

# Newsletter



## November 2024

### Visits

We had visitors to the Education Centre every working day throughout November. Schools, Outdoor Explorers, Young Carers and Home Educators all making the most of this gorgeous space as the seasons changed from autumn to winter. The Outdoor Explorers picked up on these seasonal changes through their activities, including firework painting and toasting marshmallows.

### Community Christmas

We have been working closely with Blackjacket Events to create a memorable family afternoon at the Priory. There will be a variety of entertainment and activities as well as over 20 different craft and market stalls. It will be the perfect opportunity to spend time together and do your last minute Christmas shopping with unique and handmade gifts on sale.

Mrs Claus will be with us to help the children decorate gingerbread. The Tractor trailer\* will take you on a route to see the deer and you can make your own deer food to take home for the hungry reindeer who will be busy Christmas Eve pulling Father Christmas' sleigh. The big man himself will also be making an appearance. There is the option to cosy up in the Grand Hall around the fire place and listen to Father Christmas telling popular children's stories\*. Tickets available through Eventbrite. Search 'St. Osyth Priory Community Christmas'

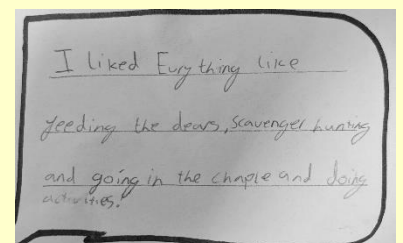
\*These and some other activities are at an additional cost.

### Priory Youth

We have been very fortunate in being awarded a substantial grant from Essex Community Foundation to pilot the running of a youth club at the Priory. The estate is a beautiful environment giving young people the opportunity to spend time here and develop a sense of ownership which we hope will give them pride in where they live. We will be able to invest in developing activities and programming which connects us more closely to our community. The funding would allow the Education Centre to purchase equipment and resources to offer a variety of new experiences for young people aged 12 to 16 years. Activities will be focused on utilising the grounds for countryside pursuits such as fishing, whittling and backwoods cooking. There will be opportunities to use the vast space for games and team building exercises. We hope to also use the opportunity to foster the sense of community in the young people who come including taking responsibility for the environment around them in a proactive way. We hope to be ready to start in the Spring so look out for updates.

### Young Carers

Children from St. Osyth Primary School once again walked to the Priory for an afternoon of respite and fun on the Estate. This time the session was themed on the popular game 'Minecraft' with a scavenger hunt, bingo, colouring, Lego building and a snack of freshly made popcorn. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> Young Carers session so we asked them what had been their favourite activity. This is what one young person wrote:



### Looking ahead

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 12pm-4pm. **St. Osyth Priory Community Christmas.** Tickets on our website.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 10am-12noon. **Outdoor Explorers special Christmas session.**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 4.30pm-6pm. **Home-Start Tendring Christmas event.**

Helen Brown

Education Manager

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