ELDERLY residents at Endeavour Nursing Home, Kogarah, received a heart-warming Christmas surprise last Thursday.

Eleven children from Connells Point Public School arrived bearing gifts for about 60 residents.

Their arrival was particularly welcomed by those whose family members could not visit.

Pupils from years 4, 5 and 6 donated more than 150 presents, including hand towels, shampoo and soap as part of their “gift drive” — an initiative started by teacher Nathan Parsons.

“It’s the first time we’ve done it, but we wanted to contribute to the community,” Mr. Parsons said.

“My mother and sister work in nursing and aged care and I really wanted to emphasise to my students that it’s nice to do something for others.

“Children’s hospitals get a lot of charity so this was something a little less well-known. Nursing homes have received a lot of bad press lately.

“Many of the children have grandparents, so they’re used to chatting with them and listening to their stories.

“They were a bit sad to see them confined to their four walls but they were so calm and patient with them. They had wonderful empathy. Some of the residents were hard of hearing, so the kids would just talk louder about things like the weather.

“They didn’t want to go back to school.”