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Dear Parents/Carers

### COVID Update

We have had over 20 staff absent this week due to COVID. We have done our utmost to keep classes open but unfortunately have had to close 2 classes today due to staff shortages as the health and safety of students and staff has to be our main priority.

Please make sure you carry out a lateral flow test on your child at least twice a week (Monday and Thursday if possible) and **let us know if the result is positive**. You must report all Lateral Flow Device test results to [NHS Test and Trace](#). If your child **does not have any symptoms** (loss of taste and smell, continuous cough, a high temperature) but tests positive they still need to stay at home and self isolate. The isolation period begins from the date of the positive test. If however they do have symptoms you should book a PCR test and students should not attend the setting whilst awaiting the result.

Once a student has tested positive, you can end isolation early with 2 consecutive negative lateral flow tests. From Monday, you can test them early in the morning on **day 5** and 24 hours later on day 6 (or two days 24 hours apart after day 6.) If they show **two consecutive negative** tests they may return to school. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

Students who are identified as close contacts of a positive case do not have to isolate but must take a lateral flow test each morning before coming to school for 7 days.

If you need any lateral flow tests sent home please contact the school office. We very much appreciate your support and understanding.

### Barnet SEND Inspection

Over the next two weeks Ofsted are inspecting the Local Authority to see how effective it is in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. If you would like to share your views with the Inspection team and complete a short survey please go to: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/BarnetLASENDInspection/>

### The Windmill School

Some of you will be aware of Barnet Special Education Trust's ambition to open The Windmill School as a new special free school, based in Barnet. Our planning application prepared by the DfE and their technical team has now been submitted to Barnet local planning authority. This can be viewed online at their own website, or at <http://www.thewindmillschool.org/Consult.html>. Barnet have identified a need for almost 250 new places in special education settings by 2024. If you are able to make a comment in support of our application, we will be very grateful.

Thank you for your continued support.

Lynda Walker  
Headteacher