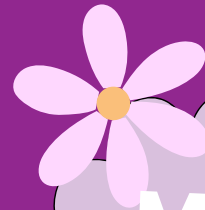


SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



March 24
edition

INCLUDED IN
THIS ISSUE

Check out our new
monthly newsletter!

Monthly updates
from our classes

Themed days &
celebrations

News & Events

March has been a very busy month for us, with celebrations for World Book Day, Purple Day, Red Nose Day and cultural celebrations such as Ramadan, CAFOD and Easter.

We can't wait to show you what we've been up to, and hope you enjoy reading on!

**Welcome to our new
look newsletter!**

Our newsletters will now be issued on a monthly basis, with round-ups from each class on the amazing and exciting work we have been doing across school.





Head Teacher welcome

What a great month to launch our monthly newsletter. March is a busy month for us, we learn and embark on Lent and prepare for Easter! The month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph the entire month falls during the liturgical season of Lent which is represented by the liturgical colour purple – a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart.



Lisa Tooley

Through lessons, assemblies and Prayer and Liturgy we have learnt about Lent, Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday, through gospel readings, our Holy Week Liturgy and creative showcases.

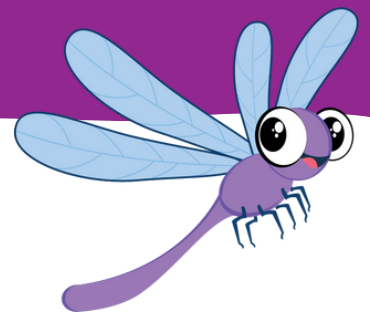
The colour Purple is also special to us, as we celebrate 'Purple day', the colour of Epilepsy. This month has been filled with joy and laughter, March has been the month of many memories made and students have excelled themselves, continuing to build upon their strength, confidence and compassion for each other.

Throughout March, we have celebrated International Women's Day, World Book Day, Mother's Day, Purple Day, the beginning of Ramadan, Red Nose Day to mention a few...

Reading is a wonderful gift of escape and does help disengage the brain of its busy day. Our reading garden was a hub of creativity, stories and positivity this month. Lynn our Literacy Co-ordinator has shared her stories with you within this newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on the school and its new projects for classroom development. We are expanding the current school into the main building to enable growth, but more importantly to raise the quality of the provision offered for our current cohort, we are transforming 3 spaces into person centred classes, fit for each pathways needs, whether this is to provide bespoke personal care suites, or classrooms with personal sensory and dark sensory spaces. The timeline for completion for these projects are within the summer term.

Finally, I would like to wish good luck to our runners, as they embark on their 26 miles around Brighton for our very own charity, there is still time to sponsor them, many thanks to our generous families that have already supported our staff. We want to send our love to Larissa, our Discovery teacher who is getting married over the holidays and to all of our community, a very happy Easter.



NEWS & EVENTS

On the 15th March, Bill from River Fly Count Project came to St Elizabeth's to work with the School and College learners looking at insects and other wildlife that can be found in our local river near Much Hadham.

The learners were able to look, collect samples and identify the different species. They then worked with Bill to count the wildlife so that the information can be uploaded to the national database.

We look forward to welcoming Bill back in a couple of months and comparing our findings.



Dates for your diary

6th May - Bank holiday (No school)

21st May - Online parents evening

24th May - Students depart for half term

3rd June - Students return from half term

TBC 6th July - Summer Fayre

9th July - Sports Day

12th July - Graduation

Date TBC - End of Term Production

W/C 8th July - End of Year Reports



DARCY CLASS

We have had a productive and enjoyable half-term in Darcy class in the (particularly) short run to Easter this year. We've especially enjoyed spending time in the tennis courts next to our classroom together; giving us ample opportunities to get outside and get moving in between lessons, to make sure we can all focus when it's time to sit down and get working! We would like to encourage everyone in school and at home to take regular movement between activities- whatever they are. We promise you'll notice yourself feeling much better.

