TO MAKE A 24 X 30 INCH (61 X 76 CM) BABY BLANKET kindly devised for BLISS by Marilyn Marsh

YOU NEED: 250grams Double Knit yarn and 4mm needles (size '8')

Cast on 128 stitches and knit 17 rows.

At beginning and end of next and each following pattern rows you will knit 9 stitches for the border to prevent it curling up.

1st row: knit 9 (knit 10, purl 10) repeat to last 9 sts, knit

2nd row: knit 9 (purl 10, knit 10) repeat to last 19 sts, purl 10, knit 9

Repeat these rows 6 times

15th row as 2nd row.

16th row as 1st row

Repeat 15th and 16th rows 6 times to form the pattern (28 rows).

Repeat the above 28 rows of the pattern a further 6 times, the blanket should now measure approx. 28 inches.

Knit 17 rows then cast off.

Blankets should NOT be ironed as this flattens the fibres and makes them much less warm

We have teamed up with East London Textiles Ltd and The Big Yellow Self Storage Company <https://www.bigyellow.co.uk> - to help us store your blankets ready for distribution.

PLEASE post blankets to:

The Sun on Sunday's Christmas Blankets for Babies Appeal, East London Textiles Ltd (E.L.T.), Unit G4, Gallmans End Farm, Manor road, Abridge , Essex, RM4 1NA

All blankets will be quality controlled

We will only be sending out blankets to units in line with their infection control policies and at such time as access to units is possible [ends]