## Newsletter



### June 2025

### **Schools**

This half term is our busiest for school visits. In June alone we have had 279 schools children visit. In addition we have had 29 children visit from St. Osyth Preschool as well as our regular Home Educator groups and pre-school forest school. It has certainly kept us busy! Next month we're expecting 183 schools children.

### **Harry Potter**



On the 24<sup>th</sup> the Priory was transformed into Hogwarts school of witchcraft and wizardry for the day as 25 year 8 students from Clacton County High School came for a magical timetable including Care of Magical Creature, Ancient Runes, Potions and Herbology. The students had a great time making a carved Rune bookmarks, a bezoar, a herbal teabag and their own pet bowtruckle. The trip was a reward for the best writers in the year group and the start of a new partnership between us and this local secondary school.

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#### **Public Tours**

Our team of volunteers have been busy with our public tours. Walking tours around the historic buildings are led by local historian, Nigel Jeskins, and take in the sights and facts covering 900 years + of the history of the Priory. Sonia Grantham leads the commentary on the Tractor Trailer Tours taking in the hundreds of acres of Parkland with an engaging social history and sights of the livestock and wildlife on the Estate. This year we have introduced special tours looking at the bird life or plant life. Spaces are all £8 per person and booked via our website. Tours meet at the Priory Car Parks (CO16 8GW), follow signs from Mill Street & Westfield Lane. For 2025 we have introduced a limited number of full day events for organised groups including walking tour, tractor tour and bring-your-own picnic lunch on the lawns. It is exciting to be able to offer the community such a variety of ways to engage in the local history of St. Osyth and access to such a wonderful heritage asset.

### **Outdoor Explorers**

Our group for the youngest in our community meets every Wednesday in term time. It has been great to welcome new faces this summer as well as build relationships with those who come regularly. The range of activities we offer are always engaging and topical with an exciting theme, from tractor trailer rides to bug hunts, crafts and water play. On a hot day the cool shelter of the trees is a welcome retreat for the children and their parents.



### St Osyth Priory Education Centre & Co Craft Club

An exciting partnership between the Education Centre and the creative forces of Nicole at **Essex Sparkle** and Nina at **Toosey Arts and Crafts** to put on 3 holiday club sessions focusing on arts and crafts in a beautiful setting. Book up with Nicole for a full or half day session, 6th, 13th or 20th August. 9am - 3pm - £35 a day or book all 3 for £90. 9am - 12pm - £20 half day.

This isn't your average holiday club, if your children love the outdoors and love to craft then this exclusive craft club is for them. Delve deep into history in the beautiful setting of St. Osyth priory, activities include potion making, bug houses, needle felting, rock painting, dream catcher making, painting, jewellery making, clay, games and more. Snacks and drinks provided. All adults are DBS checked.

Spaces are limited and payment secures your slot. Book via Nicole 07708085133.