



Millfield Community Nursery with dental hygienist, Kay Pounder (left), Cluster Manager for Extended Services, Kris Heskett (centre) and dental nurse, Kelly Lloyd (right)

## IMPROVING CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH

Nervous appointments at the dentist are now a thing of the past for 80 Sunderland children following a series of special visits designed to reduce the fear associated with dental treatments.

As part of National Smile Month and to celebrate the surgery's 25th anniversary, David Vaughan Dental Care opened its doors to two Sunderland schools with the aim of improving the children's oral health while helping to break down the barriers that prevent many people from visiting the dentist.

The visits offered the children from Millfield Community Nursery and Diamond Hall Infants with the opportunity to learn about caring for their teeth in a fun and positive way.

After arriving at the dental practice in Pallion the children were able to meet the surgery's team, including its dentist, hygienist, dental nurse and reception team. A special role play session with the dental nurse explained what happens during a visit to the dentist and showed the children what each member of the surgery's team does.

## RESEARCH WORKSHOP HAILED AS SUCCESS

The first research day for dental care professionals hosted jointly by the British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy (BSDHT) and the Faculty of General Dental Practice (FGDP) and sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare, took place in London recently. Chaired by Marina Harris, BSDHT President, the programme included key speakers on primary dental care research and dental care practitioner research around the world.

## UNIVERSITY OF KENT FIRST YEAR STUDENTS GAIN DISTINCTIONS



Two Division of Dentistry students from the University of Kent have capped a successful term by being awarded distinctions by the Royal College of Surgeons of England's Faculty of General Dental Practice (FGDP).

Kathryn Marshall and Kirsty Stevens are both studying for the BSc in Primary Dental Care, a degree programme especially for qualified dental care professionals who wish to gain an academic qualification. Areas covered include radiography, communication and complaints handling, medical emergencies, infection control and record keeping.

The BSc in Primary Dental Care is a work-based degree programme for qualified professionals such as dental nurses, hygienists and therapists, orthodontic therapists and dental technicians, who combine their normal work duties with study for the qualification.

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