During school, we've spent most of our numeracy lessons learning how to compare, describe and record different measurements like, length, weight and volume. We especially enjoyed watching the scales move as the weights became heavier and lighter and using our new knowledge to weigh objects we use every day.

Our favourite lesson this month has been our science lesson, exploring the links between sounds and vibrations- it was a bit of a messy one, but it was great to observe the way sound can act as a force!

Of course, this time of year has provided us with many opportunities to fully engage with the catholic ethos of St Elizabeth's, as we celebrate the holiest weeks in the calendar. The re-enactment of Jesus' last days in Easter liturgy was especially interesting and we all chose to sit quietly and enjoy the performance despite the large crown and noise, we're really glad we were able to join.

We wish everyone the best over the Easter break and hope you able to celebrate and relax in whichever way best suits you!



| | Heavy? | Light? | Weight |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| Chair | X | ✓ | |
| Pen | ✓ | X | |
| Book | X | ✓ | |
| Pen | ✓ | X | |
| Book | X | X | |
| Pen | X | ✓ | |
| Book | X | X | |



STIRLING CLASS



It's been a month of drama, on the stage that is, gaining new skills towards independence and leaping to new heights in our learning as we continue our cycle theme, 'bright lights big city'.



So far, Stirling have immersed themselves in the story, 'Pursuit of happiness', where they have evaluated the struggles of living in a city. Learners have empathised with the main character's plight while making connections with how they are working to better their life and that of their son.

Stirling class have continued to make excellent progress towards their ever increasing knowledge of multiplication and division in everyday life. Looking at how maths influences how city buildings are built. In topic, learners have been on virtual tours of iconic cities and rural areas, explaining what key features they have and why this makes them either an urban or rural area.



In science students have been exploring how different materials are used and how they react in different environments. Food tech has sent them on a global culinary expedition as they have been cooking dishes inspired by key capital cities around the world, proving that they are at the stage of confidently making changes to their dishes and attempting such preparation techniques independently.

The road to independence continues with the group having experienced a trip with Winston class where they first explored the Ware based St Elizabeth's charity shop as part of our work experience programme, followed by taking the public bus to Harlow as part of our travel train journey for the work related learning subject.

It was a busy last week as Stirling and Winston collaborated to rehearse and successfully perform our Holy liturgy of the passion and lead the way with our imaginative take on the weekly chapel service.

That leaves us now with the spectacular pathway showcase next Thursday that we hope as many of you as possible can attend.



JUBILEE CLASS

This half term, Jubilee class has been learning about our topic 'Light Fantastic', in Cycle three.

We have been working on Non-Fiction and this has opened up the world of science, looking at the different sources of natural and man-made light. At Church Farm we used electric egg separator lights to examine each egg to see if it was fresh. We learnt that chicks are kept warm after they hatch, using a heat lamp. We saw the actual birth of a lamb and we named him George. We were very privileged to have had this experience! The most exciting moment was when George was able to stand on his own four legs.

We learnt that chickens lay more than one egg per day if it is sunny, Leghorn hens can lay as many as four eggs on warm days. Because the weather is warmer we have had our planted bulbs burst into bloom.

The natural light and heat of the sun brings the bulbs to life each year. We used our measuring skills when we learnt about capacity. We measured the volume of the soil in our pots and used a ruler to plant the seeds exactly five centimetres apart. This will give the seedlings enough space to grow strong and luscious.

We celebrated Cafod soup day and it was heart-warming to share the different kinds of soup as a whole school group, in the hall.

We are looking forward to having two relaxing weeks and when we return we will see how much everything we planted has grown.

Happy Easter from Jubilee class!





