

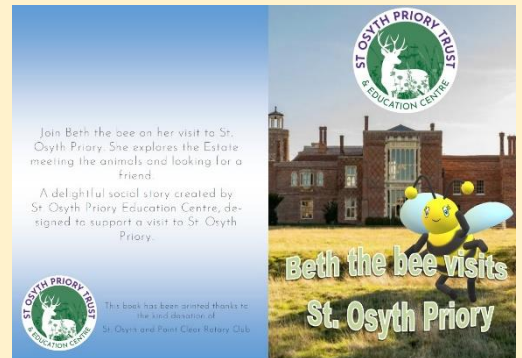
Newsletter



February 2024

Bees and dragonflies

At the start of this month we had a delightful visit from the EYFS students at Holland Park School. The two classes were named 'bees' and 'dragonflies' and we used this as a theme for the day. Karen made some pompom bees and dragonflies for the children to hunt down in the Rose Garden and Centre staff created a visual story about a bee visiting the Priory and making friends with a dragonfly to explore the Estate together. The children loved this and we are going to adapt it to be used by our younger visitors and neurodivergent visitors to help them prepare for a trip but also recall what they did when they return to the classroom. Having discussed the benefits of a Social Story with a member of St. Osyth and Point Clear Rotary Club they kindly agreed to fund the printing of the book. We are very grateful for their generous support.



Make a difference Locally and St. Osyth Parish Church

1 in 5 children are carers for someone at home with a disability and as a result they can often become isolated and suffer academically. The school was keen to put something in place to support these children, so working with Education Centre staff we have created a programme of 9 sessions for young carers to visit the Priory and benefit from our activities and beautiful spaces. As a Church school the Parish Church were eager to be involved to support this initiative. Working with the local Nisa stores who are part of a charity foundation called Make a Difference Locally the funding has now been agreed to put these sessions on. This is a fantastic community collaboration that will enormously benefit this vulnerable group of children.

Home Educating Families

It is great we are able to work with so many Home Educating families, so many in fact that we have had to increase the number of days we offer these sessions in order to accommodate everyone.



This month we looked at Serpent and Dragon myths in Essex. With over 300 miles of marshy coast line there is no shortage of stories of sea monsters inhabiting this ever changing landscape.



We made our own monster out of sticks in the Wilderness Garden and climbed the tower to get a birds eye view. Whilst collecting sticks one child found a stoneware mineral water bottle produced in Clacton between 1904 and 1916. Perhaps dropped by a visiting tourist. An amazing find.

Darcy House

We have had 3 large Primary school visits this month and it is fair to say the weather was not always agreeable. We are incredibly grateful to the Blackjacket Events team who let us use the Darcy House for these visits. It meant we could all eat our lunch together in the warm and dry and this had a massive impact on their experience of the day. The day was very much enhanced by being able to access this beautiful space.

Easter Events

We will be hosting 2 special Easter Activity days on 3rd and 4th April. See our website for more details and link to purchase tickets.



Helen Brown
Education Manager

www.prioryeducationcentre.co.uk