



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are currently working with community dental services to achieve our healthy smiles accreditation. As part of this we have to do a survey to see how many children are currently registered with a dentist. For those currently not registered we have obtained the following information on how to access and register with a dentist.

It is recommended that a child should be registered with a dentist from when their first baby tooth erupts or by their first birthday, whichever comes first. Having this early access to a dentist helps create a positive perception of the dentist helping to reduce any anxiety when visiting a dentist and can also help identify any early signs of potential oral health issues.

Working with the CDS Oral health team we have been advised that the following Gov.uk website may be of help to you in accessing a NHS dentist.

How to access a NHS dentist. Find a dentist - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk))

To access a list of NHS dentists in your area:-

1. Press the link above or enter Find a dentist into your search engine.
2. Enter your postcode where prompted and a list of NHS dentists will appear.
3. This list will show which dentists are currently accepting new NHS dentists.
4. This list is not always up to date, however it will have the contact phone number for the practice so you could contact them to see if they are currently accepting new NHS patients.
5. If a dental surgery is not currently taking on they may have a waiting list you could join.
6. Unlike GP surgeries you do not have to be in the local area to register with a dentist so if you are able to travel you can register with a dentist anywhere in your surrounding area.

We will be contacting you soon to see if you have been able to register your child. If you have any questions/queries about this please let us know and the CDS oral health team will be happy to help.

Mrs Hallifax

Healthy Schools Lead