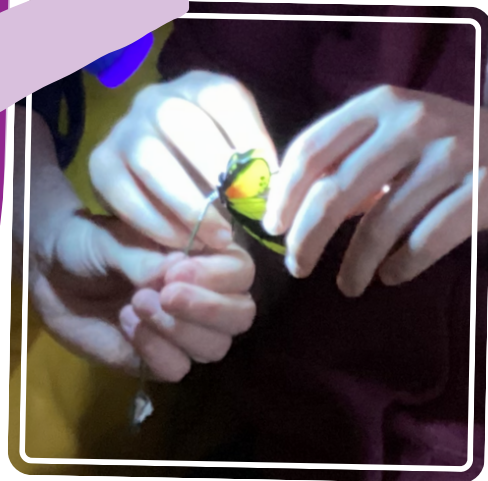
PIPPIN CLASS



We have had a joyful few weeks here in Pippin Class as we have begun edge towards spring, seeing brighter days and increasing opportunities to explore outside in the warmer weather.



We have continued to explore our topic 'Spring into Action' through our sensory story The Wind in the Willows and everyone has worked so hard on their communication skills throughout, with many requests for 'more' of Toad's car "toot toot!".



In Cognition we have been exploring filling, emptying, tipping and poring and have had lots of fun with a range of sensory materials, tactile toys and Easter eggs. We have also been stepping into spring during RE lessons, investigating trees, flowers and bees and have produced some wonderful art work as a result.

We have also been working on our physical and sensory skills through PE, sensology, fine motor skills, visual skills and sensory music lessons and it has been absolutely wonderful to see everyone gaining such confidence and independence in their exploration skills, from walking greater distances outside, initiating using of vision and touch together, actively moving our bodies, taking turns, responding to interactions or requesting 'go!' in response to the music and using our hands in different ways – What outstanding achievements!

We wish everyone a fantastic Easter break and look forward to seeing you all in the new term.



WONDER CLASS

March has been a wonderful month for Wonder class as we have loved watching the weather change and improve. The days are brighter and we have been making the most of it. This month we have continued our third cycle 'Spring into Action' where we have explored Spring within various sessions including sensology, sensory story, RE, sensory art and during our sensory breaks.

We have been listening to and exploring the sensory story 'The Train Ride' this month which we have found engaging but we have also loved listening to a range of stories from our book corner.

In cognition we have been exploring measures which has included comparative measures as well as sequencing and time awareness. We have been engaging in activities such as filling and emptying cups with water beads, sequencing building a sand castle and measuring toys using blocks.

We have also been busy making lots of different soups including tomato soup, mushroom soup and vegetable soup. We have been practising skills such as chopping and mixing with a blender using a switch.

We have also had weekly explore and create therapy sessions that have been led by Olivia and Sarah from therapy. We have really enjoyed these sessions where we are massaged using different techniques and objects and then we explore a range of textures and temperatures. We have expressed our preferences of these sensory experiences using eye gaze, eye pointing, facial expressions and vocalisations.

We have also loved our PE sessions this month and have really been enjoying playing different sports and practising our ball skills. We have particularly loved cricket so much that we have also been playing table cricket in class!





BRAMLEY CLASS



In Bramley class we have been exploring our topic of Spring into Action!

We have had great fun exploring the story of "The train ride" which has allowed us to experience the sounds, smells and sights linked to June Crebbin's story.

We have linked the story to our communication targets and have been requesting more and demonstrating what we liked from the story and what we did not like!



In our cognition session we have been looking learning about the concept of full and empty and applying it to practical situations such as drinks and plant pots.

We have been fortunate enough to have the drawing room help us make a spring canvass of flowers and meadows which we have taken small steps each week to make and we are so excited to show it off when it is finished.



Finally, we have had lots of special events to celebrate over the past few weeks including some religious celebrations such as Easter and lent through to red nose day and world book day!





WINSTON CLASS

Over the past cycle our topic of focus has been Bright Lights, Big City.

In Winston Class our studies have transported us all over the world to explore different places and cultures, and the ways of life in our biggest cities.

