

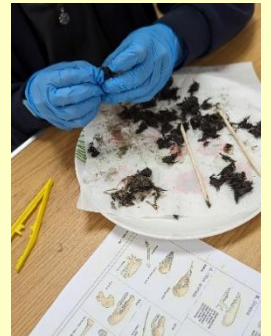
# Newsletter



May 2024

## Owls

We kicked off the month of May with a fun session with Stebbing Primary years 3 and 4 on their topic of Living Things. We looked at different habitats, climbing the tower to identify the variety of habitats in the area from woods to wetlands. On the tractor trailer tour we identified different wildlife and the places they live. As well as building a bird box to take back to school, children were able to dissect an owl pellet and learn about the food chain of these amazing creatures. A great learning opportunity but not for the faint hearted! We hope many more schools will come to visit us as part of their Living Things topic as we can offer so much in addition to our already successful History programmes.



## Photography Exhibition

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 10am-4pm there will be a photography exhibition in the Rose Garden by local photographer Becky Cross. This will be Becky's debut exhibition and focuses on 'Our Image!'. Her work delves into the nuance, within the unique world of Home Education. Becky has worked closely with home education groups, families and learners. Her own body of work will be displayed alongside a selection of the children's work that she has collaborated with, combining the themes of place, identity, self-expression, and journey.



## Potions and Dinosaurs

Students from Shorefields visited us for a day focusing on two of their topics of study; *George's Marvellous Medicine* and *Dinosaurs*. In the Chapel we looked at Powerful Plants and their medicinal properties, with each child creating a potion to take home. This is a fantastic, sensory experience which suits the range of abilities that make up the groups of children from Shorefields.

In the Rose Garden the children will go on a Dinosaur hunt, collecting stickers of different types of dinosaur. In the Education Centre they had the opportunity to dig for bones and have a hands-on experience with some real fossils including ammonites, belemnites, fossilised wood, mammoth teeth and sharks teeth.

## Creative Writing

We have had two different adult local Creative Writing groups visit this month with members taking inspiration from our founding legend of Osyth, the gothic ruins, beautiful Victorian gardens or majestic deer.

Another writing group is set to visit later in the summer.

As an extra to this month's Newsletter I have attached one of the poems created on the visit to the Priory on the theme of Saint Osyth.

## Pond dipping

May is the perfect time to be at the water's edge at Seal Pond. The lily pads are out and the moorhens are paddling. The Home Educating families enjoyed a session pond dipping and identifying the insects caught. They also did some meadow sweeping to ID mini beasts. Whilst at the pond we were able to discuss environmental issues around water conservation and each child created their own water filter, testing it out using water from the pond.

Helen Brown  
Education Manager

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

## **St Osyth**

**(Written and read in the style of a contemporary Essex Girl!)**

I just wanted a bit of bloomin peace  
To chill, contemplate and chat to him upstairs  
In me lovely garden  
No man around to spoil it  
Oh, don't get me wrong  
I can be a bit of a bossy cow  
I mean I managed to chat up those Bishops  
To accept me as a nun  
Oh, and the King too  
So, he gave me a nice bit of land  
Here in good old Chich  
But those Vikings can't tell me what to do  
Sailing up here in their fancy long boats  
I mean I know they chopped off me head  
But I bet they didn't expect me to put it back on  
And stomp up to the church with it  
Anyway, cos of that there's a nice spring up there now  
So up yours you stroppy Vikings  
Coming over here with your weird ways  
Sod you – cos I actually now a fully-fledged saint  
So put that in your longhorn and smoke it!

**Siobhan Pierce**

**May 2024**