

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



February 25  
edition

INCLUDED IN  
THIS ISSUE

Welcome from Head Teacher  
Dates for the diary  
Class updates  
Keep up to date!



February has been a month to celebrate love and friendship, and start our preparations for the much needed spring time! The daffodils are just starting to wake up around site, and we are looking forward to the arrival of the annual sight of ducklings.



# Head Teacher welcome

Dear Parents and Guardians,  
It is always a pleasure to witness and read about the exciting opportunities our creative curriculum provides daily. Our learners have particularly enjoyed expressing themselves through the medium of amateur dramatics in our new club. Under Annie's superb guidance, students have flourished and developed their artistic abilities in a supportive environment.

As we conclude the month of February, it has been delightful to celebrate our St Elizabeth's Talent Contest. This event allowed our staff to showcase the diverse range of talents exhibited by our staff across the centre. Well done to everyone involved, however, I am pleased to announce that the winner of this year's contest is our very own 1903's band. Massive well done to James, Georgia, Gill and Mr T.

Thank you for your continued support in fostering a vibrant learning community.



**Lisa Tooley**



# Dates for your diary

Thursday 6th March	World Book Day	Themes for the students will be communicated in the new year
Friday 21st March	Comic Relief	Red Nose Day celebrations
Thursday 27th March	Easter Showcase - Pathway 3	All pathway 3 student parents/carers welcome to join
Tuesday 1st April	AppleTree Avenue Stay and Play	Parents of students in AppleTree Avenue are welcome to join for a stay and play session
2nd - 3rd April	Toucan Theatre	Enrichment for the students across the school
Friday 4th April	Easter Showcase	Pathway 1, Honey and Discovery parents are welcome to join for the Easter showcase
Friday 4th April	Easter break	Students break up for half term at 3.30pm
Tuesday 22nd April	School Open	School will re-open at 9am
Tuesday 13th May	Parents Evening	Online parents evening
Friday 23rd May	May half term	School breaks up for half term at 3.30pm
Tuesday 3rd June	School Open	School will re-open at 9am



# DARCY CLASS

We're all feeling well rested after our half-term break and ready to get fully immersed in a new learning cycle as we say hello to spring.

This Cycle's theme is 'You make me feel brand new', perfect timing as spring rears it's head and the days become brighter and warmer.

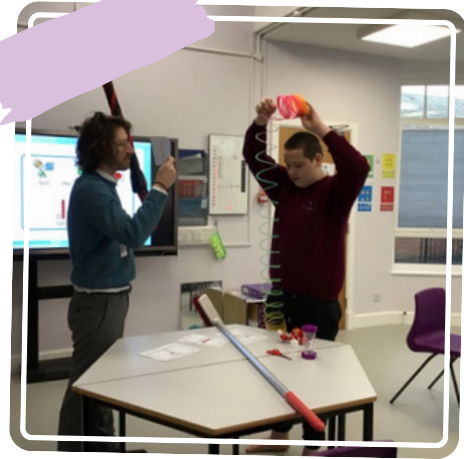
Our Literacy lessons this term will see us exploring the world of poetry and rhyme- we're starting off with 'The snail and the Whale' (a favourite for many of us) as we begin by recognising rhyming pairs and identifying main characters. We've all shown great progress in our CVC reading last cycle and it's been beneficial to notice what makes these familiar words sounds the same when we rhyme them.

In numeracy, we're looking at measure which gives us those all-important opportunities to make our learning practical and tangible. We've already begun by reminding ourselves of the language we'll need to use with some different activities- using tape measures, metre sticks, wool, blocks and trundle wheels to remember how to talk about length before moving on weight, capacity and time.

In PSHE we'll be examining our emotions in greater depth. We've all got really got at labelling our feelings using Zones of Regulation, so now we'll start to name emotions individually and try to understand exactly what is happening to us when we experience them- we'll then use our findings to develop some bespoke strategies to help us deal with our emotions appropriately.

On the topic of self-help, we're thinking more deeply during our food technology lessons and concentrating on 'comfort foods', recognising that are certain tastes, smells and nostalgic meals that just help us to feel better. We really bonded over sharing our own individual 'feel good' snacks and recognising the ones we all had in common (we all agreed that chips were the best and loved making these).