In food tech, Winston Class have been making dishes from cities all over the world, and learning about the different countries and cultures that they come from. Learners have employed a variety of skills to work together to follow recipes. We have enjoyed the culinary influences of Japan, where learners rolled and pressed their own sushi, and designed their own kimonos.

Throughout this cycle, for literacy, we have been watching the popular, uplifting film, "The Pursuit of Happiness". Learners have explored the cultural and geographical context of American cities, focusing on opportunities that the city can offer, but also the pitfalls the environment can pose.

In topic learners have explored the differences between urban and rural areas and written about the characteristics of where they live. They have discussed the impact of pollution on urban areas, understanding where it comes from and what impact pollution can have on our environment and health.

For work-related learning, Winston Class have been looking at the types of transport and infrastructure that the public can use to travel in. Learners have looked into the pros and cons of different modes of transport, for different journeys, including how they could impact the environment.

Learners have also planned their own journeys to locations of their choosing and discussed the steps involved in using buses and trains, to promote their independence.

In RE, Winston Class have been thinking about relationships and life as a cycle of being cared for and caring for others, dependence and independence, giving and receiving.

Within numeracy Winston has been using population as a way to develop our multiplication and division skills. We have also been on a thrilling trip to Ware to see the St Elizabeth's shop, how it operates, and what skills we can transfer to our own work experience in 'Hidden Treasures'.

We have had an incredibly exciting cycle and we can't wait to see what is in store for us next term.



DISCOVERY CLASS

Discovery have had a blast diving in to our 'Light Fantastic' Cycle this half term!



We have been very busy exploring different festivals linking with our own Catholic celebrations and finding the joy in the light and colour that shines through these special moments in different cultures.

Some of us had our face painted for the Day of the Dead as we learnt all about how this colourful festival links to our own All Souls Day celebration, which the children were so engaged in!



We then took a trip to India where we cooked our own chicken Korma and was fascinated by the sounds of boiling water and simmering sauces.

The children were engrossed with the Holi festival of colour and recreated our own colour celebration by flicking and splatting, splashes of colours onto a large piece of card.

We have been practising our something special for our family and friends as we get ready for our Easter showcase and we are SO excited to show off our learning!

There's been a buzz of energy as we start to get the Easter crafts out and explore the range of making opportunities in the classroom (and a little dreamy about the chocolate eggs too!).

We hope you have a wonderful Easter break and enjoy a few of the snapshots we've taken over the last few weeks!



BEACON CLASS

I wanted to take a moment to update you on all the wonderful activities and learning experiences that Beacon Class has been immersed in over the past few weeks.

Firstly, our class had the pleasure of visiting the new onsite shop, which was an exciting experience for all. We also dedicated ourselves to physical education (PE) and Star Club sessions, where we exercised both our bodies and our minds.

One of the highlights of our time together has been through our sensory story journey "The Wind in the Willows". It's been a joy to see the children engage with the story on a deeper level, and we're eagerly anticipating sharing our experiences with you during our upcoming showcase.

In line with our City and Guilds qualification, we've been focusing on independent living skills, particularly "Looking After Yourself". This has included practicing road safety by role-playing as lollipop men and woman. It's been wonderful to see the children take ownership of their safety and independence.

We also had a blast participating in Red Nose Day activities, exploring different stations around the school and engaging in a variety of fun-filled activities. The laughter and smiles were contagious!

In our cognitive development sessions, we've been delving into the world of measurements. From time to size, weight to ingredients, we've been honing our skills in measurement, particularly as we prepare delicious treats in food tech.

Venturing out into the community, we enjoyed a delightful trip to a country park, where we embraced the great outdoors and cherished moments spent with friends.

As part of Purple Day, we took time to reflect on "What Purple Day Means to Me", and the children have created a beautiful display showcasing their heartfelt thoughts.

