



Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots

Spring 2014

newsletter

Happy New Year!

Welcome back to all of our Pandas and Panda Parents, we hope you have all enjoyed a well deserved break over Christmas.

The children are all settling in well to being back at Pandas, whilst the weather is colder and the ground a little muddy please can you ensure you send hats, scarves, gloves and wellingtons to ensure that the children can go outside to play as this is something they really enjoy, thanks for your support on this.

Panda news

We have had a fantastic first term and made great differences to the setting for the staff and children and we are now ready to enjoy having further opportunities for fun and play.

The children have been very interested in the play opportunities we have set up and hopefully we have created areas within the hall offering the children a broad range of learning opportunities such as a craft area offering playdough and tools, painting, gluing, sand and other messy activities and the tool bench and garage role play area. Most areas within the hall will remain the same but its learning objectives within these areas alter according to the children's interests and learning.

Panda of the Day – We are pleased to know that you are enjoying the company of our Panda's which go home weekly. Please can you ensure they are returned the following week to enable another child to have the opportunity.

Staff have been participating in training for 'Working together to safeguard Children' and 'Implementing the Early Years Foundation Stage in the setting' — Both have been valuable training courses for the staff. The staff are also participating in further training throughout the next two terms with Copmanthorpe partnership team.

Parents have given tremendous support in our fundraising events and with daily preparations – We couldn't do it without you! Thank you.

As parents you also have an opportunity to undergo some training and learning if you wish – on 6th February 7:00pm – 8:45pm there is a session on 'teaching your child to read and write'. This will be held hopefully at Copmanthorpe School. Please inform Mel if you are interested in attending ASAP.

Mandy Brodrick from Early years is coming to Panda on 22nd January for Phonics training and implementation (staff and children). Maxine Benson from Early years is coming to Panda on 30th January to observe what Mel has implemented as a leader.

Spring term dates

Break up: Thursday 13th February

Panda Re-Opens: Monday 24th February.

Ideas Spot

Outdoor Fun

The children are looking at shapes and colours. We are using the coloured parachute to play games, participating in taking turns, sharing, balancing skills and working together as a team.

Why not:

Talk about the colours you and your child recognise when you are out and about. Maybe they can recognise different shades. Talk about the shapes of wheels, cars, buildings, windows, etc which encourages shape recognition and language with their understanding.

Happy Birthday to:

*Hayden Brown (3)
Lawrence Longley (3)
Rebecca Fox (4)
James Craven (4)
Abigail Spedding (3)
Freddie Bell (4)
James Young (3)
Paige Cariss (3)*

Panda Quote

Mel: 'I saw simba in the disney shop today'

Panda Snack – Due to new Environmental Health Guidelines we are no longer able to accept home baking for children's snack, we are only able to accept full pre packed food. We are deeply sorry and very grateful to all of you who have provided us with lovely treats in the past. However if you have a food hygiene certificate we are still able to accept home baking. There is a new form required to be signed by parents in line with this.

Parent Support - If you are available to offer a helping hand before, during or at the end of the session for setting up or tidying away please speak to a member of staff. Your help really makes a difference!

A quick note from Janice in admissions, the sessions are filling up, so please get in touch soon if you'd like additional days next term. The Tuesday morning session will be full but there is some availability for the remaining sessions. Please contact me, preferably by email pandaplaygroupadmissions@yahoo.co.uk with your additional requests for the summer term. I'm also interested in your requirements for September, which can be submitted by email.

For those currently at Sticky Mitts but interested in starting Panda sessions, please get in touch for more details or to arrange a visit to the setting.

DONATIONS REQUIRED PLEASE: CD Player; CDs; Shoe-racks/shelving/storage boxes or containers. Books & Props: There was an Old lady who Swallowed a Fly; The Rainbow Fish; Elmer; The Tiger who came to tea; The Snowman Any other donations will be greatly appreciated!



'Like' the **Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts & Tiny Tots** page on Facebook. You can also find us at:
www.pandaplaygroup.co.uk

How to get in touch

Panda mobile (session times only) **07758 668107**
Mel Suttill (out of hours) **07725695805**
Margaret Webster (Chair) **07957 208 212**
Janice Lofthouse (Admissions) **01904 701077**

Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots

Welcome back everyone, I hope you've all had a lovely Christmas and New Year. Last term ended with the usual hectic few weeks of Christmas crafts at Sticky Mitts, and culminated with the Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots Christmas party which I hope everyone enjoyed. A big thank you goes out to Sharon Price for helping me at the party.

This term we will be doing winter-themed craft at Sticky Mitts in the run up to the half term holiday, and then spring/Easter craft for the second half of the term.

Coffee Morning (see Events). Can you help at all? As usual I am organising our annual Coffee and Craft/Play Morning which this year is on **Saturday 8th February**. I need items for our Tombola so if you have any bits and pieces left over from Christmas that need a new home please bear us in mind! There are also some tables available for trades/crafts people who might like to display and sell their wares - if you know anyone who might be interested please let me know or ask them to get in touch with me. Fundraising is particularly important for Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots, as these sessions run at a considerable loss and are propped up by funds raised by the main Playgroup. If we do not receive sufficient fundraising income for the Playgroup then the future of Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots could be in doubt, so it is essential everyone supports us where they can.

Donations gratefully received! Some of you have said you would like to help out occasionally with the supply of biscuits for coffee time, which I have previously supplied myself. If anyone would like to buy the odd packet of biscuits to keep the box topped up it would be very much appreciated. Similarly, if you have any materials/paper we may be able to use for the craft at Sticky Mitts, or toys suitable for either session, please let me know. Thank you. Sharron

Upcoming Events:

Saturday 8th February – 10am-12pm Coffee Morning at the Methodist Church

Date TBC: An invitation to our Sticky Mitts & older Tiny Tots children to join us for a Messy Play Session at Panda Playgroup. A great opportunity for some of our younger children & their parents to see what we do at Panda.

If you're shopping online, you can raise cash for Panda at no extra cost. Follow the link on our website.

