

Newsletter

September 2024



Outdoor Explorers

We have started the new school year with the opportunity for pre-schoolers to join in with our Outdoor Explorers sessions EVERY WEEK. This is a development from our previous blocks of seasonal sessions and means it will now run every Wednesday during term time. The change has come as we seek to meet the needs of families in the area and as we now have another qualified teacher, Jane, who specialises in EYFS and Forest School, on the staff team. Jane creates exciting and engaging sessions that are different every week using children's books, nursery rhymes and nature as themes to put together activities that enable pre-schoolers to develop their fine and gross motor skills as well as language and social skills.

Summer in the Park

St Osyth Priory Picnic

It was great for us to be involved in such a large scale public event at the Priory without being the ones organising it! It is wonderful to see so many people enjoying the beautiful Estate with such a wide variety of music, arts and opportunities for all the family to have a go at a range of activities. Our tractor driver



and team were busy running tours and another showcasing one of her many talents by doing

aerial hoop and circus skills workshops. Others on our team had a stand teaching families about minibeasts and helping the children to create their own bug hotel to take home. They also had the opportunity to invent their own bug and the children were very creative in their ideas.

Halloween

The spooky season will see us host an adult writing group holding a workshop on gothic literature / ghost stories in the evening using the Chapel as the setting. Although dark and chilly this will all add to the atmosphere to inspire those attending this creative session.

We are partnering with Home-Start Tendring once again who will lay on a Halloween event on the estate for the families they work with.

On Wednesday 30th October we have a photography skills workshop. Parents can come along and learn how to get the best photos of their little ones who will be able to be in costume in this eerie setting. £10 per family. Tickets available on our website.

On Thursday 31st younger children are invited to join us as we explore the fabulous book 'Room on the Broom' with crafts, activities and refreshments. 3pm-5pm. Tickets £7.50 on the website.



Public Tours

As the summer draws to a close so do our public walking and tractor tours. It has been an amazing year and we are very grateful to St. Osyth Priory for letting us open up the Estate to the public in this way. 175 people booked tickets to walking tours, we also held tours for organised groups such as Manningtree History Society. 259 people enjoyed a Tractor Trailer tour through the Parkland to see the rare breed animals and learn about the History of the Priory and some of the people who lived and worked on the Estate over the years. The feedback has been brilliant and the team are already planning for 2025 and working on expanding what we can offer.

Helen Brown
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