Most importantly, the new season has already given us plenty more opportunities to play and learn outside and watching the class play together in the sun has really exemplified how much we've managed to grow and gel together as group throughout this year.



# STIRLING CLASS



What a fantastic end to cycle 2 and an exploratory start to cycle 3 Stirling class have had. We finished cycle 2 with a drama inspired piece about Romeo and Juliet. Learners were keen to create their alternate seen using a range of communication, expressive language and imagination to play the role of key characters.



To bring in the new cycle, learners have so far embarked on a journey of discovering the respiratory system, namely the heart, how it works and what a heart transplant is. This has given them foundation knowledge needed to explore out literature, 'Pig heart boy'. The story is now underway and learners are gaining insight into how the main character is made to feel as a teenager struggling to cope with his poorly heart and how desperation to live, leads to a controversial decision making process.



Learners in maths are using a range of standard and non standard measurement tools and trialling every day problem solving around measurement.

For food tech the key skills are specifically around independently cooking everyday meals that they can transfer to a home environment.

The learners concluded their farm trips where they were fully immersed in all matter agriculture and livestock based, having gained a number of City and Guilds units for, to now moving back to the drawing room and beginning their mood boards around Lent, resisting bad choices and working hard to make good choices which compliments our time of year in the Catholic Calendar which has been studied in RE in the last cycle.



# JUBILEE CLASS

The month of February has marked the end of Cycle 2 and the beginning of Cycle 3, with the theme "You Make Me Feel Brand New." Learners have embraced this new theme alongside the novel Pig-Heart Boy. Those on the formal curriculum explored the blurb and made predictions about what might happen in the story. Meanwhile, learners on the semi-formal curriculum have been exploring rhyming words and are beginning to identify them in "The Snail and the Whale".

Learners have been consolidating their knowledge of money, recognising the value of coins and notes. As part of the new cycle, they have been exploring measurement using both standard and non-standard units.

The learners have been exploring the world of work, focusing on the processes and experiences involved in applying for jobs in the entertainment sector. They took part in role-play interviews, completed application forms, and matched skills and qualities to different types of jobs.

Healthy Body, Healthy Mind is the theme for this cycle; The learners have explored what a healthy diet is. They have been sorting foods into healthy and unhealthy categories and discussing what makes a well-balanced plate. This hands-on learning is helping them develop a greater understanding of nutrition and healthy eating habits. The last cycle ended with learners exploring advertisements and how they influence our spending habits. Those on the formal curriculum discussed how visuals and persuasive language are used in adverts to encourage us to buy products.

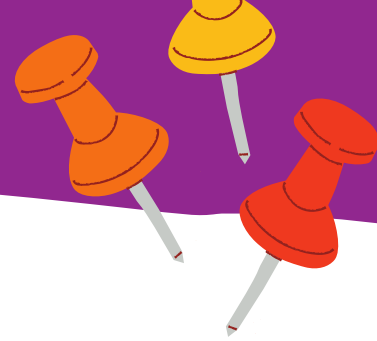
The learners on the semi-formal curriculum were able to recognise and sort the difference between wants and needs for example: we need food and we want toys.

Learners have enjoyed using the newly refurbished Food Tech room, where they have been busy baking cookies and making pizzas. They've had a fantastic time developing their cooking skills and will experiment with new recipes focusing on food for the mind and body.

This cycle, learners will be exploring Lent and Giving, focusing on the story of Jesus in the desert and the cost and rewards of giving. Through discussions and role-play, they have been exploring different scenarios of "What if...?"—thinking through moral dilemmas and making positive choices based on kindness and generosity.



# PIPPIN CLASS



Recently in Pippin, we have been focusing extensively on movement and transition. Our pupils have enjoyed the opportunity to walk to both Ashvale and the food technology room, allowing us to extend our learning beyond the confines of the classroom. Furthermore, we have been enhancing our fine motor skills through engaging 'busy fingers' box activities, which include cutting paper and food with child-friendly equipment.



We are excited to announce the commencement of our new cycle, "The Good Life." To kick off this journey, each pupil has created a collage reflecting their individual interests and preferences. We look forward to sharing a plethora of exciting activities in the weeks to come, fostering both creativity and physical development in our learners.



