



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR

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PRESS RELEASE

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NEW 'DAY AT THE DENTIST' PROGRAMME

On Monday 3rd October , 25 pupils and 3 teachers from year 1 of St. Bernard's First School attended the Dental Department as a group, as part of the recently launched 'Day at the Dentist' Programme. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were presented with their own toothbrush and toothpaste (kindly sponsored by Abrines Ltd). This follows on from a pilot scheme during the Summer and will include all year 1 pupils from the other schools during this school term. The intention is to continue with the programme on a yearly basis.

Minister for Health, Yvette Del Agua, said: "I am extremely pleased with the manner in which the Dental Department is progressing. Staff have managed to clear the historical waiting lists for children, as a result of which the next available check up appointment is only two weeks away. The practice until now has been that it is up to parents to seek a first dental appointment for their child, usually when the child is between 5 and 6. The introduction of 'A Day at the Dentist' programme is a pro-active move as it will invite all children of this age group to visit the dentist as part of a preventative and awareness campaign. It will involve the dentist looking for tooth decay, talking about healthy eating, showing them how to brush their teeth properly, and overall, introducing children to the dentist in a welcoming and friendly environment, accompanied by their peers. The Education Department, especially teachers and headteachers, have been instrumental in supporting this important initiative."