

## DENTAL NURSE LEADS CRUSADE AGAINST SNACKING ON RAISINS



A healthy snack for primary school children should be exactly that – healthy. But 5-7-year-olds in England are being given raisins as snacks despite the recommendation from

Public Health England they should be kept to mealtimes.

A determined member of the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry (BSPD) is trying to change the policy of the Government-funded School Fruit and Vegetable Service (SFVS) which gives out dried raisins as a snack on the first day of each half term.

Jo Dawson is a dental nurse and oral health educator at Devonshire House in Cambridgeshire. The point Jo makes is that by giving out the dried raisins, the schools create the perception that raisins are a healthy snack to enjoy between meals.

Jo said: 'Like most schools in the country, my children's primary school receives fruit snacks through the SFVS, including raisins six times a year on the first day of every half term. This by itself is not entirely alarming, but it has implications. Schools cannot discourage dried fruit brought in as snacks by older children when they are given out by SFVS.'

Jo praised 'the fabulous' evidence-based toolkit for prevention Delivering better oral health which was created by Public Health England (PHE) and which includes guidance that dried fruit should be kept to mealtimes.

Having contacted both the SFVS and PHE, Jo continues to push for dried fruit to be excluded from the SFVS scheme. 'This needs to change to help protect our children's precious smiles.'

Claire Stevens, spokeswoman for BSPD, said: 'Drying fruit concentrates the sugars and creates a food which can stick to teeth and cause decay. For this reason, whole fresh fruit and vegetables are a much safer snack for children. Well done to Jo for her single-minded crusade.'

## New BADN President inaugurated

Jacqui Elsdon MSc FBADN was inaugurated as British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN) President 2019-2021 at the Opening Ceremony of the National Dental Nursing Conference in Oxford on 1 November.

Jacqui qualified at King's College Hospital Dental School in 1983 as a dental nurse, obtaining both the Hospital Qualification in Dental Nursing and the NEBDN National Certificate, and continued as a Senior Dental Nurse at King's until 1984. Jacqui continued to work in general practice until 1988 when she took a three-year break to start a family, then continued in general practice until 2004.

Since 2004, Jacqui has been employed by the postgraduate education and training arm of the NHS, formerly the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Deanery, now known as Health Education England London, Kent Surrey & Sussex (HEE LKSS). During this period, she obtained awards in Vocational Assessment, Internal Quality Assurance, Teaching and Mentoring together with Certificates in Practice Appraisal and Radiography. Jacqui has been an NEBDN examiner and was Chair of NEBDN's QA committee from 2012-2017. Jacqui is a Professional Advisor for the GDC's Registration Appeals Committee.

Jacqui has an interest in research and has presented nationally at the Royal

College of Surgeons of England and internationally at the Association of Dental Research in Barcelona and has been published in the dental press. More recently Jacqui obtained an MSc

distinction in Advanced and Specialist Healthcare at the University of Kent and was awarded the annual Dissertation prize for the highest achievement.

Jacqui continues her role with HEE LKSS as their Regional DCP Lead for Dental Nurses to commission post registration courses and hands-on training for GDC registered dental nurses across the region. Jacqui's role also includes practice development visits to NHS primary care dental practices, regionally, to facilitate the ongoing development of the NHS workforce.

Jacqui has also recently been interviewed for *BDJ Team*: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41407-019-0148-9>.



## FACULTY OF DENTAL TRAINERS BECOMES BADN AFFILIATE

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh's Faculty of Dental Trainers have become the British Association of Dental Nurses' (BADN's) latest Affiliate.

The Affiliate scheme was set up by the Association to encourage closer links between BADN members, other dental organisations and dental industry companies. Affiliates may use the Association's Affiliate logo to show that they are dental-nurse friendly, having agreed to recognise dental nurses as valued members of the dental team, and to interact with dental nurses in exactly

the same manner as with other dental professionals. Affiliates receive access to the BADN website and quarterly digital British Dental Nurses' Journal, as well as an entry on the BADN website and special promotion opportunities.

BADN Immediate Past President Hazel Coey said 'BADN has close links with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh through its DCP Advisory Board, and now with the Faculty of Dental Trainers; we encourage anyone involved in dental nurse training in the UK to consider joining the Faculty.'