



# Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts & Tiny Tots

# newsletter

Summer term 2015

## Term dates

**Break up:** Thursday 21 May

**Return:** Monday 1 June

**Break up:** Thursday 16 July

**Return:** Tuesday 8 September

**Message from your committee:** "We hope that everyone's enjoyed their Easter holidays and is looking forward to heading back to Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts & Tiny Tots for the summer term. Read on to find out more about the exciting activities that Mel and Sharron have planned for the coming months.

We've got lots of dates for your diaries and news about upcoming events and activities. We're also asking all parents and carers to complete a survey over the next few weeks and give us your feedback about our two settings – Panda Playgroup and Sticky Mitts & Tiny Tots. It's easiest to complete the survey online (in complete confidence) though paper copies of the surveys will also be available. We would love to hear from you, whatever method you choose. You can find out more on page three."

## Panda news

**Message from Mel, our Panda leader:** Welcome back to all of our Panda families. We had a lovely finish to the spring term with a visit from Panda at the Easter party and the children were delighted to know that he can talk too! I would like to thank all of you for your continued support with the duty rota. This supports each setting greatly in allowing the staff to remain with the children for the duration of the sessions. We gratefully appreciate additional support you offer in clearing away and other needed support also.

This summer term brings even more excitement and fun as the children gain more opportunities outdoors now that the weather is warming up. The sessions will be set up with some of our usual indoor resources outside. This also creates the space inside for our 'Sponsored Wake up, Shake up'. The children will be learning a music and movement routine which we will practice on most morning at 09.00 on arrival so please feel free to stay and join in with your children. The children will be doing this as a sponsored event at the Carnival in July.

We are focusing on numbers, letters and sounds, along with communication and understanding (speaking, listening and attention, and understanding) throughout the final term and enhancing this within our themed activities of holidays, people who help us, pirates, under the sea, and many more.

The staff team are continuing to nurture the children's individual development and will continue to deliver a fun, happy learning environment, filled with opportunities to experience through play.

**School leavers** (those children starting school in September 2015)

Our young children are reaching milestones in preparing them for their full-time education. The children begin their experiences of visiting school and learning all about the changes that will happen. The Playgroup team will support all of the children and their families throughout their journey into their next stages.

Parents will receive a letter confirming their school allocation place on 16 April. Please inform Mel of the school you are accepting.

**Clothing** - please can all parents/carers ensure that their children have suitable clothing for all weathers – and if possible, spare clothes in case they are wet or dirty.

## Ideas spot

Encourage your child to read stories with you and share the experience and value of story time.

Why not have a set time of day for story time. This may be at bedtime, after lunch or even bath time! Allow the children time to share their enjoyment of the story, even if you are talking about one page for a long time.

## Happy birthday to:



Billy (2)

Jack (3)

Lara (4)

Luke (4)

Maisie (4)

Primrose (4)

## Welcome to our new Panda friends:

Billy, Chloe

## Quote from the children

The children phoned panda to invite him to the Easter party. "It was a talking panda today. He said 'hello everybody'. He's never been a talking panda before!"

**SECURITY** - thank you to all parents and carers for ensuring the gate remains closed when arriving and leaving the playgroup.



# Tiny Tots and Sticky Mitts

“Welcome back to the summer term at Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots. This term at our Monday and Wednesday sessions we will be concentrating on summer themed craft, think flowers, butterflies, sunshine, the seaside, holidays and of course we won't be forgetting Father's Day in June. Hopefully we will be getting the water table out so the children can have some fun in something a bit larger than the washing up bowl. I know they get wet but hopefully they will dry quickly and we always have a supply of emergency clothing if anyone needs it during a session!

A big thank you to those of you who have donated outgrown toys for the sessions. When we get new things it enables us to refresh our selection for the children and any of our then surplus toys are donated to charity so please remember us when you're having a clear out.

We are also always grateful to receive donations for the biscuit tin in case you are getting bored of what I supply. All that I ask is that you do not bring anything containing nuts – thank you.

If any of you have moved house or changed your own or emergency contact numbers or email addresses since you originally registered for the sessions please let me have the correct details. If you are not sure what details I have please ask and if you think you might have slipped through the net and I might not have any please speak to me as soon as possible so we can get all details updated.” *Sharron*



## Dates for your diary /fundraising

**Thursday 16 April** – next committee meeting at 3 Dykes Lane, Copmanthorpe at 20.00.

**Wednesday 29 April** – parents visit to Copmanthorpe Primary School for children starting in September. 19.30 in the school hall. Children also visit school during Panda Plus on Tuesday 19 May and 16 June.

**Monday 4 May** – both settings are closed due to the Bank Holiday. We'll be having a **toy wash** over the holiday weekend so please let us know if you'd be happy to help by taking a few toys home to clean.

