

Newsletter

January 2025



2025

The team at the Education Centre are very excited as we make plans for the coming year. Our school visits are going from strength to strength and we are especially encouraged by the repeat bookings and schools visiting us because of the testimony of teachers who have been before. Our most popular school visit theme is Anglo-Saxon v Vikings, looking at the legend of St. Osyth. We are expanding our programme this year to include Tudor days and will be welcoming Brightlingsea Primary on 15th May to explore the Tudor house and life at the Priory under the aristocratic Darcy family. As the weather warms up we are able to add more and more to our Living Things programme. We have such a variety of habitats we are able to explore with the access to have to the vast Parkland including ponds and meadows. There will be more and more opportunities for the public to visit for historical tours of the buildings and Tractor Trailer tours of the Parkland. We are hoping to expand this area to be able to provide opportunities for groups and societies to come all day and bring a picnic to enjoy on the lawns. We are also looking to be able to offer tours focusing on specific aspects of the Parkland as well as its history. This will include a guided tour concentrating on the bird life with an expert talk on route.

Last half term the Trust expanded the team to include a new member of staff; Dr Joanne Locke took on the role of Fundraising Officer. Her role will be essential for the work of the Trust, including the Education Centre, to continue. She is incredibly experienced and already a very valued member of our little team.

When I grow up...

Year 2 children at St. Osyth Primary School were asked what they wanted to be when they grew up. There were various responses including ballet teacher, palaeontologist, and Lego builder. One child said she wanted to work at St. Osyth Priory leading the school trips. It is wonderful that she has this aspiration after visiting the Priory and I totally agree, it's a great job! Our work with the National Lottery Heritage Fund and restoration projects of the Tithe barn and tower will provide opportunities for young people to see a whole range of skills, trades and professions. The Trust is planning 'hard hat' tours and workshops to ensure the work they do is visible to the community and gives opportunities to for people of all ages to consider careers they might never have imagined.

Sky Documentary

We have been approached by Sky who would like to film part of a documentary at the Priory. The documentary is a three part programme on the Essex witch trials. Presented by Dr Alice Roberts and Rylan Clark, one of the three episodes will focus on the 1582 witch trials at St. Osyth. The Museum have also been working closely with the producers to help create an accurate and sensitive representation of this period of our history. Filming starts this month. I shall keep you updated on when it will air.



Leonardo Da Vinci

To start 2025 our regular Home Educating families will have 2 sessions focusing on Leonardo Da Vinci. January's session will look at his caricature and monster drawings. We will explore the Priory buildings looking at gargoyles, grotesques and other carved faces before we make our own from clay. The second session will draw on the engineering skills of the children and young people as we focus on some of Leonardo's inventions and we'll have a go at some of his flying machine and bridge designs.

Helen Brown

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www.prioryeducationcentre.co.uk