



Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts & Tiny Tots

newsletter

Autumn term 2015

Term dates

Break up: Thursday 22 October

Return: Monday 2 November

Break up: Thursday 17 December

Return: Tuesday 5 January 2016

Message from your committee: We hope your children are settling back into their Panda, Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots sessions after the summer break and we particularly welcome any new starters.

Mel and our staff team have got lots of exciting activities planned for the coming term and we'd like to draw your attention to the diary dates sheet that was attached to the same email as this newsletter. This is the place to look for information about events and activities during the autumn term.

Our first committee meeting of the new term is coming up on Thursday 17 September to which all parents are warmly invited. Please see page two for more details. We are always keen to welcome new members to the parent committee so please contact us on pandaplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk if you'd like to talk to someone about this or find out more. We hope to see you soon.

Panda news

Message from Mel, our Panda leader: Welcome to the new academic year and Autumn term. The older children have now gone to school and a lot of the younger group are now becoming the big Pandas and will slowly prepare for school next year!

The Autumn term is the quietest part of the year for the children and we meet a lot of new Pandas who will have their settling in visits. This term we are going to be exploring Ourselves – who we are, what we look like, our similarities and differences. As part of this theme we have asked parents and carers to collect some 'pasta-bake' sized lids or bigger and also to collect no more than five photographs of the children and their family or people special to them. Thank you for bringing them in, and if you haven't done so already, please do.

We will also be enjoying participating in Autumn and Harvest, bonfire and fireworks – light and sound, Diwali, and Christmas, along with the Nativity. Lots of things going on but all with the main focus of having fun and enjoying themselves every day.

Additionally, we have several of our large fundraising events coming up. So there are busy times ahead. Please look out for the sign-up sheets for the different events.

Indoor footwear - most of you will be aware that we have three fantastic new mats in the hall. In order to keep them maintained we would like all of the Pandas to bring indoor footwear for in the hall, and their usual footwear for outdoors. These can be slippers, trainers or shoes which will not be worn outside. Please ensure whichever you choose is suitable for all play opportunities and they have their name in. Please can we specify no mule style footwear or crocs. This will also encourage children's physical independence skills in taking their shoes on and off.

Clothing - please can all parents/carers ensure that their children have suitable clothing for all weather and, if possible, spare clothes in case they are wet or dirty. Whilst it is still nice weather we advise that you still bring sun cream and a sun hat, but also wellies, a fleece and a jacket/coat.

Ideas spot



Collect different leaves that fall off the trees and talk to your child about what patterns they see on leaves, how do they feel, what colour are they?

Why not have some paper and crayons and colour on top of the leaf to reveal the pattern. What about other patterns they may find in their environment?



Request for resources

We are looking for finished kitchen rolls please, pasta bake sized jar lids and straw (for the scarecrow weekend).

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

"Hi everyone and welcome back to the Autumn Term at Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots.

We hope you all had a good summer and the children are looking forward to lots of fun over the coming weeks as we start looking towards Autumn and then (dare we say it!) Christmas for our craft inspiration at Sticky Mitts. We will also be doing handprints for the fundraising Christmas tea towels as usual again this term and taking orders - they make great stocking fillers so keep an eye out for the paperwork shortly.

The Methodist Church sessions are now going to be shared between Sharron and Juanita. Those of you who have had older children at Panda may remember Juanita from a few years' ago when she ran the Playgroup sessions and she rejoins us with a wealth of early years' experience.

Sharron is now going to be sharing her time between Sticky Mitts and the main Panda Playgroup sessions each week. If you have any queries about any of the Methodist Church sessions please speak to either Sharron or Juanita or a member of the Playgroup Committee. Thank you" *Sharron & Juanita*

Dates for your diary /fundraising

Thursday 17 September – next Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts & Tiny Tots committee meeting at 20.00 at 3 Dykes Lane, Copmanthorpe. Everyone welcome.

Thursday 24 September – Parents & Friends fundraising group meet at 09.15 in the Annexe Coffee Shop – all welcome.

Saturday 24 October – **Toy and baby equipment sale** from 10am-12pm, Methodist Church Hall – we're looking for volunteers to help on the day please as well as toys to sell

Saturday 7 November – **Whitebox photography** session

Getting in touch

- For any **changes to sessions**, e.g. change of days/extra days, please contact Janice Lofthouse (on 701077, text 07717 080245 or email pandaplaygroupadmissions@yahoo.co.uk)
- For any queries relating to **funding or bills** please contact Emma Coupland (text 07725 021 593 or email emma.coupland@hotmail.co.uk)
- For all **childcare issues** please contact Mel Suttill (during Panda sessions on 07758 668107 / out of session hours on 07725 695805)

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**



Fundraising news

Toy and baby equipment sale – Saturday 24 October

Can you help please? Donations of toys and offers of help requested

Parents new to Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts & Tiny Tots may not realise that our groups are run on a not-for-profit basis. The fees we charge don't cover our running costs and, as a registered charity, we rely on fundraising activities to help meet our costs.

We're kicking off the year with one of our biggest fundraising activities – our popular used toy and baby equipment sale. It takes place on **Saturday 24 October from 10am-12pm** at the Methodist Church Hall. Entrance is £1 per adult with all money going towards the running costs of our playgroup and drop-in sessions.

This is a great time for a pre-Christmas sort out of toys, books, clothes and baby/toddler equipment. If you'd like to sell items at the sale please email to register in advance and find out more: pandatoysale@yahoo.co.uk You'll receive 70% of the money paid for your items with the other 30% going to Panda Playgroup. If you're able to donate any items, we benefit from 100% of the sale price. Please contact us on the same email address to arrange for us to collect or receive any donated items.

We'd also love to hear from you if you're able to help out on the day with setting up, running the sale or tidying up. Even half an hour or an hour really helps. Thank you.

Whitebox photo session - Saturday 7 November, WI Hall

Coming to a Whitebox photography session is a reasonably priced way of getting up-to-date family and special occasion photos. With Christmas round the corner, you will receive a CD of copyright-free photos from which you can make prints or gifts. Look out for our posters and flyers or you can find out more or book your place by contacting pandaplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk.

Fundraising target for 2015/16: £5,000

Raised so far: £0.00. Still to raise this year: £5,000



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.

You can also find us at:



www.pandaplaygroup.co.uk