



Welcome back, we hope you all had an enjoyable half term break and didn't spend too much of it bathed in mud.

"It's not about the weather, it's about the clothes you wear!"

Please can we remind you to ensure clothing such as hats, coats, gloves etc. are brought for the cold weather along with a change of clothing in case the children get wet or too dirty outside and that all items are labeled with your child's initials.

Panda news

Panda's have had a very enjoyable time celebrating the Chinese New Year – eating Chinese food, playing with dry and wet noodles and rice with chopsticks and becoming familiar with Chinese music and dance.

Alongside this the children have been exploring tools and their uses in a variety of ways including the use of tools within the home area.

Throughout the next term we will be reading 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and investigating sequence of events related to growth and change of creatures. There will be an emphasis on what happens next for the children to not only develop their understanding but their imaginations also. Please feel free to share any resources you may have which may assist in the children's learning.

We have been expecting Ofsted to inspect the setting for the last two years now as our previous inspection was in 2009. They will arrive unannounced and may very much like to speak with some parents regarding their views of the Playgroup. Please feel free to offer feedback if you are asked. We hope you will feel able to offer positive feedback underpinning the hard work the staff carry out to provide a happy, safe and rich environment for the children. Additionally, please could you support us by providing comments in the comment box on the registration table (forms can be found on the parent display board in the hallway).

Panda Leader Comment: I would like to thank each and everyone of you for your continued support in Pandas whether you are Tiny Tots, Sticky Mitts or Playgroup Panda. We are very much a community with high spirits in making Panda's successful. Although we face tough challenges at times, we always have strong support from families. Much appreciated!

We have now created a Facebook Closed Group "Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts & Tiny Tots - Parents & Carers Group" which will allow 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

Term dates

Term ends: Thursday 3rd April

Summer term starts: Tuesday 22nd April

Ideas Spot

Outdoor Fun

The children are going to explore mini beasts – caterpillar, ladybirds, spiders, worms, etc. in their outdoor world using magnifying glasses and looking at where these creatures live and how they grow.

Talk about the different colours they can see – red ladybird, black spots; green caterpillar, multi coloured butterfly.

Why not:

Take you child/children on a mini beast hunt – who can find the most bugs? Take photographs, can the children draw what they have found or simply describe what they remember finding?

Happy Birthday to:

Daniel Newton (4)

Iyannah Woods (3)

Quote of the Season

'In order to Work effectively with children and young people, we must be able to assess their development and then plan to support them.' Children and young people's workforce: 2010: pg82

If you're shopping online, you can raise cash for Panda at no extra cost.

Follow the link on our website



Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots

"Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term at Panda Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots. We have had quite a few new children and parents/carers join us this half term - on behalf of the Panda Playgroup team I would like to say a big "welcome" to you all. Last half term at Sticky Mitts we did some Winter craft (despite the absence of much in the way of Winter!) and this half term we shall be carrying on with the theme and then moving into Spring and Easter craft as the weeks progress so keep a look out for lambs, chicks and eggs!

A big thank you to you all for supporting us at the Coffee Morning on 8th February which proved to be a great success again. Many of you have asked when we're going to have similar events - watch this space for details of a Messy Play morning incorporating both Sticky Mitts and Playgroup at the WI Hall on Thursday 27th March and also the Easter Fayre on Saturday 26th April again at the WI Hall - more play and cake you will be pleased to hear!

As always, if anyone has any queries about the sessions, has moved or changed their email address (or doesn't get emails from me) please let me know.
Thanks. Sharron."

Dates for your Diary:

Thursday 6th March - World Book Day – Children can dress up as their favourite story characters all week! Emphasis this week is books and stories – would your child like to bring in a favourite book? (please label).

Week beginning: 24/3/2014 – Let us smell!– Can the children bring in something they can smell – lavender, rosemary, scented cushion, etc.

Thursday 27th March– Messy Play Day – Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots joining the session at 10:30 – 11:30 for a play session (with parents/carers) and open day!

Sunday 30th March - Mothers Day

Week beginning: 31/3/2014 – Yellow Week. Wear something yellow or bring something yellow to the session.

Saturday 26th April 2014 10:00 to 12:00 -

Easter Fayre – our first ever! Please come and join us for a morning of Crafts, Easter Bonnet Parade, Egg Decorating Competition, Colouring and Drawing Competition, Face Painting, Games and Tea, Coffee and Cakes!

Parent Support

Panda Helper Rota: In the past parents were asked to come in to Panda for the full session to help the staff & enjoy seeing their children play & learn while having a whole heap of fun. Recently we changed the rota, asking parents only to provide snack & to return at 11.00 to help wash up.

While we do not wish to insist that parents come in for the full session on their 'helper' day, it would make a huge difference to the staff if you did feel able to do so. An extra pair of hands & eyes to play with the children, read stories, assist with crafts etc as well as help with clearing up makes a massive difference to the staff & may even enable one of them to be able to undertake some of the ever-increasing admin/paperwork which is often having to be taken home & completed in their own time.

As a parent, while I found it ate into my 'me-time' to do so, I always enjoyed the mornings I came in as Panda Helper (and my children loved that I was there). I loved to be able to see what they got up to, see them having fun, playing, learning & interacting with the other children. It is an opportunity we don't often get as parents to see into their world.

If you are at all able to come in for the full session as a Panda Helper, please do so. It will make a big difference to the staff and allow you a wonderful opportunity to see your child at play. If it would help if you were on the rota on a particular day to enable you to come in for a full session please let Janice know and she will endeavour to accommodate your request.

In addition we are looking for a volunteer who may be able to assist in the lifting and handling at 8:00-8:30am and 12:00-12:30pm Monday to Thursday. This is very much about undertaking the manual handling, lifting and carrying to give the staff a break. Please speak to Mel if you can assist.

How to get in touch

Panda mobile	(session times only)	07758 668107
Mel Suttill	(out of hours)	07725 695805
Margaret Webster	(Chair)	07957 208212
Janice Lofthouse	(Admissions)	01904 701077



Appeal for resources! – Thank You!

CD Player – for the children to use.
Small and large drawstring bags
Milk crates
Junk Modelling equipment