

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



May 25
edition



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2025
WINNER

BUSINESS
AWARDS UK

Childcare Services Awards

► Best SEN Support

St Elizabeth's

We are delighted to share that we have been crowned winners at the Business Awards UK for 'Best SEN Support' 2025!



Head Teacher welcome



Lisa Tooley

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we transition into the month of June, I would like to take a moment to reflect on Lailah Gifty Akita's poignant reminder: "You have to remember to be thankful. May is a time for expressing gratitude for the blessings we have." At St Elizabeth's, we are indeed blessed with fantastic staff, enthusiastic students, and outstanding facilities that enable us to deliver an enriching educational experience.

It has been heartening to witness the many creative ways our curriculum is being explored with such individuality. Our commitment to providing students with real-life experiences and opportunities not only nurtures their academic growth but also cultivates their confidence and character. This commitment resonates deeply within our community, filling our school with enthusiasm and warmth.

May has also been an exciting month filled with opportunities to unite and celebrate our school spirit. We have enjoyed delightful ice creams on the field, a memorable VE Day picnic, and a vibrant Cultural Diversity Day. Additionally, our students have had the chance to engage in various sports facilitated by external coaches from Strike Academy, promoting teamwork and physical fitness.

I encourage you to take some time to read our Inclusion Quality Mark Report, which highlights our commitment to inclusivity in education. We have included some summary quotes; we are immensely proud of the outcome.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,
Lisa Tooley

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 3rd June	School Open	School will re-open at 9am
Monday 9 th June	Presidents Sporting Day	Selected students will participate in the annual Presidents Sporting Day Charity event
Thursday 10 th July	Sports Day	Students to enjoy a sports day and we will be sure to take lots of photos so parents can see what we have been doing
W/C 14 th July	End of Year reports	Parents will receive the end of year reports
Friday 18 th July	Graduation	Graduation ceremony for all of our year 14 leavers. Parents and guest of leavers welcome
Monday 21 st July	End of Year School Awards	Student assembly for awards to be given out for great progress.
Tuesday 22 nd July	End of Year Show	Parents are welcome to watch the children perform in their class groups.
Tuesday 22 nd July	Summer Break	School will end at 3.30pm



DARCY CLASS

We've spent our literacy lessons learning about different kinds of flight, using our descriptive language and writing skills to talk about different kinds of flying vehicles and what makes them fly in the first place. We've been making planes, shooting rockets, labelling parts of aircraft and embedding our key words into every activity we can. We've used these activities to practice the always important skill of coming together for collaborative work and play; it's really made a noticeable impact on all of our communication and skills!

In numeracy, we've been applying our measuring skills from our previous cycle to the more abstract concept of time. Some of us have been planning imaginary journeys on buses and planes while others have been looking more widely across the journey of a year and the predictable milestones we'd expect to see every time we complete one. We've started each day by making note of the day, month, weather and season and take a bit of time to go through our timetables together.

In R.E we've begun to think about the holy spirit and the effects its presence has on us. After using some of our literacy keywords to sequence the events of Jesus' ascension, we looked at the variety of different forms the Holy Spirit can take and thought about their meaning; Doves, flames, heat, wind - the spirit of flight has really been felt this cycle!

We've been very ambitious in our RSE cycle across the whole of the Pathway this cycle; deciding to move across classrooms to ensure that everyone can access content most appropriate to them. Students across the pathways have been brilliant; openly discussing some of these topics can be embarrassing for anyone, so we've all been especially impressed at our learners confidence in participating so openly our RSE lessons with less familiar teachers, peers and rooms.

This cycle for Darcy class has really been all about collaboration, we've made sure to spend as much time as we can working with peers, large groups and even other classes whenever the opportunity arises. We've certainly felt more confident and comfortable as a result of widening our social circles and it's made it so much easier to access the many events across the site this month; everything is easier with friends!





STIRLING CLASS

This term we have been particularly focused on making learning meaningful, engaging, and enjoyable for all our students.



