



Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots

Member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance
Registered charity number 1035584
Ofsted number 321619

Panda Playgroup Autumn Term Newsletter 2013

Welcome

I would like to start by welcoming all of our new starters, we are pleased to have new faces here at Panda, they have all settled in very well so far. It has been a very busy settling in period at Pandas with the introduction of a new Committee Chair, Panda Leader and lots of new Panda's joining the family. Thank you to parents for understanding and assisting Mel the new leader with meeting needs for the playgroup and information required for the children.

All the staff at Pandas are looking forward to an exciting term ahead with lots of new ideas for the children following their visit to the Early Years Centre of Excellence, Huddersfield. Some of these have already been put into practice and the children are very much enjoying the new activities and enjoying the presentation and set up of their toys and equipment. They have also found great interest in painting with broccoli and cabbage leaves.

Heating

This is now in full use and the staff are doing all they can to ensure the room is a comfortable temperature with the weather turning colder. However if you can ensure you send a cardigan/jumper for your child we can ensure they are kept warm. As the cold creeps upon us children need to have a hat, scarf and gloves to ensure we can allow children to have outside time, something which they very much enjoy. All clothing should be labelled.

What have we been learning through play?

Panda team have been developing the areas of learning indoor and outdoor play, we encourage children to explore and learn through their own play. We are hoping to establish areas whereby children can explore and enjoy as well as learn and respect the toys. The children have been learning different songs at registration time, a copy of these have been sent home. We will be continuing these songs as part of their daily routine making allowances for their development needs. We have been playing with lentils, pouring, measuring, filling bottles, funnelling, all the while enjoying learning about harvest.

Outing

On 22nd October during our Panda Plus session we are going on a short walk to learn about our surrounding environment, we will be taking our magnifying glasses for the children to look at their findings closer. We would really appreciate any volunteers to help with the walk, please speak to Mel if you would be available to help us out.

Phonics Fun

The children have been having lots of fun with phonics through singing songs, rhyming and repeating their sounds. This is encouraging further development of their language using senses.



www.pandaplaygroup.co.uk
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Can you help?

We are seeking resources to build up the learning areas, this term we are looking for: Pumice Stones, Lufers, Wooden Spoons, Sponges.

We are also looking for kitchen roll tubes to make Christmas crackers. Also, any old shelving/shoe racks etc..

Can you spare any time to help within Panda sessions? This would be much appreciated particularly towards the end of the session, please speak to any staff member if you can help us out.

Dates for your children's diary

Thurs 24th Oct – wear PJ's to Panda day

Tues 5th Nov – wear something sparkly

Thurs 28th Nov – first day of Hannukah, Jewish festival of lights. We will be putting up Christmas decorations

w/c 16th Dec – dress up day every day

Thurs 19th Dec – Panda Christmas Party

Happy Birthday to...

Nancy Suttill will be 3 on 13th October

Samuel Blackstone will be 3 on 19th October

Elsa Moody will be 3 on 27th October

Lucy Newton will be 2 on 1st November

Alexander Ross will be 2 on 9th November

Emily Webster will be 4 on 25th November

Oliver Webster will be 4 on 25th November

A final word from Mel: Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any concerns/suggestions or questions I am always happy to discuss these with you.

Fundraising

As you may or may not be aware Panda Playgroup is a charity which means we rely very heavily on fundraising to enable the Playgroup to run. If anyone could help us with any of the events in any way, baking, manning a stall, obtaining raffle prizes, collecting money etc please let Mel know asap. Help is always appreciated to ensure the success of the events. We have the following fundraising events organised this term:

Used Toy & Baby Equipment Sale –

Saturday 2nd November 10am – 12pm at the Methodist Church - £1.00 entry to include a hot/cold drink, cakes available too! 30% of proceeds donated to Panda. Donations of toys, clothes, equipment very welcome. If you would like to sell please email pandatoysale@yahoo.co.uk

The WI Christmas Fayre – Saturday 9th

November 10am – 3pm at the WI Hall Panda will be providing some entertainment for the little ones and there will be a visit from you know who!

Family Photo Shoot – Saturday 16th

November 10am – 5pm at the WI Hall

Following last years hugely successful photo shoot Whitebox are back! Open to all family members, £25 for 20 family prints on CD for you to print/canvass do what you wish, for a bigger family gathering £45. Booking is essential, please email pandaphotoenquire@yahoo.co.uk

Panda Nativity – Sunday 8th December

2pm – 4pm A chance to see your little one take centre stage, we have cakes, stalls and a raffle for this festive afternoon.



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Phoenix Cards: Panda Playgroup is an outlet for Phoenix Agent, Sandra Hirst. Phoenix Cards produce fantastic, good quality greetings cards, giftwrap, Christmas cards and stationery. If you obtain a catalogue from Sharron Little at Sticky Mitts or Tiny Tots (or email sharron_little@o2.co.uk) Panda Playgroup will receive a percentage of all purchases made.

Spend and Raise: This is an online shopping directory featuring hundreds of retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Debenhams, M&S and many more. A commission is given to Panda each time you shop with these retailers via www.spendandraise.com/pandaplaygroup. Please make this your homepage. It costs you no more than a couple of extra seconds each time you shop online and Panda will receive a % of your purchase.

Sticky Mitts & Tiny Tots - News from Sharron

Hi everyone and welcome back to the Autumn Term. It is great to see so many familiar faces back for the new term and also lots of new ones. I hope the children are enjoying the sessions, we have already done some harvest themed craft at Sticky Mitts which has proved popular. We will be doing tea towels and eco bags with the children's hand/footprints on, keep a look out for the order form – Perfect Christmas Presents!

If you have changed details such as address/email please let me know.

Committee Contact List:

Margaret Webster / Chair 07957 208212
Andy Bell / Treasurer 01904 700750
Lynda Robson/ViceTreasurer 01904 709085
Alexis Travis / Admissions 01904 702207
Alexis Westworth /Secretary 01904 705169
Emergency contact no. for Panda Playgroup during session times: 07758 668 107

Our contact email address is:
pandaplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk

For more information about Panda Playgroup including session times, fees, activities and a copy of the Ofsted report please visit our website
www.pandaplaygroup.co.uk

Term Timetable:

Autumn Term 2013

Wed 3rd Sept – Thurs 24th Oct 2013
Mon 4th Nov – Thur 19th Dec 2013

Spring Term 2014

Tues 7th Jan – Thurs 13th Feb 2014
Mon 24th Feb – Thurs 3rd April 2014

Summer Term 2014

Tues 22nd Apr – Thurs 22nd May 2014
Mon 2nd June – Thurs 17th July 2014

Please note that May Day Bank Holiday falls during term time, Panda will be closed on Monday 5th May 2014.

Please come along to our AGM meeting Monday 21st October 8pm at the Rec we would love to see you there.

We would like to send future editions of the newsletter via email to as many as possible. If you would like to receive this via email, please email marge_kt22@yahoo.co.uk.



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