Finally, as we approach the Easter break, I want to wish everyone a fantastic holiday filled with joy, relaxation, and quality time with loved ones.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER



The school celebrated Easter with our Holy Week Liturgy on Friday which included a performance by the learners of the events of the week, accompanied by narration, singing and the audience also taking part.



We also had our Reconciliation Service in the chapel this week, with all learners recognising Easter as a time to reflect and receiving a blessing from Father Paul.

Classes have been invited to visit the Stations of the Cross in the chapel, which was the focus for our Celebration of the Word on Wednesday. Pauline Meaney, our Catholic Ethos Advocate, led a Lenten reflection statue and trees tour.



A planned visit from Cardinal Wiseman School to join our Lenten activities had to be postponed at the last minute unfortunately, but we look forward to welcoming them after Easter.

A huge thank you to Harry from Nuffield Health Chigwell, who hosted a collection at the gym and delivered over 100 Easter Eggs to our School! Thank you also to the team at our local Barclays Bank who hosted a collection and donated two full bags of eggs for the children.





WORLD BOOK DAY

On Thursday 7th March 2024 all of the students and staff at St Elizabeth's School arrived all wrapped up in their pyjamas ready to celebrate World Book Day.

Students love to read every day – for pleasure, for learning, for the adventures it can bring and to help broaden their understanding of the world around them.

Each class visited the Reading Garden and enjoyed listening to stories. We have recently purchased many new inclusive and diverse reading books. A particular favourite was Ruby's Worry by Tom Percival. A sensitive and reassuring story to help children talk and think about their worries no matter how big or small.

Some firm favourites were Barry the Fish with Fingers by Sue Hendra and Aliens Love Underpants by Claire Freedman and Ben Cort.

Some of our older students listened to audio stories on the iPad.

The younger students also enjoyed being read stories by our older students.

We finished the day by having a pyjama parade around the school with our books in tow.

Lynn Dumayne - Literacy Co-Ordinator



CAFOD



Walking for Change: St Elizabeth's students unite for Global Poverty Awareness

On Friday 1st March, in a powerful display of solidarity and compassion, students at St Elizabeth's recently dedicated a day to raise awareness for global poverty through a walk around the school campus with their own hand made posters and props. This was organised for CAFOD, the event was aimed to shed a light on the struggles faced by millions around the world and inspire action within our community.

Led by a passionate group of student volunteers, the walk served as a symbolic gesture of unity and empathy. Students from all classes and departments had participated, walking alongside one another reflecting on the challenges faced by those less fortunate than themselves. Each step was taken as a testament to our collective commitment to making a difference in the world.

As part of our efforts to stand in solidarity with the impoverished, St Elizabeth's also hosted a soup day where students and staff come together to share a simple meal and reflect on the realities of poverty. The event provided an opportunity for meaningful conversations about gratitude and the importance of compassion towards others.

What made this initiative truly special was the active involvement of our students, from organising logistics to spreading the word, our student body demonstrated remarkable leadership and empathy throughout the entire process. Their dedication and enthusiasm were instrumental in making the event a success.

Through initiatives like the walk for Lent and soup day, St Elizabeth's is not only raising awareness but also fostering a sense of responsibility and solidarity among its students. By coming together as a community, we are not only remembering those who struggle, but also taking tangible steps forward to creating a more just and equitable world for all.

As we reflect on our experiences during this special day, let us carry forward the spirit of compassion and activism, knowing that even the smallest action can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Together we can be a force for a positive change in the fight against poverty both locally and globally.

