

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Dear Southborough Village Preschool Families,

We hope this email finds you well and that you are all enjoying the summer and beautiful weather. Hopefully you received your Child Enrollment Packet from us in the last few days and are as excited for September as we are! Your teacher will be reaching out to you to set up a Parent/Child/Teacher Conference, and at that time, you will bring the following items to school.

- Your completed Child Enrollment Packet.
- A current physical and immunization records (physical dated after 9/13/20).
- The attached Tuition Agreement Plan, as well as the first tuition payment.
- Medication and required IHCP paperwork if your child has a chronic medical condition such as an allergy or asthma listed on his/her physical.
- A change of clothing, and toileting items for students who require them.

### **COVID-19 Updates for Southborough Village Preschool:**

Many of you are likely wondering what the situation will be at SVP for the start of school, regarding COVID-19 safety protocols and masking requirements. The Summer Newsletter that you recently received was prepared earlier in the summer, and since that time, Covid-19 has unfortunately continued to spread, cases are on the rise and there is much discussion regarding how to best keep school communities safe. Preschools are still awaiting guidance from the State and the Department of Early Education and Care as to what things will look like in September. Preschools that are licensed in Massachusetts receive their guidance and health mandates from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, who in turn take their guidance from the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Governor's office. Over the past year, their guidance has typically followed guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). We also work closely with the Southborough Department of Public Health regarding COVID-19 safety and we regularly consult with the Southborough Public Schools and their COVID-19 Medical Advisory Team.

While we are still awaiting guidance for September, at this time we are expecting that masks will be required for all adults, regardless of vaccination status and at least recommended, and likely required, for preschoolers as well. Last year, the CDC and EEC required masks for those ages five and over and suggested them for ages four and younger. Out of an abundance of caution, we asked that all students wear masks last year and we were grateful for the support we received for this.

At this point, we are asking you to be prepared to have your child wear a mask at school, while indoors. The children did a terrific job with this last year and we know they will this year as well, should the situation require it. Don't worry if your child has not been wearing masks up until now. They will learn this skill, just like they learn all of their skills, with modeling, practice and patience. We suggest that you find opportunities over the next month where you require your child to wear a mask, while running errands and playing for short periods of time. While masking regulations can change at any point throughout the school year, it's important for our students to be prepared and have a positive comfort level around masking. Children are amazingly adaptable, flexible and

resilient. We know this much is true from watching and learning from them over the past 18 months. We are looking forward to another wonderful school year with our students, regardless of what the masking requirements are throughout the year.

When school starts, we will also be asking parents to review the list of COVID-19 symptoms every morning as we will ask you to sign a daily attendance/attestation sheet that states your child is symptom-free and has not had close contact with any COVID-19 positive (or presumed positive) individuals. We will share more information about this, as well as the latest updates on our masking requirements, over the next few weeks, as they become available.

Additionally, you can expect that all of the COVID-19 safety protocols that we had in place last year will continue to be in place this year, including but not limited to, frequent hand-washing, increased ventilation, distancing when possible, additional cleaning and lots of time outdoors.

For now, we only ask that you return to enjoying your summer! Please don't worry about anything with regards to your child's experience at SVP. You can rest assured that we are always committed to making the health and safety of our staff, students and families a high priority. We are confident that we will be having another successful and exciting school year.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in September and hearing all about your summer adventures. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns at all, we're always happy to help. Thank you for your support and enthusiasm as we round the bend into the 2021-2022 school year. We have the best parents in the world and we are grateful to you all for choosing to be a part of the Southborough Village Preschool Family.

Sincerely,

Laura Eppen and Gretchen Hartnett