



Welcome to Our Summer term. We have lots of exciting activities and events between now and July and we hope you would like to become involved wherever possible.

The Spring Term was a really enjoyable term and the children have been participating in many play opportunities within Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots. There are lots of events and diary dates throughout this next term so please keep reading any emails, notices or handouts. We always have a good time when we come together.

## Panda News

**Panda Leader Comment:** *I would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support in Panda's whether you are Tiny Tots, Sticky Mitts or Playgroup Panda. I would really like to have some feedback of your thoughts or ideas in what you like as a parent/carer so please feel free to share with me anytime!*

**Topic:** *Throughout the next few weeks we will be looking at fruit and vegetables, their tastes and what they look like. We will be exploring the 'Farm' and the role of a farmer and how they help us to have food, as well as looking at different animals.*

**Trip to the Farm** *As a parent myself I am going to take Nancy for a visit to Monk Park farm one Friday (proposing Fri 13<sup>th</sup> June). If anyone would like to come along with their children you are more than welcome - if a large enough group of us attend we may actually save a bit of money! Please speak to Mel regarding your interest in this. It should be a really good experience for the children.*

**Ofsted** *still haven't arrived but I feel they are just around the corner. 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).*

**Please can parents** *bring suitable clothing of wellies, jacket, sunhat & cream for outdoor play, as well as a change of clothes as we will be having lots of water play! We ask children not to wear crocs as we have had several accidents in the past of children falling over wearing them, or strappy dresses as it is too easy to burn their shoulders in the sun (we recommend a t-shirt underneath). Ideally, children should arrive at Panda's wearing sunscreen so that the staff can spend more time playing with the children during session.*

### Term dates

Break up: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Return: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June



### Ideas Spot

#### Outdoor Fun

*The children will hopefully spend a lot of time outside in the nice weather. At Pandas we will have a fruit and Vegetable shop. Maybe you could visit a fruit shop and talk about the different varieties. Talk about the role of the farmer within the surrounding areas and how they help in bringing us food.*

#### Why not:



*Explore fruit and vegetables with your children by looking at their textures, colours and shapes. Carry out a fruit tasting activity or let them help you make a fruit salad.*

#### Happy Birthday to:

Maisie Pearce (3)  
Primrose Westworth (3)  
Ellie Wright (4)



**Welcome** to 3 new Panda friends:  
Rachel, William and Stanley

#### Quote from the children

Panda Child - "You don't need to ask me cos I'm just gonna do it!"  
Staff - "Okay then...that told me!"

#### Appeal for resources! – Thanks!

- Plastic bottles with lids
- Plastic containers with lids (eg. Takeaway containers)
- CD Player – for children to use.
- Milk crates
- Junk Modelling equipment

# Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots

Welcome back to the Summer Term at Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots. This term at our Monday and Wednesday sessions we will be concentrating on summer themed craft, think flowers, butterflies, sunshine, the seaside, holidays and of course we won't be forgetting Father's Day in June. Hopefully we will be getting the sand and water table out so the children can have some fun in something a bit larger than the washing up bowl - I know they get wet but hopefully they will dry quickly and we always have a supply of emergency clothing if anyone needs it during a session!

If any of you have moved house or changed your own or emergency contact numbers or email addresses since you originally registered for the sessions please let me have the correct details. If you are not sure what details I have please ask and if you think you might have slipped through the net and I might not have any details for you please let me know as soon as possible!

## Dates for your Diary:

**Panda Plus School leavers visit Copmanthorpe Primary:**

Tue 13th May & Tue 17th June 1:45 – 2:45pm

**Talk and Play Session at Copmanthorpe School for 2-4 years:** Fri 16th May 1:30 – 2:45pm

**Trip to The Rec:** Mon 19th May 2014: Leaving Panda's at 9:00am & return at 11:30am (Any parent helpers welcome & thanks to those who've already volunteered)

**Next Committee meeting :** Mon 2nd June 8pm at The Royal Oak All welcome

**Curry Night** Fri 13<sup>th</sup> June 8pm, Sizzling Plate

**Admissions:** Thanks for all your replies regarding your requirements for September. We've still a few spaces for each of the sessions. If you decide you'd like any additional sessions, please contact me or fill in the change to sessions form that's available in the setting or on the website. If you'd like further information about the free early years funding that your child receives from the term following their 3rd birthday, please see <http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/families/Childcare/free-early-years-entitlement.htm> or contact Lynda our vice-treasurer via [pandaplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pandaplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk) . **Janice**

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](http://www.pandaplaygroup.co.uk)