# WONDER CLASS

Wonder class have had an exciting few weeks full of new experiences and achievements as we have embarked upon our new topic 'The Good Life'. We began our exploration with a spa themed Sensology session designed to engage all of our senses and develop our expressive responses. From the gentle sounds of trickling water to the tantalising scents of citrus and fresh herbs, everyone has fully embraced the relaxing environment, using our senses together and sharing our likes, dislikes and preferences with wonderful purpose and shared enjoyment.

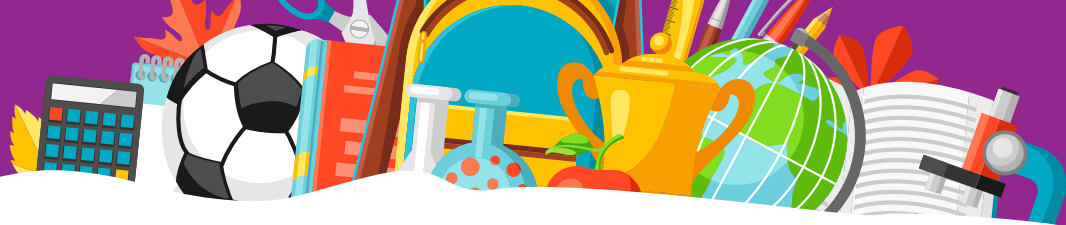
We have also been diving into our new Sensory Story 'Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt', a fantastic sensory adventure where we have been exploring the wonderful world of insects, bugs, flowers and birds through a range of exciting new props...keep your eyes peeled for next months newsletter as we become more familiar with the story!

Continuing on our sensory investigations within Cognition, we have been having a blast with chocolate goop 'mud'! It has been a sticky and delightful way to practise our grasping, holding, moving, tipping and pouring skills, all whilst having lots of fun, especially when squirting in our warm water to release the wonderful chocolatey smell!

In Body Awareness we have been enjoying story massage sessions, following the journey of 'The Smiling Flowers'. We have celebrated some amazing achievements including demonstrating our understanding of where our bodies are in space, making independent movements to continue actions, using pictures and symbols to communicate our choices and expressing our feelings of 'calm' and 'like' at the end of a section. Fantastic work everyone!

Finally, we would like to share our updated story sharing corner in class. We are all BIG fans of books and taking time to share a story, whether that be a book, sensory story, magazine, pictures or sharing our own stories and news. We would love to inspire you too to take a moment to relax and unwind into a world of stories, dreams and adventures, just in time for World Book Day next week





# BRAMLEY CLASS



We have had a fantastic time wrapping up our "Light, Camera, Action!" topic with an exciting exploration of Matilda. The learners thoroughly enjoyed immersing themselves in the story, especially experiencing the delicious chocolate cake moment and the fascinating spinning lights! It was wonderful to see the learners engaged in storytelling and interactive activities, helping to bring the magic of the book to life.

Our culinary adventures continued in cooking, where we made tasty nachos—developing important life skills while having lots of fun. The learners enjoyed working together to prepare ingredients, follow recipes, and share their delicious creations. Cooking provides a great opportunity to enhance teamwork, independence, and creativity, and we are excited to continue exploring different recipes in the future.



Beyond the classroom, we have been actively involved in helping at Ashvale, setting up for spring, and taking care of the chickens, which has been a rewarding experience for everyone. Our learners have shown great responsibility and care while working with the animals and preparing the environment for the new season. These hands-on activities have been a valuable way to develop practical skills, confidence, and a deeper appreciation for nature.




We have also been making the most of our offsite trips, visiting Bishop Stortford's Library to explore new books and develop our love for reading, as well as taking in the fresh air at Hylands Park in Chelmsford. These outings provide an excellent opportunity for social interaction, learning beyond the classroom, and experiencing new environments. The library visit was particularly inspiring, as learners explored different genres and engaged with stories that sparked their imaginations.

In RE we have been exploring different colours linked to stories from within the Bible. This has been great sensory experiences, and we have been able to find music, objects and experiences linked to all sorts of colours to bring the stories to life!



As we step into Cycle 3, we are excited to begin our new topic, A Good Life. We look forward to discovering new ideas and engaging in activities that promote well-being, happiness, and personal growth. Our focus will be on positive relationships, healthy habits, and finding joy in everyday experiences. We are excited about the upcoming lessons, discussions, and projects that will support our learners in understanding what makes a fulfilling life.



