

Dear First Baptist WEE School Families:

For more than 50 years, The WEE School has been helping children and their families enjoy a great start to life-long learning. Over the past several weeks, our WEE Committee has been working diligently to develop plans and procedures to continue this important mission for the 2020-2021 year. While none of us can predict the future, our current goal is to begin the new preschool year on **Tuesday, September 8, 2020**.

The physical, emotional and social health of children, families and staff is a priority of The WEE School. With this in mind, we will be following enhanced safety practices as recommended by the CDC as well as local health officials and authorities. Due to the evolving nature of this pandemic, we ask for your flexibility, support and grace as our protocols and calendar are subject to change.

What You Can Expect:

We are committed to being open and transparent about the safety protocols being implemented for this coming school year to help ensure we are all on the same page and so that you can feel comfortable with the steps we are taking to help create a safe learning environment for your child. As we get closer to the start of the school year, or if the situation changes, you will receive more information. In the meantime, below is a summary of some of the safety protocols you can expect at The WEE School:

- Parents will be allowed to park and walk their child to the door. Please remain at least 6 feet away from other families while doing this.
- Arrival temp checks for all preschool staff and children.
- Daily health screenings for all preschool staff.
- Frequent hand washing for all preschool staff and children.
- Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces in the preschool and playground.
- Preschool rooms thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each school day.
- Seating in preschool rooms will be spaced out as much as possible.
- Teachers will wear masks in the classroom and school building. Children may bring their own masks, but they are not required (due to the child's age).
- If a person tests positive or displays one or more symptoms of COVID-19 (staff or child), the person will immediately be isolated and sent home (if at school) and can return only when they have doctor's note confirming a negative test.
- If a confirmed case of COVID-19 occurs, the decision about closure of the affected room(s) will be based on DHEC and CDC recommendations. If closure occurs, the affected rooms will re-open when allowed by local health authorities. Should this happen, parents will need to make arrangements for the care of their child until their classroom is allowed to re-open.
- Parents will be notified of any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in their child's classroom as well as when their child's classroom is expected to re-open.

- Parents will be notified as quickly as possible about changes to our safety protocols, schedules or policies based on future conditions, circumstances and health official recommendations and requirements.

How You Can Help

Your family plays a critical role in helping ensure the health and safety of all children and staff at The WEE School. In order for this to be a successful year for all, we will need the support and cooperation of parents, guardians, grandparents, children, siblings, etc. Here are some specific ways that you can support our preschool community this coming year:

- If you suspect that your child is ill, has COVID-19, has been exposed to COVID-19 or is displaying one or more symptoms of COVID-19, please keep them home until you have confirmed they are not positive. Failure to do this will risk exposing other children and staff to COVID-19 and also result in your child's classroom being closed for all families. Please don't take a chance, it's not worth the risk to everyone involved.
- Be prepared to immediately pickup your child if they become ill or display one or more symptoms of COVID-19 during the preschool day. If your work or other commitments might prevent you from being able to pick up your child personally, please make back-up plans now for someone else to assist you should that situation occur during the school year.
- Please show grace, patience and understanding with preschool staff and other families as we all adjust to a new way of being together as a preschool. We recognize that change can be uncomfortable, but these changes are designed to ensure we can provide the very best experience for your child and others during this pandemic.
- Please model an enthusiastic and positive attitude for your child when it comes to new preschool safety protocols. How we, as adults, react in the presence of children impacts their reactions, emotions and behaviors more than we often realize. The more positive you are, the more comforted and calm your child is likely to be while at the preschool.
- Recognize that this pandemic creates a fluid/changing environment and we will respond and adapt as necessary to comply with the recommendations and requirements of the CDC and local authorities. Should that happen, we commit to keeping you well informed.
- Keep lines of communication open. If you have questions, suggestions or concerns, please contact me by phone or email. Our entire team wants to do everything possible to make this transition as smooth as possible and your feedback helps us know how things are going.

Some Additional Thoughts

As we welcome children back to The WEE School, we know that children have been with their families for quite a long time with little interaction with other children and not a lot of time away from immediate family members. As children return, some have been to The WEE School previously and others will be starting at a new school. Children will

have a much higher social emotional need for the staff to support. The first priority will be establishing a connection between child and teachers. Teachers will focus on social connections between peers with small groups, social games, and creating a new routine for the children.

We also know that the lack of social connections over the last few months has created a new normal for many children. As we return to a school setting, children may show some fear in leaving parents, a desire to be at home, and other behaviors. Please know that we will work with each child and support them in the best manner for each child. It will take time to re-establish a drop off routine and a desire to come to school. As each child develops differently, we encourage you to keep bringing the child to school and reassuring their feelings, but also letting them know the teachers are here to help them and give them support.

Most children are familiar with people wearing masks out in public settings. It can be helpful to have your child play with a mask and put it on a stuffed animal or baby doll at home. We ask that each family talks to their child about teachers wearing masks, similar to parents and other adults wearing masks.

More information about protocols for drop off and pick up will be sent out as we get closer to the beginning of school. We will be sending out our normal back to school packets in the upcoming week and scheduling individual meet the teacher sessions. We are excited to see the children and get back to doing what we love! Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The WEE Committee and Teachers