



Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts & Tiny Tots

newsletter

Spring term 2016

Term dates

Break up: Thursday 11 February

Return: Monday 22 February

Break up: Thursday 24 March

Return: Monday 11 April

Message from your committee: "We hope that everyone has had a good break over Christmas and is looking forward to having fun this term at Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots. Read on to find out more about the exciting activities that Mel, Sharron and Juanita have planned for the coming months."

Panda news

Message from Mel, our Panda leader: Welcome back to all of our Panda families. I hope you have had a lovely Christmas. Autumn saw two long half-terms and although everyone was tired by the time we broke up, the children have all had such a good term and enjoyed having great fun in preparation for the Christmas festivities. As we begin 2016, the staff team is excited to be working within a new planning structure to enable further play opportunities and support to their key children.

Themes: Physical education – what can I do? The children will be using all of the large physical resources including the climbing frames, trampolines and physical trolley along with developing their fine motor skills using sand and water play. We are going to explore communities and expressive arts and design with music and movement looking at Bollywood dancing. We will then explore Chinese New Year and discover how people in China celebrate New Year. It is The Year of the Monkey!

We will be continuing into the second half-term looking at pets, farm, wild, and zoo animals. I will send out notices of any additional information relating to each theme in due course. We are hoping to have a visit to the farm also. Please look out for details being sent home.

Parent partnership: If you would like to speak with Mel or your child's key person please can you make an appointment with Mel so that she can make arrangements to relieve the relevant member of staff.

Clothing: Please can all parents/carers ensure that their children have suitable clothing for the cold weather – hat, gloves, scarf, jumper/sweater, coat and wellies and if possible, spare clothes in case they are wet or dirty.

Absent: If your child is absent from playgroup please can you inform Mel either from the playgroup session number or out of hours number as all absences need to be recorded and it helps the staff know whether to expect the child or not. Additionally, they must make a full recovery before returning to the setting.

Answering your questions and queries

For any changes to sessions, e.g. change of days/extra days, please contact Janice Lofthouse on 701077, 07717 080245 or email pandaplaygroupadmissions@yahoo.co.uk

For any queries relating to funding or bills please contact Emma Coupland on 07725 021 593 or email pandaplaygroupvicetreasurer@yahoo.co.uk

For any other enquiry please contact Katie Betts on 07786 308061 or email pandaplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk

Ideas spot

Encourage your child to develop their independence skills with toileting, mealtimes, and dressing /undressing.



Why not visit the park and observe their independence and safety awareness as they climb and explore the apparatus and equipment.

Happy birthday to:



Lucy (4)

Chloe (3)

Stanley (4)

Layla (4)

Isla (2)

Oliver (3)

Welcome to our new Panda friends: Leo, Isla, Max

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

Appeal for resources

Please can you save us your empty two-litre bottles for a Talk and Play activity at the village school in a few months.





Tiny Tots and Sticky Mitts

"Hello and Happy New Year to you all from Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots. We hope that everyone had a restful Christmas and that Father Christmas brought you all what you wanted.

We return to what is technically the Spring term at our sessions but despite the name we will be concentrating on Winter craft for the first half of the term at the Monday and Wednesday sessions with Spring to follow in the run up to this year's early Easter.

Do you know any Mums to be? If so please let them know that they and their bumps are welcome to come to Tiny Tots on a Tuesday to get a feel for the sessions before their baby arrives, meet some new people and have a cup of tea and a biscuit - please spread the word! Thanks." *Sharron & Juanita*



Reminder – increase in fees

Just to remind you that fees for non-funded sessions at Panda Playgroup will increase from January 2016. Fees for a three-hour session will increase from £10.50 to £11.50. The fees for lunch club and shorter afternoon sessions **won't** change.

If your child's sessions are paid for completely by local authority funding this change **won't** affect you. If your child's sessions at Panda Playgroup are partially paid for by local authority funding the increase in fees will only affect your non-funded sessions. If you have any questions please contact us by email at pandaplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk.

Dates for your diary /fundraising

Thursday 14 January – next committee meeting at 12 Wilstrop Farm, Copmanthorpe at 20.00.

Saturday 13 February – coffee morning from 10.00 – 12.00 in Copmanthorpe Methodist Church. Come and see us for coffee/tea, cakes, stalls, face painting, children's craft and play activities. Tombola donations gratefully received please.

Saturday 19 March – Easter Fayre in the WI Hall from 11.00 - 13.00. We'll have stalls, refreshments and face painting.

Fundraising target for 2015/16: £5,000

Raised so far: c£2,000. Still to raise this year: c£3,000 • •



Committee and fundraising news



Thank you to everyone who's helped support our fundraising activities over the last few months whether as an organiser, a helper or by coming along on the day. The toy sale in October, the Whitebox photography day in November and the nativity (weren't the children fabulous!) in December have jointly raised a fantastic £2,000 towards our annual target of £5,000. We couldn't have done this without the tireless work of Rebecca Newton who, for example, secured over £900-worth of prizes from local businesses and attractions for our recent nativity raffle. Thank you Rebecca!

Panda Playgroup – together with Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots – is run on a not-for-profit basis by our team of paid professional staff overseen by the current eight committee members who undertake their roles on a voluntary basis. We currently have an annual gap in our finances of £9,500 and we work hard to meet the bulk of this shortfall each year by applying for grants and through fundraising activities (aiming for £5,000 this year). The rest of the gap is met by fees from non-funded children's places with the use of any financial reserves as a last resort.

So, we're never far from a fundraising activity. The next on the calendar is Sharron Little's coffee morning at the Methodist Church on **Saturday 13 February**. If you have any unwanted Christmas gifts please consider donating them to us for tombola prizes; we'd be very grateful. As well as a tombola, Sharron will be offering coffee/tea, cakes, stalls, face painting, children's craft and play activities.

The current committee members will serve until October 2016 at which point a number of us will be stepping down. While October still seems a long way off we'd like to flag this up now as we'll be starting a 'recruitment drive' for new committee members in the coming months. Meeting every half-term, these voluntary roles are varied and rewarding and give you the opportunity to work more closely with our fabulous staff team as well as other committee members.

To get a taste of what it could involve why not come along to our next committee meeting on **Thursday 14 January**. We'd love to see you there. Everyone's welcome. We're meeting at 12 Wilstrop Farm in Copmanthorpe (at 8pm) so please just come along on the night if you're interested. Also, please talk to Mel, Sharron or Juanita if you'd like to find out more about what being a committee member could involve.

How to get in touch

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