# WINSTON CLASS

Winston class have had another great month of learning, exploring and working together as a team. The students have all enjoyed learning about money in maths and have made great progress towards their city and guilds units in both maths and literacy.

The students spent time in the drawing room this last cycle and WOW what an amazing, collaborative piece of art they have created – please enjoy the photos attached. Each pupil designed their own canvas all about themselves and the things that they like and what makes them unique. The centre canvas has been created using paints in the technique of artist Jackson Pollock which was so much fun to for the students and staff to make. The art work will be hanging in our classroom with pride!

Our new cycle of learning is called 'You make me feel brand new' – this cycle we will be learning about units of measure – length, capacity, mass and volume in maths. We will be working on the story of the Snail and Whale in Literacy – with a focus on rhyming words and understanding the features of a narrative.

Our topic this cycle is all about the body – we have started learning about our muscles, skeleton, organs and will also learn about healthy body and healthy minds. The students have also returned to the farm this cycle and are thoroughly enjoying it. One week the students all got to bottle feed the baby lambs – so cute!

In Winston class we have also introduced a class incentive. The staff are looking to catch students 'being great' in class to earn a star for the jar – once the jar is full – we hope to have a trip to the cinema altogether. So we have lots of wonderful learning and activities to look forward to!



# DISCOVERY CLASS



Wow! The first half of the spring term has flown by. Discovery class have had a wonderful February and cannot wait to see what wonderful learning is coming up in March.

We continued our topic of learning 'Winter Wonderland' but also have made a start on our new cycle of learning 'Slime and Grime'.

In literacy our new focus story is 'Room on the Broom' by Julia Donaldson. We have been introduced to the key characters that are in the story and through singing and signing we are able to recognise 'who' is in the story.

We have been taking weekly visits to the reading garden which we have loved. We really enjoy this time to share a story together. We have even had some of the older learners from other classes read a story to us too which was fabulous!

We have begun to explore materials in science. We have felt materials and looked at them and have begun to sort them into groups such as 'hard and soft', 'shiny and dull'.

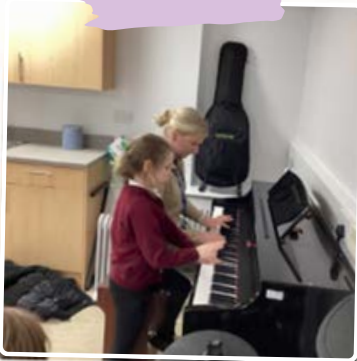
In numeracy we have begun to look at measurement. We have been sorting objects that are big and small and we have also tried to put objects in order from smallest to biggest. We have learnt some great songs to help us with big and small too. Next we will be moving on to look at measuring and comparing length.

In RE have celebrated St Valentines day by making some beautiful art work for our families. We have also had a class visit to the chapel and looked at the features of a chapel and shared some bible stories. Some pupils enjoyed leading a prayer and also singing songs that we share in our assemblies.

In food tech we have been making cakes that hide fruit and vegetables such as carrot cake and banana cake and some savoury muffins. We enjoyed making and tasting them all. We also made our own hummus and guacamole and vegetable sticks to dip in. We are definitely improving our mixing and cutting skills. We also had great fun decorating cakes for two birthdays in Discovery class this month.

As always, we love our visits to the music room. We have been enjoying using the interactive tools to make music on the screen and the drum kit has become a favourite instrument for the class!

We now start each day with a sensory circuit in the hall which we are all really enjoying each morning and we are becoming much more confident using the different equipment and improving our skills. We are all ready to do some amazing learning each day after these circuits.



# BEACON CLASS

Beacon class have started our new cycle, The Good Life. Students have enjoyed learning about the joys of spring, life on a farm and how we look after animals. Students have been exploring of the role of a dairy farmer. We have put our fine motor skills to work by following a sequence of pictorial instructions to get Milk from farm to glass. We have had a lot of fun taking part in these practical activities and showing off our understanding of verbs and motor skills in the process.

In our food technology sessions, we have used the milk to make an array of different flavoured milkshakes which we have sold to Stirling Class students. We asked Stirling students what flavours they preferred during a taste test, and they were so delicious and popular, even the staff wanted in on the action.

