

# Newsletter

## February 2025



### Crossbow competition

For our second session on Leonardo Da Vinci the Home Educating families had a go at four different Da Vinci inventions; helicopters, parachutes, bridges and crossbows. Leonardo designed a giant crossbow; we worked to a smaller scale, making them from pegs and elastic bands with a cotton bud as the projectile. These mini crossbows were surprisingly accurate and effective so we had a little competition to see who could fire the furthest. Bob won with a stunning three metre victory. He really mastered the engineering and helped the others, making adjustments to improve the design. It is so great to see how Bob has developed as part of this sessions; when he first started coming in 2024 he wasn't comfortable speaking to new people and at this session he became the teacher. As we approach two years of providing sessions for Home Educating families it is wonderful to see the young people develop, not just in the range of skills we teach, but also in their confidence.



### Schools

Despite the weather, and the fact that our activities are predominately outside, we still keep busy with school visits. This month Frinton Primary and Hamford Primary both visited to learn about our Anglo-Saxon and Viking heritage. For the Year 5 students from Hamford the trip came at the end of their topic. It was clear the children had learnt a lot in school and were able to transfer that knowledge and vocabulary to their experiences at the Priory. They asked excellent, thoughtful questions, and when we split into two groups to dress up as monks, nuns and Vikings they were able to put across a considered debate drawing on their knowledge and making connections between the story of Osyth and other Viking raids such as Lindisfarne. The children were able to learn about local history and put it into a wider, global, context.

### Looking ahead...

Spring is such a beautiful time at the Priory and we look forward to welcoming many more schools over the coming months. From May our public tours will resume. If you would like to help on these tours we are looking for volunteers for a range of roles. Please call Sonia Grantham 01255 820648 to discuss ways you could be involved.

### Outdoor Explorers

February has seen some rather soggy sessions but that is all the better for making mud! Popular children's books have provided the themes for some of our sessions e.g. Elmer the Elephant, as well as a Valentine's special. Jane, our Forest School lead, always plans engaging and varied activities and, alongside Victoria, gives the children opportunities to develop through play. We have a lovely group of parents who are committed to coming no matter what the weather and they get to have a hot drink and chat while the little ones are occupied. There are some spaces available. Tickets can be purchased via the website or send us an email for more information.



Helen Brown

Education Manager

[www.prioryeducationcentre.co.uk](http://www.prioryeducationcentre.co.uk)