

Friday, September 3, 2021

Dear Southborough Village Preschool Families,

It's hard to believe that we've arrived at September already! We hope your summer has been full of fun, relaxation and family adventures. We're excited to be back at school, setting up our classrooms and preparing to meet our new students. As teachers, we love the promise of a new and wonderful school year, along with the excitement of bringing together new classroom communities of friends. Below you will find some information that we hope will be helpful as you prepare your child for school. Please let us know if you have any questions at all, we are always happy to help!

You will find that we have attached some important documents for you to read before coming to school next week, including our **SVP COVID-19 Policies and Procedures** for the 2021-2022 school year. This document explains the policies as they stand now, for masking, daily symptom screening, quarantine, travel guidelines and more. Of course, keep in mind that the COVID-19 situation, guidance and policies may change throughout the year, so we will be sure to keep you informed and up-to-date as the months go on. This document will need to be signed at your child's conference, but there is **no need to print it out**, we will have hard copies available for you next week. We thank you for joining us in our commitment to make the health and safety of our students, teachers and families a high priority at Southborough Village Preschool. We look forward to a wonderful year together.

**Masks:** Just yesterday, we finally received the latest guidance on masking from the Department of Early Education and Care. As of September 7, 2021, the DEEC is requiring masks for all adults and children, five years of age and over, regardless of vaccination status, and strongly recommends the use of masks indoors for children ages 2-5. Additionally, the CDC, MDPH and the American Academy of Pediatrics strongly recommend that *ALL unvaccinated individuals, regardless of age, wear masks while indoors, as masks are critical in reducing the transmission of COVID-19*. As our preschoolers are too young to be vaccinated, we ask at this time that all students wear masks, to the best of their ability, with appropriate breaks, while indoors at SVP. Children do not have to wear masks nor maintain distance while outdoors. As we move through the school year, we will continue to monitor the situation and reevaluate COVID-19 policies as needed.

We recognize that this may be disappointing to some families. We assure you, we are all looking forward to the end of masks in school, but our experience last year taught us that masks do work. We ask that you trust us with this request this year. The kids will do amazingly well, as they did last year. If your child hasn't been wearing a mask, don't worry at all. Just find some opportunities to practice over the next few weeks, then send your child to school with two masks every day and let us take it from there! Please encourage your child to bring his/her favorite mask to your conference next week, as we would love to see what they have picked out to wear.

**Our Upcoming Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences and More:** We are excited to meet you all at our back-to-school conferences next week! Please refer back to our August Newsletter for details regarding the documents and materials you will need to bring to this conference in order for your child to begin school on the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>. When you come for your conference, be sure to bring your child's current physical including the immunization record, and the completed Child Enrollment Packet that you recently received in the mail. We also recommend that you bring a change of clothes and any toileting items that you would like us to keep on hand for your child. Each child will have a labeled box in the classroom for such items.

We will plan to hold our conferences outdoors, unless the weather is uncooperative, but we do hope to give each family a few minutes to take a quick look inside the classrooms. Masks will be required indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

When you come to your conference, we ask that you be prepared to fill out the Tuition Agreement Form (we'll have hard copies available), and make the first payment of your child's tuition plan before leaving (checks/cash only).

**A Note About IHCP's and Medication:** If your child has a chronic medical condition listed on his/her physical, (asthma, allergies, etc.), be sure to reach out to us for important paperwork which must be completed by your child's physician. All paperwork and medications must be in school by Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. **IMPORTANT:** We will not be able to check over paperwork and medication before school during the first week of classes, so please be sure to see us beforehand.

**A Few Other Thoughts:** You will also want to have a **water bottle** and a **backpack** ready to go for the first day of school, as well as a lunchbox for those students who will be eating lunch at school. Also, we ask that you always have **two labeled masks** in your child's backpack.

If your child will be **eating lunch** with us, please refrain from sending in glass containers, or any food that needs to be refrigerated or heated up. Also, as a reminder, we are a completely nut-free school, so be sure to check labels before sending food in.

**Labels, Labels, Labels!** Please take care to label every item that you send to school with your child, including masks, backpacks, lunchboxes, food containers, water bottles, jackets, hats, etc. Labels really do help us to ensure that all items are returned to the correct families at the end of each day.

**Nametags:** Does your child have a nickname that he/she always prefers to go by? If so, please be sure to let your child's teacher know as they are hard at work preparing nametags to be displayed in various places around the room.

Don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions regarding the [SVP COVID-19 Policies and Procedures](#), tuition or conferences. Email us at [Directors@southboroughvillagepreschool.com](mailto:Directors@southboroughvillagepreschool.com) or give us a call in the office next week. We look forward to seeing you all soon and hope you and your little ones enjoy the upcoming long weekend!

Sincerely,

Laura, Gretchen and the Entire Staff at SVP