



15 May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you all for your continued support throughout the challenges that we have faced with the Covid-19 pandemic. As you will have heard, The Government is now asking school leaders to plan for the next phase in the recovery process, which they anticipate to begin from the 1st June 2020. It is important to note that the DfE recognise that this is conditional plan which will only be implemented if they are certain that the scientific evidence shows that it will be safe to do so.

In the media there has been a lot of coverage and varying opinions have been shared, including lots of negative thoughts. I have worked alongside the governors, colleague Headteachers and the Local Authority to carefully consider the practicalities for us at Andoversford. While all schools have been asked to begin reintroducing all pupils into school and prioritise the same groups, every school has unique circumstances. Each Headteacher has to carefully consider the unique characteristics of their school, including:

- the size and layout of the school buildings
- the placement and access to toilet and handwashing facilities
- the available staff
- transport and access to school
- the numbers and needs of pupils in each year group
- the numbers and needs of pupils who are vulnerable or whose parents are keyworkers

Therefore, how each school plans to implement the next phase will be different. You may hear about how another local school is working and you may even prefer this, however the decisions that have been made for Andoversford ensure the safety and welfare of our pupils, staff and the wider community within our unique setting. Alongside the Governing Board, I have carefully considered all of the DfE advice and conducted risk assessments so that the plan for Andoversford is robust and thorough.

We are creating a detailed plan which has some adjustments to our normal practices to mitigate the risks. These include:

- Staggered opening and collection times
- Smaller pupil 'bubbles' for class and play times
- Restricted movement around the school
- Individual resources
- Increased focus on personal hygiene and cleaning
- Reduced adult contact

The full-details of the plan will be shared with parents as soon as we are able to. The plan will be continually monitored and changes will be made if something isn't working or if the guidance from The Government changes.



Web: www.andoversford.gloucs.sch.uk
Email: admin@andoversford.gloucs.sch.uk
Tel: 01242 820407
Headteacher: Rachel Bradley-McKay



Andoversford Primary School
Old Gloucester Road
Andoversford
Gloucestershire
GL54 4HR

Attendance

Children who are vulnerable or whose parents are key workers continue to be offered priority places. The Government is now encouraging pupils to return to school and has identified some priority groups, starting with Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. At Andoversford, if the initial re-introduction of these pupils works successfully, we will gradually increase numbers, one year group at a time, giving each new group of pupils a chance to settle into routines.

While attendance in school has many benefits for pupils, including helping re-establish routines and normality, we do recognise that there may be some families who continue to shield a vulnerable loved one. If your child will not be able to return to school during the initial phase, please let us know so that we can factor this into the planning.

The staff at Andoversford have worked incredibly hard throughout the challenges that we have faced and I am very proud to work with such an incredible team. While many staff members will be completing their roles in school, there will also be some staff members who will be working from home during the next phase. I ask that you respect their privacy and do not ask about their personal circumstances. I know that parents and carers very much appreciate the support that staff have offered and will be looking forward to seeing some of them to thank them face-to-face, however at this time we still need to ensure that everyone is kept safe.

Rest assured that the safety and wellbeing of pupils, staff and the wider community will always be my top priority.

Best wishes,

Rachel Bradley-McKay
Headteacher