Spendandraise taken over by **easyfundraising**.org.uk

**We raised £7.61 for Pandas just by buying a tent!**

When Panda's first started to use Spendandraise, we made up to £100 per quarter. Now, we raise barely £25 per quarter. But now, Spendandraise have been taken over by **Easyfundraising.org.uk** and to be honest, it's much better, and easier to remember. It works like this: every time you buy something online you could be raising vital funds for Panda Playgroup. Over 2700 well known retailers including Amazon, Sainsbury's, Argos, LateRooms and many more, will donate a percentage (on average 5%) of what you spend when you shop via [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ppsmtt](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ppsmtt). **For example just 2 extra clicks and your weekly online Sainsbury's shop can raise us 50p a week, or £25/year!** So instead of going directly to a retailer's website, go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ppsmtt](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ppsmtt) first and choose the retailer you want to shop with – then everything you spend with that retailer earns a free donation for Panda Playgroup and your shopping won't cost you a penny more. We know it is easy to forget, but there is a "Find & Remind" toolbar (go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/raise-more/find-and-remind/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/raise-more/find-and-remind/) to download it) which once installed into your web browser, prompts you each time you visit a partner retailer's website, so you don't have to remember! Unlike many toolbars this isn't intrusive (on Internet Explorer or Chrome) and I'd really recommend installing it. Unfortunately, you can't yet install this into browsers on tablets/phones, but for PCs/laptops this is easy. I can't stress enough how easy this is. Please spread the work to family and friends (particularly Sainsbury's online shoppers!). It's essential we find ways to raise funds without asking parents to put their hands in their pockets or give up their time. This is one easy way to help raise vital funds without costing you a penny or taking up any of your time.

**Fundraising Target for 2013/14: £4,500**

**Raised so far: £2,800. Still to raise this term: £1,700 • •**



**Easter Fayre:** Thanks to everyone for their hard work and support at our first Easter Fayre. This raised a very respectable sum of approx £175. We had some wonderfully decorated bonnets and Easter Eggs. Visit [www.pandaplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.pandaplaygroup.co.uk) to see them!



**May Day Fair:** Huge thanks to everyone for baking & helping on the day especially those who haven't before! We had a very successful and fun day and raised £300.

## How to get in touch

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



## Committee News:

We thought we'd add a regular section telling you what the committee are doing. We do a lot and make decisions behind the scenes which we thought you should know. First, a big thank you from all the committee to all the staff for their incredibly hard work at Panda, Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots. They do an amazing job and make our playgroup the fantastic place it is. Thanks too to all of you, without your support we'd have no playgroup.

**A New Panda?!** A big focus over the past year has been the long-term sustainability of Panda Playgroup following our financial crisis last academic year. This can be addressed in part through a sensible program of well-planned and well-supported fundraising events each year. But we also need to think more as a business which has to compete with 2 other childcare settings in the village. We've been working hard on our marketing, on bringing our logo, A-boards and website up to date and ensuring that everything is consistent. Roy Carriss has kindly made two new A-boards and Kate Smith (aka Phoebe Cheeseby) has drawn up fabulous designs for the boards. Kate's also designed a colourful new Panda which you'll see soon on our paperwork, A-boards and staff uniforms. We're all very excited about this and hope you will soon start to see the results of this work.



**Keeping the staff warm!** The staff must set up/pack up all the equipment each day and stand on the door at the start and end of each session. During the colder weather this can be especially unpleasant for them. As a duty of care to the staff we felt it appropriate to buy each member of staff a fleece and, bizarrely, it was cheaper to buy them each a polo shirt too! We've a small amount of money leftover from the sustainability grant from the Council last year. This money was allocated specifically for marketing purposes. I've been given permission to use these funds for some visible marketing in the form of staff uniforms with our new logo. These uniforms will keep the staff warm, give us a more professional appearance and provide some very visible marketing as the staff go about the village.

**Money money money...** We're constantly trying to find ways to raise funds for Panda without asking parents to give up their time, make donations or put their hands in their pockets. Chris at the Annexe Coffee Shop suggested they'd be interested in sponsoring this newsletter. We're currently exploring this idea. If you've any fundraising ideas please let us know.



**Planning for the future:** We've started to look toward the AGM in October. As happens every few years, quite a few of the current committee's youngest children will be leaving Panda to start school in September so quite a few of the committee will be stepping down. The roles of Chair and Treasurer will definitely need to be filled. Change is afoot at Alexis' work so although she had intended to do another year as Secretary she may also have to step down (although we are crossing our fingers that she is able to stay). We'll also need general committee members. We'd like to ask you all now to start to consider whether you'd like to join the committee in October. Committee meetings are open to you all to attend and a good way to see what we are up to. Being on the committee does take a little time, but it is very rewarding. It's great to be involved, make new friends and learn new skills, and would look good on your CV! If you'd like any further information at any time please speak to me or any of the committee.

Thank you. **Marge**

## Copmanthorpe Carnival:

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 12 noon – 6pm:** Our children will be singing on stage to open the carnival so don't forget to buy your tickets in advance. We'll be asking for donations of bottles for our bag-a-bottle game & for small toys/left-over party-bag fillers for a lucky dip. We'll need volunteers to help run the stall, face-paint and wear the panda outfit on the day. This is one of our big fundraisers and with your help it will be!

## Smarties tubes:



I hope your children enjoyed their Smarties & you were able to keep the tubes to pop your spare 20p coins into. We'll collect these near the end of term so I'll send a couple of reminders. We're trying hard to find ways to fundraise without asking too much of parents & hope this simple initiative will be a success.

**My Namtags:** Mel recently sent home with the children an order form for My Namtags. If you need to order namtags for school uniforms use My Namtags & enter the **ID: 47079** we can raise funds for Panda at no cost to ourselves! We can either use the order forms - put the ID in & return them to Mel with a cheque, or order online at [www.MyNamtags.com](http://www.MyNamtags.com) remembering to enter our ID.

**Quiz Night:** Ruth Scarlett is kindly organising a quiz night for us, a fun way to do a bit of fundraising while enjoying a drink with our friends. More details soon.