As part of our work experience, students had the delightful opportunity to engage with the farm environment. They took part in a hands-on experience by walking goats and learning about animal care, further enhancing their understanding of agricultural practices. Additionally, our learners donned the cap of chicken farmers for a day, gaining valuable insights into the responsibilities associated with keeping livestock.



In literacy, we have introduced an exhilarating theme, "Come Fly With Me," which focuses on the history of flight. This topic has sparked students' imaginations as they collaborate to design a giant glider, incorporating various elements of science and engineering into their project.

Our extracurricular offerings continue to thrive, with the launch of our Strike Academy football sessions. Many of our learners have taken to the pitch enthusiastically, developing their skills and teamwork in this popular sport. The camaraderie built on the field translates into stronger relationships within the classroom, promoting a positive and inclusive atmosphere.

In the realm of the arts, our drama group is diligently rehearsing for the upcoming summer performance. This endeavour provides our students with a platform to express their creativity and develop their confidence as they prepare to showcase their talents. We are hopeful that this performance will be a highlight of the term and a rewarding experience for both participants and audience alike.

Lastly, we recently celebrated several birthdays within our class. It is always heart-warming to witness the joy and camaraderie among our students as they come together to mark these milestones.



JUBILEE CLASS

As we embark on our new cycle, "Come Fly With Me," Jubilee Class is eagerly delving into the theme of transport across the curriculum. Enthusiasm for this topic is palpable in the classroom, as students explore the fascinating world of transport in various contexts.

In literacy, learners are immersing themselves in a wide range of nonfiction texts related to different modes of transport. They have taken the initiative to begin writing detailed fact files on their chosen modes of transport, which includes researching their historical significance, operational mechanics, and the history of how they were invented.

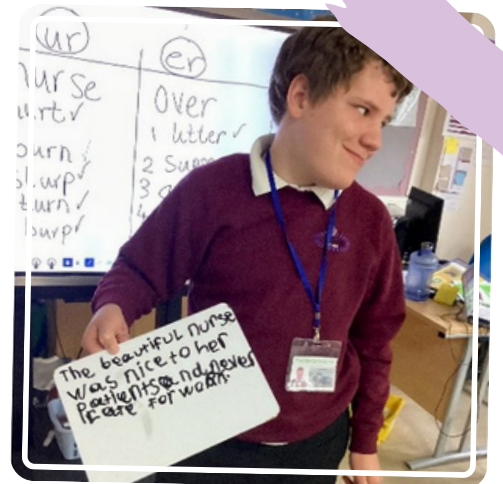
In mathematics, our focus is on time –students are not merely learning to read the clock but are also developing vital skills in interpreting bus and train timetables. This practical application of time management teaches them to plan their journeys effectively, ensuring they understand the importance of punctuality and preparation.

Our weekly sessions in the Drawing Room are dedicated to hands-on creativity, where students are engaged in crafting transport models. In our first session, pupils enthusiastically sketched their ideas, establishing the groundwork for their projects. Subsequent sessions have seen them bring their visions to life, employing various materials, including recycled items and craft supplies.

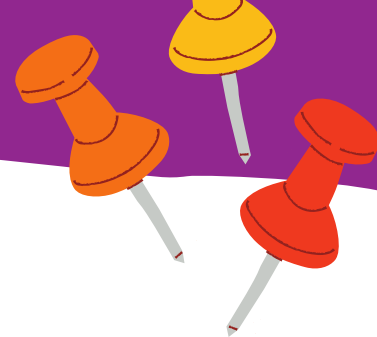
Furthermore, Jubilee Class has initiated a football academy every Wednesday, where professional coaches visit to impart new skills to our students. This initiative has already proven immensely popular, fostering not only physical fitness but also teamwork and sportsmanship. The boys are showing great enthusiasm, and we are witnessing the development of impressive talent as they refine their abilities on the pitch.

In Religious Education, we are exploring world religions, focusing on Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, and Sikhism. The conversations surrounding beliefs and practices are enriching, as students engage with different cultures and perspectives. They are being encouraged to express their thoughts and questions, fostering an environment of respect and curiosity about the diverse world we live in.

Recently, we celebrated VE Day and hosted a Culture Day, where students shared their rich heritage and traditions. These celebrations foster a sense of community and appreciation for diversity within our class.