This cycle, we have embarked on some new sensory activities including sensory massage and reflexology. This has been a huge hit with pupils, allowing them to have a voice over their own emotions and self-regulation. It has been wonderful to see the joyous reactions to positive touch and independence that supports the anticipation of what is coming next using pictorial support.

In RE we have been exploring bible stories and learning how to share our own weekend news and the Good News of Jesus. Students have enjoyed learning about different biblical characters and enacting the ceremony of baptism through sensory exploration. We have been discussing what it is to be a good person and how to spread kindness to others. Students have demonstrated kindness in several ways through collective worship, group circle time, share play and turn taking games.

This cycle we are attending our onsite Ashvale farm. In class we are using the skills learnt to further develop our communication and cognition by planting water cress. We are caring for our seeds daily as part of our class chores and we are very much looking forward to seeing how they grow over the next few weeks.

In PSHE we are exploring ourselves. We have been learning to recognise ourselves and others in our group and develop a better understanding of the zones of regulation. We have been enjoying interactions with others and being part of larger group activities including park time with peers, nature walks, student council meetings and our weekly get togethers.

To fully embrace our topic "The Good Life" we have been exploring the school grounds on bikes. We have had so much fun feeling the wind in our faces and enjoying nature hunts as we cycle around St Elizabeth's.





# HONEY CLASS



As we wrap up Cycle Two, we are thrilled to reflect on the incredible progress and achievements of our students over the past month. The children have worked hard to complete various subjects, demonstrating dedication, curiosity, and enthusiasm for learning.

In literacy, we have now transitioned into an exciting new sensory story adventure inspired by Harry Potter, immersing our learners in a world of magic, wonder, and sensory exploration. We are going to be building on our understanding of the story each week, by reading a new part of the story that is adapted for our class. We are also very excited to immerse our learning experience by going to Harry Potter World next month to enhance our imaginations and learning.



In numeracy, we have made a significant leap from exploring size comparisons (biggest to smallest) to understanding measurements. The children have been actively engaging in hands-on activities to develop their understanding of length and we will be continuing to explore weight, and volume in a fun and interactive way during the rest of the cycle.



Beyond the classroom, our students have had numerous opportunities to connect with the community. Recent trips to the town park and visits to the café have provided invaluable experiences in socializing, developing independence, and building confidence in real-world settings. It has been truly heart warming to see their growth in communication and social interactions.

With Cycle Two now successfully completed, we are ready to embark on the adventures of Cycle Three – 'Slime and Grime'! This new phase promises fresh challenges, new learning opportunities, and exciting tasks designed to foster creativity, critical thinking, and personal development. We look forward to sharing more updates as we continue this journey together.



Thank you to all our students, parents, and community members for your continued support. Here's to another month of learning, exploration and achievement!

# JAZZ CLASS

Hello Jazz Class Families!

What a fantastic first half term we've had! We've packed in so much learning, fun, and growth, and we're so excited to share it all with you.

Our swimming lessons have been a huge hit! The children have absolutely loved their time in the pool, and we've seen remarkable progress. Their confidence has soared, and their routines have become much smoother. We've been thrilled to see them moving around the pool with greater freedom and even taking more responsibility for changing independently. Well done, swimmers!

We had a wonderful time celebrating Chinese New Year! A huge thank you to our amazing midday assistant, Elaine, for sharing her beautiful Chinese New Year dragon with us. We were fascinated exploring its vibrant colours and intricate details, and imagining it in a parade. We also enjoyed a delicious taste of Chinese cuisine, trying noodles, fortune cookies, and prawn crackers. They were a big hit!

Valentine's Day was a heart warming occasion for Jazz Class. We spent time reflecting on the special people in our lives and expressing our love and care. We had a blast making Valentine's themed biscuits and creating beautiful cards for our loved ones. Our sensory bin was transformed into a "love potion" station, where we mixed "kindness crumbs," "heart sprinkles," and "sharing sugar" – a recipe for friendship and love!

We've been nurturing our love of reading by exploring the school's lovely reading garden every week. It's been a wonderful opportunity to enjoy books in a calm and natural setting. Our classroom book corner is also a popular spot, where we enjoy reading as a class and choosing books together. We've even had some lovely friends from other classes come and read to us!

