MEET OUR TEAM:

Dr Alaa Guni, Periodontist (specialist in treatment of gum disease) graduated with Honours from Kings College London in 2014 where he was also awarded the prestigious Maurice Wohl prize. Since then Dr Alaa has also received many commendations for oral surgery, restorative and periodontal care and is experienced in surgical and non-surgical treatments of gum disease. We are very pleased to welcome Dr Alaa to our team and his unique skills, which we are certain will benefit many of our patients.

IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR NHS PATIENTS RECEIVING BENEFITS:

As of **Saturday, 5 April** people who were receiving tax credits from HMRC are no longer receiving this payment. Therefore patients who hold a **tax credit exemption certificate** will no longer receive automatic entitlement to free NHS dental treatment. Patients who received tax credits have been moved to Universal Credit and to continue being entitled to free NHS dental treatment, they **MUST** meet the Universal Credit criteria for help with health costs.

If you used to receive tax credits and are now receiving Universal Credit, please check that you are still entitled to help with health costs before claiming free NHS dental treatment. An eligibility checker can be used to find out what you are entitled to - this will only take a few minutes to complete. Patients are at risk of a £100 fine from the NHS if they are no longer eligible for the entitlement, so please check this prior to any dental treatment using the link below. It is the patients responsibility to check their exemption.

www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk

Congratulations to our trainee nurse Selza for successfully completing her dental nursing diploma exams and to Dr Mariam for reaching her one-year work anniversary with us.

General Dentistry   Cosmetic Dentistry   Invisalign   Dental Implants   Facial Aesthetics

DENTAL CHECK-UPS FOR CHILDREN

Early signs of tooth decay and other oral problems are not easy for a parent or a child to recognise. It is therefore highly important for children to have regular dental check-ups from an early age. The British Dental Association recommends a child's first visit to see a dentist should happen by their first birthday or within six months of their first tooth appearing.

Visiting a dentist regularly from a young age is beneficial for a number of reasons:

* Smaller problems can be found and treated before they turn into larger problems

* Your child will become familiar and comfortable with the process of visiting the dentist

* Your child will learn how to take care of teeth properly so that good oral hygiene habits are formed early

To prepare your child for their first visit to the dentist make sure you take time beforehand to explain what will happen at the appointment in a positive and reassuring way. Choose a time of day when your child won't be too tired - a morning appointment might be the best option for a young child. You could also take your child along to your own dental check-ups so they start becoming familiar with the surroundings and the staff.

Please call us to book an appointment for your child, or to talk to us about any concerns you may have.

As part of our commitment to Early Years oral health, our team from the Link Dental visited Newlands Early Years Centre recently to talk to the children about their teeth and what a visit with the dentist looks like. The children were shown some of the dental instruments that would be used during a dental exam and we explained about counting teeth. Some of the children were even happy to volunteer to have their teeth counted!

We talked about what is good and what is not so good for teeth and how to brush teeth correctly and effectively. After this talk each child received a small gift of a worksheet and a tube of toothpaste!

A big thank you to Newlands Early Years Centre for welcoming us!

For more photos from our visit please see:

https://www.facebook.com/Newlandsearlyyearscentre

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