



# Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts & Tiny Tots

# newsletter

Spring term 2015

## Term dates

**Break up:** Thursday 12 February

**Return:** Monday 23 February

**Break up:** Thursday 26 March

**Return:** Monday 13 April

**Message from your committee:** "We hope everyone is having a good 2015 so far. The children are already having fun at Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots and we want to thank our wonderful staff team (led by Mel) for their hard work behind the scenes to ensure our children have such a good time at all their sessions. We really appreciate their commitment and dedication and look forward to working with them throughout the year.



"A big thank you also to the Parents & Friends group who have already done so much to raise much-needed funds since their first meeting in November and to all the parents who've helped at fundraising activities. We're particularly grateful to Rebecca Newton for everything she's done to organise events, meetings and us in these first months of the group! We wish Rebecca all the best as she returns to work. Thanks also to everyone who's supported Pandas by attending a fundraising event in the last couple of months. We've got the Whitebox photography day, the WI Christmas Fayre and Nativity under our belts and are now looking forward to Sharron Little's coffee morning on Saturday 14 February and to our Easter Fayre on Saturday 21 March. Thank you."

## Panda news

**Message from Mel, our Panda leader:** Welcome back to all of our Panda families. I hope you have had a lovely Christmas. Autumn saw two long half terms and, although everyone was tired by the time we broke up, the children have all had such a good term and enjoyed having great fun with friends.

Last term also saw a change of committee team. Seven new members have joined Janice Lofthouse (Admissions) and are enjoying their roles in looking after Panda. We have also gained a **Parents & Friends** group for those who would like to get involved with fundraising in an informal way but do not wish to be on the committee. They meet once or twice every half-term, please feel free to go along to their next meeting on **Monday 26 January at 09.15** in the Annexe Coffee Shop.

**Themes for this term:** The snow, numbers, colours and shapes, Chinese New Year (it's the Year of the Sheep). And continuing into next half term we'll be looking at pets, farm, wild, and zoo animals. I will send out notices of any additional information relating to each theme in due course. We are hoping to have a visit to a farm on Friday 20 March. Please look out for details being sent home once I have confirmation.

### A few reminders

**Clothing** - please can all parents/carers ensure that their children have suitable clothing for the cold weather – hat, gloves, scarf, jumper/sweater, coat and wellies and if possible, spare clothes in case they are wet or dirty.

**Headlice** - please check your child's hair for head lice on a regular basis and inform staff (in confidence) if your child has had them so we can alert other parents.

**Absence** - if your child is absent from playgroup inform Mel on the Panda session time number (07758 668107) or out of hours number (07725 695805) as we need to record all absences and it helps the staff know whether to expect the child or not. Additionally, they must make a full recovery before returning to the setting.

## Ideas spot

Encourage your child to think about how to stay warm during the cold weather. Can they put on their hats, coats, gloves and footwear?



Why not go for a walk and talk about the effect weather has had. Can they see any icicles, footprints from frost or mud? What do the trees look like without leaves and when will the leaves grow back?

### Happy birthday to:

Abigail (4)

Rachel (4)

James (4)

Stanley (4)

Paige (4)

William (4)

Iyannah (4)

Lucy (3)

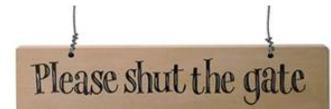
Layla (3)

### Welcome to our new Panda friends:



Jacob, Emily, James, Lara, and Billy

**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

"Hello everyone and welcome back to the Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots sessions, it is lovely to see so many of you back and lots of new faces too. This half term we will be concentrating on Winter-themed craft and, after the February half term break, we will be starting on Spring - we are ever hopeful!

"I am organising the annual coffee morning again this year - see full details below but, suffice to say, I am looking for tombola prizes please so if you have any unwanted Christmas presents lying around at home please think about donating them to us so that we can raise some funds to help keep our wonderful sessions going. Thank you." *Sharron Little*



## Dates for your diary /fundraising

**Monday 26 January – the Parents & Friends of Panda Playgroup** are meeting at 09.15 in the Annexe Coffee Shop, Copmanthorpe. Come for coffee and chat and, if you're able to help out at all with any of Panda's fundraising activities, that would be great but there's no pressure.

Whether you could possibly help plan an entire event or spare just a few hours once a year we would love to see you. We are making good progress with achieving this year's fundraising target of £5,000 but there's still lots to do!

**Saturday 14 February - Coffee morning** from 10.00 – 12.00 in Copmanthorpe Methodist Church. Come and see us for coffee/tea, cakes, stalls, face painting, children's craft and play activities. Tombola prizes requested please.



**Saturday 21 March – Easter Fayre** in the WI Hall from 13.00 – 16.00. We'll have stalls, refreshments and face painting.

## Appeal for resources/help - please

- Squeezy bottles, spray bottles, stones and gravel (all in aid of a 'Talk and Play' session at Copmanthorpe school in May)
- A CD player for the children to use in playgroup
- Does anyone have space please (inside or outside) to store a few toys left over from our toy sale - about a car boot's-worth. We'd love to hear from you if you do.

## Fundraising target for 2014/15: £5,000

**Raised so far: c£2,500. Still to raise this year: £2,500** • •



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



## Committee news



We are delighted to announce a new member of the Panda parent committee; Sharron Fletcher will be joining us shortly as our new chairperson.

With a background in accountancy and business, Sharron has lived in Copmanthorpe for seven years and her two daughters attend the village primary school.

We are looking forward to working with Sharron and with our staff team and all Panda Playgroup, Sticky Mitts and Tiny Tots parents in the year ahead to build on the great work done by the previous committee led by outgoing chair, Margaret Webster.

## Panda parents can stay and play

We're very grateful for your support in providing the snack for our Panda Playgroup children and for help with clearing away. We'd like to remind parents that you are very welcome to stay for the full morning's session when it's your turn to bring snack.

We appreciate that this is not always possible but, if you could spare those three hours when it's your turn on the rota, the staff would be incredibly grateful as the extra pair of hands means they are able to do a few extra jobs. You can also use the time to catch up with your child's journal.

## Answering your question and queries

We'd like to help you have your questions/queries answered as quickly as possible. Here's the low-down of who to contact about what:



- 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](mailto:pandaplaygroupadmissions@yahoo.co.uk))
- For any queries relating to **funding or bills** please contact Emma Coupland (text 07725 021 593 or email [pandaplaygroupvicetreasurer@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pandaplaygroupvicetreasurer@yahoo.co.uk))
- For all **childcare issues** please contact Mel Suttill (during Panda sessions on 07758 668107 / out of session hours on 07725 695805)

## 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>Emma Coupland</b>	(Funding/bills)	<b>07725 021593</b>
<b>Janice Lofthouse</b>	(Admissions)	<b>01904 701077</b>