



Newsletter



Issue 25 Spring/Summer 2020

Welcome to the next edition of our practice newsletter. As well as keeping you informed of any changes happening at the practice, there is also some helpful information on some of the services we offer.

COVID-19

When news broke of the new coronavirus outbreak in China, I don't think any of us could have foreseen just how much of an impact the coronavirus was going to have on the Practice, and indeed on the lives of each and every one of us.

With guidance from the Government, Public Health England and the British Dental Association being updated on a daily basis, it soon became very clear how serious this pandemic was becoming, and on Sunday 22nd March 2020 the British Dental Association issued urgent advice recommending that dental practices cease all routine dentistry and operate an advice and emergency triage telephone service only. A difficult and distressing decision for us all to come to terms with.

We are delighted to be back to work, albeit a restricted service at present. We hope to be able to resume a more normal service in the near future.

For those patients who have had their appointments cancelled during the period of 'lock-down', we will endeavour to re-schedule your appointments as soon as we can.

We would like to thank you for your patience during this difficult time, and for all of your kind wishes during the practice closure.

We have really missed you!

From all of the team at Sturminster Dental Care.

THANK
YOU

Your new patient journey

Your safety is of paramount importance to us, and we have been working relentlessly behind the scenes to put in place additional measures to ensure the safety of you and our staff so that we can welcome you back to the practice as soon as possible.

You will notice changes to the way you are welcomed into the practice; you will be met by a member of the team who will escort you into the practice once a pre-screening check and your temperature has been taken, you will be asked to sanitise your hands on arrival and leaving the practice, and we ask you to respect the social distancing measures in place throughout the practice.

We have installed screens in the reception area, and you will notice fewer seats – all 2 metres apart and no magazines or children's toys in the waiting room.

The clinical team will be wearing additional items of Protective Personal Equipment (PPE) – but please do not be alarmed, it is still us under the masks, visors and gowns!

The whole practice will be fitted with air purifying units which kill 99.99% of airborne viruses & bacteria within minutes.

We want to reassure you that the whole team at Sturminster Dental Care are committed to your safety; we have always maintained the highest standards of infection control, and we have implemented these additional measures to protect you during your visit. If you have any questions about the steps we have taken to keep you safe in our practice, please ask a member of our team.



What is a Smile and what can it mean?

What is a smile and what can it mean?
For a smile to be healthy, our mouth must be clean.
We brush teeth and gums at least twice a day,
We clean in between - in our very best way.
We visit the dentist and hygienist too,
To keep our smiles healthy and clean - just like new.

But what is a smile and what can it mean?
It's love, reassurance - a welcoming beam.
When joyous, we smile in the biggest of ways,
But a smile can be smaller - on life's tougher days.
In lockdown our smiles are mostly on screen,
But to share them in person - now THAT is the dream!

To meet safely with loved ones, our family and friends.

Our hearts will be full, our smiles just won't end.
If we're using a mask - our smiles can't be seen.
But they'll still be right there, as they always have been.

Just like the sunshine when cloudy the sky,
The sun remains radiant, as dark clouds pass by.
Said Captain Sir Tom - 'smile and be kind'
That's a fine thought, we should all keep in mind.
A smile is a gift where we go - where we've been,
Now THAT is a smile and that's what it means!

Written by Katrina Hull, Dental Nurse and Oral Health Educator

Corona-kindness!

In these unprecedented times, we have all been finding new ways to keep ourselves busy, entertained, and above all keep our spirits up!

Although we have all heard stories of such sadness and heartbreak, the news has also been filled with wonderful stories of compassion, kindness and community spirit and I truly believe that after this pandemic has passed, we will emerge stronger and closer than ever before.

We will remember how we all came out to clap for our NHS and Carers every Thursday evening at 8pm, and how Captain Tom Moore walked 100 laps of his garden before his 100th birthday and not only raised a phenomenal amount of money for the NHS but also had a number 1 hit with Michael Ball and received a knighthood!



New Team Members

As the practice continues to expand, we are extremely delighted to welcome Dental Hygienist Helen Astill to the clinical team.

Helen qualified as a Hygienist in 1994 from the Eastman Dental Hospital, and qualified as a Nutritional Therapist in 2001.

She will join existing Hygienists Helen Sekhon and Wendy Hester to further enhance the availability of our Hygienist services. We are now able to offer the services of our Hygienists every day, including Monday evenings and Saturday mornings.



Helen Astill EDH

We have also welcomed new trainee dental nurse Zoe to the team.

She will begin her NVQ Level 3 in Dental Nursing in September 2020. We hope that Zoe will enjoy being part of the team at Sturminster Dental Care.



Trainee Dental Nurse Zoe