PIPPIN CLASS



This term in Pippin class, we have transitioned from 'The Good Life' cycle into 'Ready, Steady, Go!' The class have been working on their fine motor skills with individual targets to improve their cognitive abilities.

In alignment with this, the children have also been working on their personal goals during 'Cause and effect' sessions using buttons and controls designed to each ability to show awareness of their actions. This work has also been implemented into our food technology lessons where we have made different foods using a blender that is accessible to Pippin students.



Recently, our communication skills have also advanced with receptive and expressive communication lessons using sensory toys. More time has been dedicated to body awareness and reflexology, to provide students with choices as to what their preferences are and to help them relax.

During the new pathway, the Olympics and sport has been a focus that enables the children to have lots of fun whilst also learning!



On VE Day, the class attended the celebrations with the rest of St Elizabeth's Centre and each of them did extremely well during our picnic. Perhaps the biggest milestone of Pippin class has been going on our first class trip to Pets Corner to visit all the animals that live there! The school trip has allowed Pippin students to put their communication and cognition skills to use outside of school.

WONDER CLASS

It's been a very busy half term that's flown by here in Wonder class! Our new topic, "On Your Marks, Get Set, Go!" has taken us on an exciting journey exploring the world of sports through a sensory lens. We've engaged brilliantly in Sensology and listening activities, from investigating the smell of the sea linked to water sports to experiencing the rhythm of a marching band and the excitement of American football. We have all shown fantastic communication, anticipation, and sensory awareness throughout these activities and a particular highlight has been smelling strawberries and cream as we explored the traditions of Wimbledon!

In addition to our sports focus we have also been working with Ashvale, which this term centres around seeds, plants, and flowers. We have loved getting hands-on with nature, feeling the textures of soil, leaves and petals, planting seeds whilst developing our curiosity and engagement with the natural world.

Wellbeing continues to be at the heart of everything we do and our new sensory story "Rain Before Rainbows" has been a beautiful way to explore emotions and strength. We have especially responded to the calming sensory elements like the sunrise lamp, soft fluffy clouds and gentle, soothing music.

Music remains a favourite part of our week, especially during Tacpac, and the new music introduced this term has been met with lots of smiles and excitement! It has been wonderful to see everyone sharing their enjoyment with a partner, whether through eye contact, gestures, or simple shared moments of joy.

Looking ahead, our final half term promises to be just as busy and enriching, with lots of exciting events, celebrations, and learning experiences still to come.





BRAMLEY CLASS



We've had a busy and exciting start to the final cycle. Our new topic, "On Your Marks, Get Set, GO!", has got us all moving and exploring different ways to be active. The children have been brilliant—whether crawling, walking, rolling or racing, everyone's been joining in with energy and smiles. We have been exploring cycling and the Olympics and things that are associated with it.



We've also been out and about. At Hatfield Forest, the children loved exploring nature—feeling different textures, spotting wildlife, and soaking up the fresh air. Our trip to Pets' Corner in Harlow was just as enjoyable. There were goats, pigs, rabbits, and fish to meet. The children showed great confidence and calmness, and it was lovely to see their reactions up close.




Across the centre, we've celebrated both Culture Day and VE Day. Culture Day was filled with colour, music, and food from around the world. The children engaged in sensory experiences that helped bring different cultures to life including trying different foods and smelling and feeling them. For VE Day, we joined in with decorations, art, and music, learning about the past in a way that was accessible and fun plus a picnic on the field with college, school and day opportunities.



We've now finished our sessions in the Drawing Room. These creative sessions gave everyone a chance to explore painting, mark-making, and sensory art. The children really expressed themselves and we're proud of everything they created.

We also had the special experience of leading Gospel service. The children took part with enthusiasm—using instruments, joining in with music, and sharing joy with the wider school community.

Thank you for your continued support. We're proud of how much the children are achieving and look forward to more adventures ahead.



WINSTON CLASS

As we reach the end of a busy and brilliant April/May, we're excited to share everything we've been learning and celebrating in class. The students have continued to work incredibly hard, showing fantastic teamwork, creativity, and perseverance across all areas of their learning.