Amber Simpson - LSA



IN AID OF

COMIC
RELIEF

RED
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DAY

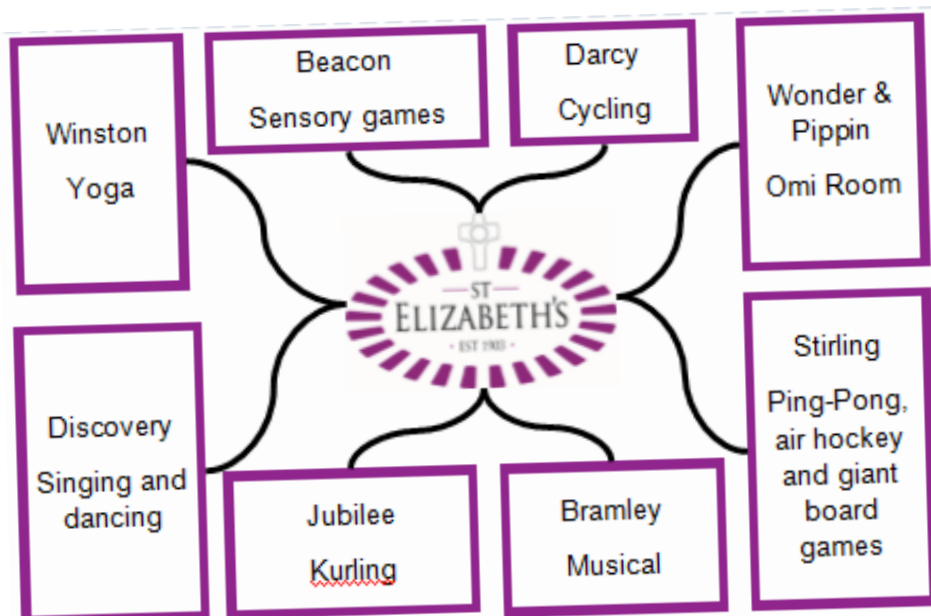
RED NOSE DAY

On Friday 15th March St Elizabeth's School joined the rest of the country to support Comic Relief.

This year the School Council decided that they wanted a "School Market" where each class organised and delivered different activities that everyone could take part in and have fun whilst raising money.

As you can see from the photos everyone had a great time and it was lovely to see the learners coming together.

Thank you to everyone, we are pleased to say that we raised £35.



RAMADAN



As a Catholic school, we've spent lots of time this term contemplating the most important weeks in the year for the worldwide Christian community as we prepare for Easter.

Many of us will do so making a Lenten sacrifice in order to concentrate less on the physical world and more on the spiritual- much like Jesus did during his 40 days in the desert.

Despite following different calendars, the period of Lent often runs concurrently with the period of Ramadan, celebrated by followers of Islam. Muslims across the globe will be fasting during daylight hours for one month; eating and drinking only once the sun has set.

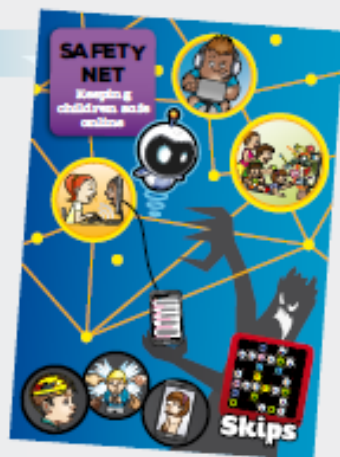
Ramadan is a particularly spiritual time for Muslims, more time will be spent in prayer and deepening their relationship with God while the physical body is redirected away from its more mundane demands.

Regardless of faith, Millions of people will currently be undergoing an act of deliberate self-discipline in order to better concentrate on the things that are truly important.

Self-reflection is a valuable activity for everyone to practice and we always find the time at St Elizabeth's to encourage it.



A Parent's Guide to Cyberbullying



Many young people who are victims of cyberbullying suffer in silence.

They feel they can't turn to parents or a trusted adult for support as they fear they may get in trouble or have their devices taken away from them. It can carry on all day, all evening and all weekend for the world to see, causing a lot of emotional stress to the victim and their family.



scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent Guides on how to help keep your children safe online



It can very quickly lead to the victim feeling trapped, scared and vulnerable to grooming and blackmail.



Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

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Developed in partnership with

