



PRESS RELEASE · IMMEDIATE RELEASE · 8TH AUGUST 2022 ·

“Full extent of NHS dentistry shortage revealed by far-reaching BBC research”:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-62253893>

ARCHWAY DENTAL SURGERY LAUNCHES · “Care for Kids” family initiative in response.

The British Dental Association (BDA) called it “the most comprehensive and granular assessment of patient access in the history of the service”.

Dr Felicity Bender, Clinical Lead and Operations Director at Archway Dental, comments, *“Dental Care in England is in crisis; the pandemic and today’s research has without question brought the lack of NHS dental funding and affordable access into the public eye. The BBC report identifies the South-West as a key location lacking the vital services the population desperately needs. We need to approach the problem from as many angles as possible; Oral health Education must be the starting point that would alleviate the pressure on the NHS, but of course, that takes considerable time to filter through; it is a future dividend action.”*

The government recently put Oral Health into the curriculum for **PSHEE** (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education) at Key Stage 1; however, the onus is on the schools to facilitate it.

She continues, *“Earlier this year, I was approached by a school asking if Archway Dental could help deliver educational sessions on oral health for their Key Stage 1 classes. I was instantly compelled to help; the need for basic education is colossal.”*

The success of the educational delivery saw the practice overwhelmed by requests for a roll-out of the initiative to local schools in the area.

The BBC report and Archway Dental’s recent experience highlight the immediate need for action. *“We are an independent practice, but we take our place in the community and medical care seriously. We have not stopped looking at ways to help drive access to dental services, especially for families who must make a judgement call based on the cost of living,” Felicity Bender, Archway Dental Surgery.*

Today Archway launched 'Care for Kids', a multi-faceted children's initiative. Firstly, as a commitment to children and local families, we will now offer all children up to the age of 18 a free new patient consultation when joining with a paying adult, as well as reduced fees on children's routine examinations.

Reduced fee list:

Ages 0-5 **£25**

Ages 6-11 **£40**

Ages 12-17 **£60**

Children's initial consultation is FREE if joining with a paying adult (for a new patient consultation)

Children's New Patient Consult fees (if joining individually, i.e., parent/guardian is not joining as well). It is recommended that the child's teeth be checked as soon as they start coming through the gums.

Archway Dental will commit to continuing its school's outreach programme and will perform an expansion of this education initiative through a series of free family healthcare webinars in 2022.

"We want to reach as many people in the region as possible; our Archway Angels will be key to our success, we are a practice that has a vocational viewpoint, and I am forever amazed by the commitment my colleagues have shown in helping others." **Dr Felicity Bender.**



Ends

Notes to the Editor:

Archway Dental Surgery has been a family practice since **1983**.

Dr Felicity Bender became the owner of **Archway Dental Surgery** in **December 2017**. Based in Kelly Bray, the Archway team are a community education-minded practice. Post-pandemic developments have included an expansion of premises, services, and community engagement, recently working with local

schools through an education partnership. The practice now has state-of-the-art digital **ITero scanners** to facilitate patient education and improve treatment outcomes, a child-friendly waiting area, free parking and disabled access lift. Our team also comprises **4 dentists, 5 Dental Therapists** and, more recently, an **Implant dentist and Oral surgeon** has joined Archway, ensuring we can offer a comprehensive range of treatment options for our patients.

**Dr Felicity Bender, Clinical Lead and Operations Director at Archway Dental
BDS (Peninsula) 2011, MFDS RCS (Ed)GDC No. 212504**

Read about Felicity's journey from Dental Nurse to Clinical Director, educator, mentor [Peninsula Dentistry School] and business owner here <https://archwaydentalsurgery.co.uk/pdf/newsletters.pdf>

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For more information on our '**Care for Kids**' initiative and any other enquiries, call us on **01579 383300** or email us at reception@archwaydentalsurgery.co.uk

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