In cycle 3 of Maths, we've been focusing on measuring. We explored length, height, weight, and capacity using a hands-on approach. Now in Cycle 4 we will be working on telling the time using both digital and analogue clocks continuing to build and develop those important life skills.

Our literacy sessions last cycle was based on the beautiful story "The Snail and the Whale" by Julia Donaldson. We explored rhyming words, retold parts of the story, and worked on extending our sentences using descriptive language. In cycle 4 we are learning about non-fiction texts. The students have enjoyed learning about how an airplane takes flight which links lovely with our Cycle 4 topic theme – 'Come Fly with me!'

Our topic focus for cycle 3 was all about the human body and how it works. The students explored different body parts and their functions, and we had fun with interactive activities and songs to help us learn. We loved talking about how to keep our bodies healthy with exercise, sleep, and nutritious food!

We're back in the Drawing Room, and have turned our focus to creating a special ornament—something to remember all the memories and milestones from this academic year. We can't wait to share the final creations with you!

During the first week back after half term, Winston Class will be heading to Nando's for lunch – a well-deserved treat but also an excellent learning opportunity to visit a restaurant and work on those communication skills in the community.



DISCOVERY CLASS



May has been an exciting month in Discovery class. The children have been working hard across all subjects and shown enthusiasm in their learning. Here's what we have been up to!

In literacy we've started exploring our new story 'The Rainbow Fish'. The children have enjoyed labelling pictures of the characters and discussing colours in the illustrations. This book links in with our new cycle 'Water, water everywhere!'



In maths we have begun our learning about 2D shapes! The children went on exciting shape walks to spot different shapes in the school environment. We've also created pictures using different shapes and played lots of matching and sorting games to help us identify and describe them.

In art the children have been painting their own beautiful rainbow fish using a variety of materials, colours and patterns. We have proudly displayed them around the classroom. They've certainly brightened up our walls!



To celebrate VE Day, we had a wonderful afternoon picnic – and we made it ourselves! The children prepared their own sandwiches, healthy snacks and some chocolate covered strawberries. The children really enjoyed taking part in the activities and socialising with their friends from other classes.

In RE this month we've been learning about the story of Noah's ark. The children listened carefully to the story and enjoyed acting it out. They even made their own ark from cardboard boxes! We focused on the rainbow as a sign of God's promise, linking beautifully with our work in art and literacy. The children created their own rainbow pictures on paper and with chalk outside.



As the weather gets warmer please ensure children come to school with:

- A sunhat
- Sun cream (already applied by yourselves before school. We can then reapply later in the day)
- Spare clothes
- Water bottle

BEACON CLASS

Beacon class have enjoyed a full on, fun packed summer term. We have actively and musically been exploring our new topic "On your marks, get set, go!" As part of our literacy and communication, we have explored sensory stories, that look at fiction and non-fiction texts. Beacon have read and enjoyed the classic story, The Hare and Tortoise as well as ready, steady Mo, A book about Mo Farrah.

In our Sensology sessions we have explored the text, We're going on a bike hunt, where we have explored parts of a bike, how to ride, how to stay safe on a bike and the enjoyment of riding a bike.

This term Beacon Class have been out and about in the local community. We have been on trips to our local farm where we took part in feeding and looking after animals. We have explored outdoor libraries and local reading spaces in the local town of Harlow. Students enjoyed trips to Hylands park Chelmsford where they took part in some of the physical activities that Mo Farrah enjoys in his book. Students used their communication books in the local community to say how they felt about each activity and to purchase ice-creams and food.

As part of the wider community, Beacon class attended a special mass, in honour of Pope Leo. Creatively, we have explored the Month of May by creating flowers and placing them around St Elizabeths, Mother Mary statues. As a class we learnt about and celebrated VE day. We explored role of the spitfire through a sensory story and made some party food in food technology. We shared our sandwiches, cakes and fruit kebabs with all our friends at a special centre picnic and party in the park. Students enjoyed waving their flags, dancing and listening to Sir Winston Churchills speech.

