Hello and Welcome to Kindergarten! I am looking forward to working with you to create a happy, enriching and wonderful year for your child. I want you to share your ideas, insights and observations and I will share information about your child’s school experiences through newsletters, phone calls, conferences and emails. I also have a classroom website. By maintaining good two-way communication, we can support each other as we work together for the benefit of your child.

Anytime you have a concern or there is some change that might affect your child in school, please call, email or send a note to inform me of the situation. I will send out several emails and newsletters to keep you informed of activities, upcoming events, changes in schedule and requests for help and/or materials. Please also use our classroom website as I will continue to update that as well. You can reach the website through PRS site under Teachers or go directly by entering the attached link.
mrsobrienkim.weebly.com
Arrival and Dismissal:

- Kindergarten students follow grades 1-5 arrival and dismissal times:
  - Arrival 8:20 Dismissal 2:30
- Students may only ride on their assigned school bus. If there is a change in dismissal routine the teacher must be notified by a written note.

Each day I will meet children at classroom when they arrive to school. There will be additional school personnel available to be certain that your child finds his/her way to the classroom.

If your child is a “walker” please allow one of the “escorts” to bring your child to the classroom. If you need to bring your child to the classroom, please make the “parting” as swiftly as possible. Tears tend to develop if the parting takes too long.

In the afternoon ALL kindergarteners will be dismissed from the cafeteria. Be sure someone is at the bus stop to meet your Kindergarten child. The bus driver will keep on the bus any child who is not met. That child will be returned to school after the bus completes its run. It’s a long ride, but your child will be safe. If this happens call the Transportation Dept. (781-741-1510) immediately. They will be able to radio the bus driver to confirm that your child is on the bus. Stay calm and go to the school to pick up your child.

If your child will be a walker in the afternoon, you will pick your child up at the cafeteria doors.

An older sibling may pick up your child in the cafeteria and walk him/her up to the tennis court.

Please let us know if this is your plan. NO kindergartener is allowed to walk up alone.
IMPORTANT NOTE ~ It is a town-wide policy that children are not permitted to ride a bus other than their regularly assigned bus. Children not going to a stop on their regular bus route after school must be picked up at school. It is the school policy that you must send in a note indicating the name of the adult who will be picking up your child. Anyone (including a parent) who picks up a child before the end of the day must stop at the office and sign out the child.

Anytime you plan on picking up your child from school a note is also needed. We cannot accept a verbal message from a child that you are coming to get him/her. If someone other than a parent is picking up your child, they will need to show identification.

Early Dismissal Days:
• Kindergarten will be dismissed with the rest of the school at 12:30.

Snack:
• Kindergarteners need to bring 2 nutritious PEANUT FREE snack to school each day. Water bottles (with names) are also encouraged.

Lunch:
• Kindergarteners need to bring a lunch from home or may buy school lunch.
• Parents will need to create an account for your child to purchase lunch.
See PRS website for details.
• Please make sure your child knows whether they are buying lunch or not, so we can give the cafeteria an accurate lunch count. Also,
it is helpful to label each group of items “snack” or “lunch” until the children get use to what you are packing them.

**Quiet Time:**

Kindergarten has Quiet Time every day. This is a time to calm our bodies down by doing some of the following activities: yoga, listening to quiet music, looking at books, iPad time and or Xtra Math.

**Specialist:** Each afternoon we will have one Specialist Time outside the classroom. These specialists include Music, Library, Art, Spanish, Computer Lab and Physical Education. Hingham Public Schools run on a 6 day/week A and B cycle NOT Monday-Friday. So the first day of school Tuesday will be Day 1, Wednesday Day 2, Thursday Day 3 and so on. I will do my best to keep you up to date. Kids pick it up very quickly! I will give you our schedule as soon as I have it.

**Recess:** We will have one or two recesses each day weather permitting. Please dress appropriately!!!

**Absences:**

If your child is going to be absent, please call the office (781-741-1530) in the morning. Upon returning to school your child must bring
a note. Children who have had a fever or stomach bug up need to be fever/vomit free for 24 hours before returning to school.

Conferences:
Please feel free to contact me at any time in regards to your child’s progress. I am happy to schedule a conference before or after school. Every other half day is time set aside for parent/teacher conferences.
- Report Cards will be sent home in late January. This would be a good time to schedule a Parent/Teacher conference to discuss student progress.

Clothing:
- We have a lot of fun in kindergarten, and learning can be messy! PLEASE do not send your child in clothes that can’t get messy.
- Please send in an extra set of clothing inside a gallon sized zip lock bag. They will be kept in his/her locker. You may bring this on your conference day.
- Your child should also wear rubber soled shoes- NO Flip Flops Please!
- GYM DAY: sneakers- PLEASE practice shoe tying at home!!
- We have outdoor recess whenever weather permits, so PLEASE dress your child appropriately!
- ALL clothing should be marked with your child’s name.

Backpacks: Should be large enough to hold schoolwork, projects, library book and lunch box.
Mail Folders: There is a lot of mail in kindergarten. Each child will be given a plastic mail folder. This folder will carry the mail to and from school. Please send the folder to school every day - even if it is empty. It will be sent back home every day - even if it is empty. Please be sure to check your child’s mail folder every day for notices. If you misplace your folder we can replace it for you for a fee of $2.00.

Toys:
NO toys in school with the exception of designated show and tell days! This is a school wide policy.

Birthdays:
We LOVE celebrating birthdays in kindergarten! Each child will receive a crown and a special Birthday surprise. We will celebrate summer birthdays in June.

Wish List:
When the classroom needs an item donated, I will write the item in my monthly newsletters or send out an email. To start out the school year our Wish List items are linked to Volunteer Spot which you can find on the classroom website. All donations are greatly appreciated!!
I know this is a great deal of information but it will become automatic in no time!! We will also go over all of this when we meet on September 8th. If you have any questions before then, feel free to contact me by phone 781-741-1530 or email
Kimobrien@hinghamschools.org (email is the best way to get me and get a quick response).
Kim O’Brien