We're so excited to begin Cycle 3 with a brand new sensory story: "Room on the Broom" by Julia Donaldson! We'll be meeting the witch's friends and learning new sign language and visuals to help us bring the story to life. We can't wait to see where this magical adventure takes us! We're looking forward to another term filled with learning, laughter, and growth. Thank you for your continued support!



# ROCKIT CLASS



Welcome back from half term! We have had a wonderful time finishing our Cycle 2 topic Winter Wonderland. We have explored how we can change the ice blocks in our Science lessons making them fizz and melt! The children have used lots of different equipment like jugs, pipettes and ice cube trays. We created icy blue water with food colouring too to really add to our winter activities.



We have continued our adventures to Hattie's forest and have had such a lovely time using the mud kitchen. We have focused on how we feel when it is cold and the clothes we need and then what we can do indoors after playing to help warm up – including some yummy hot chocolate making and tasting.



The children have really enjoyed the birthday celebrations this month and we hope that those with birthdays have had a fabulous time! We are also in the month of Valentine's day and we have had such a wonderful time celebrating love. We have been card making, exploring the messy play and focussing on kindness and sharing.

Can you guess the focus book from our pictures?

Yes! Room on the Broom is our new focus story this cycle and we have had so much fun already. Potion making had us squeezing different colours of water, flour and glitter into our cauldron then giving a good mix. We've tried on witches' hats, flew on brooms and there's so much more to come!

# DRAMA CLUB



At St Elizabeth's, we are excited to introduce several new extracurricular activities to enrich our students' learning and development.

Every Friday afternoon, we have launched a Drama Club where students explore a range of skills, including instruction following, gross motor coordination, and teamwork. They are also engaging in activities that support emotional and mental well-being, such as mirroring exercises, understanding how music influences movement, and creating paired and whole-class routines.

Currently, they are working on a scene from Romeo and Juliet, focusing on the family argument sequence, as well as a dynamic dance routine inspired by Men in Black and Scream by Michael Jackson.



# TERM DATES

Pupils attend for 190 days per year. School academic staff attends for 195 days per year, 5 of which are statutory training days.

AUTUMN TERM 2025 (Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> September – Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December)			
	School lessons commence 9.00am (for all pupils)	Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup> September
Half Term	Pupils Depart at 3.30pm (for 38wk & day pupils)	Friday	24 <sup>th</sup> October
	School lessons commences 9.00am (for all pupils)	Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup> November
	Pupil's Depart at 3.30pm (for 38wk & day pupils)	Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup> December

SPRING TERM 2026 (Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March)			
	School lessons commence 9.00am (for all pupils)	Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup> January
Half Term	Pupils Depart at 3.30pm (for 38wk & day pupils)	Friday	13 <sup>th</sup> February
	School lessons commence 9.00am (for all pupils)	Monday	23 <sup>rd</sup> February
	Pupil's Depart at 3.30pm (for 38wk & day pupils)	Friday	27 <sup>th</sup> March

SUMMER TERM 2026 (Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April – Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July)			
	School lessons commence 9.00am (for all pupils)	Tuesday	14 <sup>th</sup> April
	School Academic Closed - No Day Pupils – <u>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May (Bank Holiday)</u>		
Half Term	Pupils Depart at 3.30pm (for 38wk & day pupils)	Friday	22 <sup>nd</sup> May
	School lessons commence 9.00am (for all pupils)	Tuesday	1 <sup>st</sup> June
	Pupils Depart at 3.30pm (for 38wk & day pupils)	Wednesday	22 <sup>nd</sup> July

## SCHOOL ACADEMIC INSET 2025/26

3<sup>rd</sup> September  
18<sup>th</sup> December  
5<sup>th</sup> January  
13<sup>th</sup> April  
23<sup>rd</sup> July

# KEEP UP TO DATE!

As well as your monthly newsletter, you can keep up to date with St Elizabeth's through our social media channels.

We regularly post our updates on what we are up to, upcoming events, community engagement and opportunities to get involved.

You can follow us on the following platforms:



Facebook: **@stelizabethsepilepsycare**



Instagram: **@stelizabeths\_centre**



LinkedIn: **@st-elizabeths**

**[www.stelizabeths.org.uk](http://www.stelizabeths.org.uk)**

