



31st January 2023

Dear Parent/ Guardian

I wanted to give you an update on the current situation regarding Scarlet Fever and STREP A and the current situation in School. After speaking to Public Health teams, I am confident that we have all measures in place to control the outbreak of this illness.

However, in an attempt to try to stop it completely I have decided to place the Reception base back in to a bubble during the school day to stop the mixing with other year groups. The Reception children can still attend Peardops and after school sports clubs as they are outdoors for majority of the time and the staff are all aware of the increased hygiene regimes.

We have also suspended messy play such as the use of sand and playdough.

What are scarlet fever and Strep A?

Scarlet fever is caused by bacteria called Group A streptococci (Strep A). The bacteria usually cause a mild infection that can be easily treated with antibiotics.

In very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep (iGAS).

What are the symptoms of Strep A/scarlet fever?

Strep A infections can cause a range of symptoms that parents should be aware of, including:

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- A fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel.
- On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel

If a child becomes unwell with these symptoms, please advise contact your GP practice or contact NHS 111 (which operates a 24/7 service) to seek advice.

If a child has scarlet fever, the advice is they stay at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Trust in your own judgement and if your child seems seriously unwell call 999 or go to A&E if:

- a child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when a child breathes
- a child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- a child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake.

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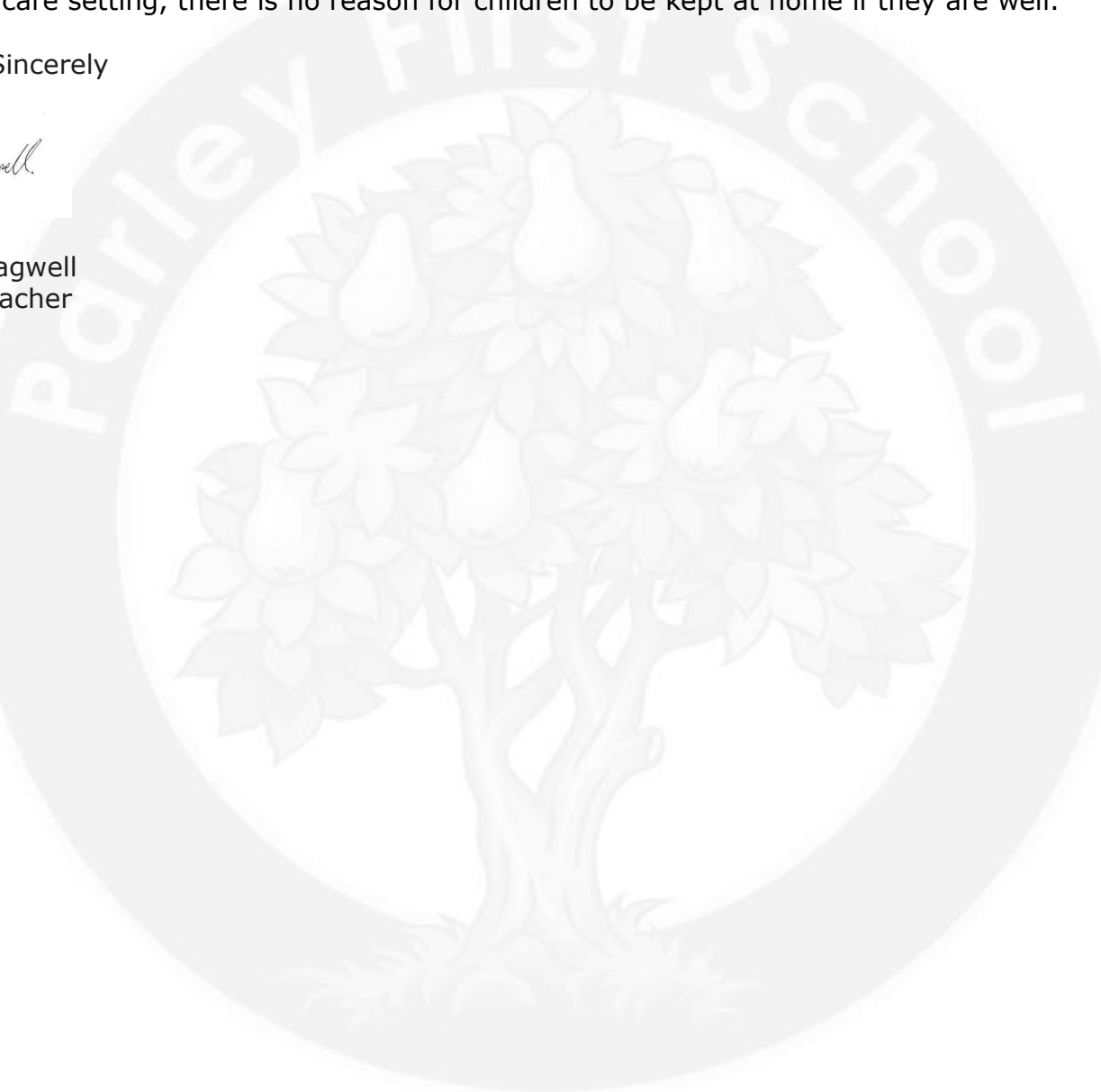


Managing Cases

We have contacted the Health Protection Agency as there has been an outbreak of 2 or more scarlet fever cases within 10 days of each other and the affected individuals have a link, such as being in the same class or year group. If there are confirmed or suspected cases in an education or childcare setting, there is no reason for children to be kept at home if they are well.

Yours Sincerely

John Bagwell
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