

GREYSTOKE GAZETTE

ISSUE 105

MARCH-APRIL 2021

Staff news

We are delighted to welcome Dr Sarah Kinsman to the practice. Dr Kinsman is a GP trainee in her final stages of GP training. During her time at Greystoke she will be mentored by Dr Thompson. Here she is to introduce herself.....

Hello, I'm Dr Sarah Kinsman and a GP registrar starting at Greystoke Surgery. Before starting here I've worked in various North East Hospitals and also worked in New Zealand for a year. I have a particular interest in women's health. Outside of work, I spend most of my time running around after my 2 children. But I also love craft and baking. I look forward to meeting lots of you over the next 6 months.

Please do give her a warm Greystoke welcome!



Current patient access

The surgery is currently experiencing extremely high levels of demand, the likes of which have never been experienced before. We would like to offer an apology to all our patients that despite our best efforts, we are currently unable to keep up with the demand. We would like to thank all our patients for their continued support and patience during this extremely challenging time whilst the winter and Covid 19 pressures ease, we continue to contribute to the national vaccination programme whilst we await staff recruitment to help improve our access.

We have had a number of patients contacting us to ask when they will be receiving their Covid 19 vaccination. Please be reassured that you will be contacted for this. We would respectfully ask patients not to ring in to enquire regarding this to ensure our lines are freed up as much as possible.



Germ Defence: Infection control within the home

The Centre for Academic Primary Care has been funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to promote the Germ Defence website with COVID-19 information and we have been asked to promote it to our patients.

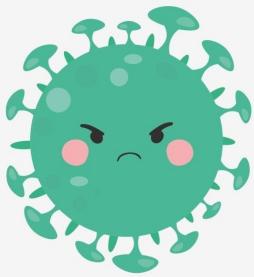


Chris Whitty, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for England endorsed this as a national priority project and it has been adopted onto the portfolio of the Clinical Research Networks (CRNs) as an Urgent Public Health Research (UPHR) study. The Royal College of GP's (RCGP) also supports this work and has recommended that all practices take part. Please follow the following link for more information

www.germdefence.org

Germ Defence is an evidence-based behaviour change website that provides advice on infection control at home. A clinical trial of 20,000 people during the time of the H1N1 pandemic and seasonal 'flu' (published in *The Lancet*) showed that using Germ Defence successfully reduced the number and severity of infections in the home, as well as the need for primary care consultations and antibiotics.

The researchers are now examining whether the updated COVID-19 version of Germ Defence is effective at reducing infections and GP consultations and are using anonymised national patient record data to assess the website's effectiveness.



The COVID-19 version of Germ Defence was developed by clinicians and scientists at the Universities of Bristol, Southampton and Bath in collaboration with Public Health England. It was co-designed with members of the public to be simple and quick to use, including by people with limited reading or computer skills. The website has already had over 300,000 users and it can be accessed in 20+ languages.

You do not need to sign up to the study, register to use the Germ Defence website or provide us with any data. There is no financial reimbursement for taking part.

You can find more information about the study, including frequently asked questions at the following link
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/primaryhealthcare/researchthemes/roll-out-of-germ-defence-website/>