**Thursday 14 May** – Parents & Friends fundraising group meet at 09.15 in the Annexe Coffee Shop

**Friday 15 May** – ‘Talk and play’ session at Copmanthorpe School. More details to follow.

**Friday 12 June** – have fun at a wine tasting evening (find out more on page three)

**Saturday 4 July** – we'll have a stall at Copmanthorpe Carnival for one of our big fundraising events of the year

**Wednesday 8 July** – 11.15 Teddy Bears' Picnic



## Committee news

Thank you to everyone who's helped support our most recent fundraising activities – Sharron Little's coffee morning in February and Mel Suttill's Easter Fayre in March. Whether you planned the events, helped on the day, baked or came along with decorated eggs and Easter bonnets to support us, we're very grateful and the events jointly raised just over £450 which is a great news.

Special baking thanks to Joe's grandma and to Sharron Little who both made incredible cakes for the Easter Fayre – see below. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress admired them both and snapped up tickets to try and win them!



It's our next committee meeting on **Thursday 16 April**. We'd love to see you there. Everyone's welcome to attend and add agenda items under the 'any other business' section. We're meeting at 3 Dykes Lane in Copmanthorpe so please just come along on the night if you're interested – the meeting kicks off at 20.00.

## A note from Janice in admissions

“Thanks for all your replies regarding your requirements for September. We've still spaces for each of the sessions. If you decide you'd like any additional sessions, please contact me or fill in the change to sessions form that's available in the setting or on the website.

If you'd like further information about the free early years funding for 3 and 4 year olds, and in some circumstances 2 year olds please visit [www.yor-ok.org.uk/families/Childcare/free-early-years-entitlement.htm](http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/families/Childcare/free-early-years-entitlement.htm) or contact Emma our vice-treasurer via [pandaplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pandaplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk)

## How to get in touch

<b>Panda mobile</b>	(session times only)	<b>07758 668107</b>
<b>Mel Suttill</b>	(out of hours)	<b>07725 695805</b>
<b>Emma Coupland</b>	(Funding/bills)	<b>07725 021 593</b>
<b>Janice Lofthouse</b>	(Admissions)	<b>01904 701077</b>



## Have your say

It's been a while since we've had a parent survey so we're going all guns blazing and having two; one for parents and carers of children attending Panda Playgroup and another one for those attending Sticky Mitts & Tiny Tots sessions.

We really hope you'll take the opportunity to answer questions – in confidence – on a range of subjects including learning and development, safety, snacks, staff and committee, communications and fundraising.

It's easiest to complete the survey online though paper copies of the surveys will also be available from the WI Hall and Methodist Hall from Monday 20 April.

Here's the link to the online Sticky Mitts survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/stickymittstinytots>

And the online Panda Playgroup survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/pandaplaygroup>

Thank you in advance.



**Fundraising target for 2014/15: £5,000**

**Raised so far: c.£2,950. Still to raise this year: £2,050**



### Appeal for resources/help

- Do you have any squeeze bottles, spray bottles, stones/gravel, liquid detergent bottles please (for a 'Talk and Play' session at Copmanthorpe school in May)?
- **Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers**  
We are collecting these vouchers again this year. Please collect for us from your neighbours, family, work colleagues if you can as every single voucher counts and helps us to obtain additional resources for the sessions which otherwise we would not be able to afford. Thank you.



We have a Facebook closed group "Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts & Tiny Tots - Parents & Carers Group" which allows Staff, Committee, Parents & Carers to have a more confidential area in which to discuss the sessions or their children. If you would like to join please search for us and ask to become a member.

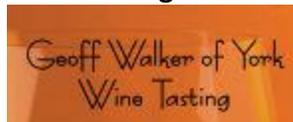


Find us on  
Facebook

You can also find us at:  
[www.pandaplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.pandaplaygroup.co.uk)

## Fundraising news

### Wine tasting fundraiser in June



*Friday 12 June in the Youth Club from 19.30. Tickets £10.*

You can buy tickets for our Wine Tasting with Geoff Walker of York evening from Jasmina Peel or please ask a member of staff.

For £10 you'll get to taste nine wines and also enjoy cheese & biscuits and some great company. We'll have tables of up to eight people so why not come with friends.

We really need your help please to sell all of the tickets to make this event a good fundraising success. If every child's parent/carer could manage to sell two tickets to family, friends, colleagues at work or neighbours we would achieve this. Your support is crucial to raise enough money to keep Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts & Tiny Tots running and we're very grateful for your help in finding people to come to this event.

### Parents & Friends – next meeting Thurs 14 May

We won't be having a fundraising stall at the May Fair this year as many of our regular fundraising parents and committee members are away. The Easter Fayre was a big event for us, involving input from lots of people (a big thank you to all concerned) and we've also got the wine tasting evening coming up and the Carnival to plan for.

We'd love to see you at our next Parents & Friends planning meeting at **09.15 on 14 May in The Annexe**. We'll also have helper 'sign up' sheets at the WI Hall and Methodist Hall a bit nearer to the Carnival (Saturday 4 July). If you're able to help for an hour on the day that would be wonderful. It would be great to see some new faces.

### Raise money for free as you shop online

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online you could be raising a free donation for Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts & Tiny Tots? In the last six months alone, we've received **£174.52 in donations** from people who've signed up to Easy Fundraising. Thank you to our dedicated online shoppers! It doesn't cost you anything and there really is no catch.

You can join up at:

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ppsmtt>

**easyfundraising**  
.org.uk