PSHE and RSE we have explored our bodies and health. We have looked at different parts of the body and identified some of our features. We have explored medical professionals who help us. We identified and labelled different medical equipment and helped give a medical to our class patients Rosie and Sid. We explored the role of Nurses, Doctors and Dentists and celebrated International Nurses Day by creating Thank you cards for our own Nursing team. We explored how to play Doctors together and visited our own medical centre as a class.

We have taken part and enjoyed some special workshops with Strike Football Academy. We learnt the art of what makes a successful footballer and learnt some new ball skills. Each Wednesday morning, we practice our gross motor skills, teamworking and sportsmanship through a series of friendly games. We have enjoyed PSHE this term and have been working with Darcy class to improve on our social skills. It is lovely to see Beacon class become more confident in initiating conversations using their voices and communication books to talk to unfamiliar adults and peers.





HONEY CLASS



Honey class have been very busy this month, enjoying the glorious weather and making the most of the sunshine. We have particularly enjoyed spending lots of time in our sensory garden watching the plants grow and playing with our peers with balls and bubbles. We have launched ourselves into our final cycle of learning for the academic year, 'Water, Water Everywhere' where we are fully enjoying learning everything seaside related! We have been busy creating artwork for displays and making delicious seaside treats!



This month in Literacy, Honey class has been exploring the short story "The Snail and The Whale" exploring the various landscapes that are found around the world and cultivating a sense of adventure. This also ties into our new cycle topic as we spend time exploring related areas such as sea life and locales that are closely intertwined with water and the sea.



The students in Honey class have been thoroughly enjoying the recent football sessions from Strike Academy, showing off their energetic and sporty sides and having a lot of fun participating alongside other classes. We also had the amazing opportunity of going to Saracens's stadium and joining in their circuit of activities as well as receiving medals and t-shirts at the end.



Outside of the classroom, Honey class has been able to experience the local community, on our various trips to Stansted Library and bakery as well as Bishop's Stortford town park where we have been having a picnic by the castle, a stroll along the river and around the park and then some time playing in their playground. We have been really lucky with the weather and been able to spot and hear some wildlife too.

It has been a pleasure watching the peer relationships in our class continue to grow as the students learn and play together as they strengthen their bonds and show their capacity to live, love and learn together as well as giving a very warm welcome to a new student this month and we look forward to watching her growth academically and socially as she forges friendships within the class.

JAZZ CLASS

We're absolutely thrilled to welcome a new friend to our Jazz class family – Cooper! He has settled in wonderfully and has already become a fantastic addition to our group. Just like many of our Jazz superstars, Cooper is a fellow water lover, and we've enjoyed sharing our swimming adventures with him.

The children have also been absolutely delighted to be back in the swimming pool! It's been fantastic to witness the incredible amount of confidence and progress each and every one of them has made in the water. Their enthusiasm and bravery are truly inspiring!

We recently marked VE Day in a very special way. We engaged in a beautiful sensory story that helped us to understand and reflect on the significance of World War II. It was a moving experience that allowed the children to connect with this important part of history in a meaningful way.

May has been a month dedicated to celebrating Mary, the mother of Jesus. We've been learning about her important role and significance in the Bible through various activities. The children have enjoyed getting creative by making lovely flowers in her honour and were wonderful participants in a special Mary assembly alongside Rokit and Discovery classes.

As we move into what is hopefully a lovely hot period, please can you ensure your child comes to school prepared with the following:

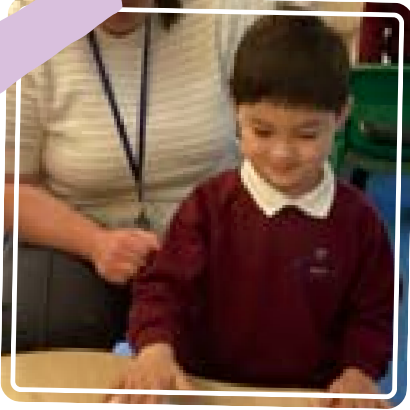
- A sunhat to protect their heads.
- Suncream already applied in the morning, and please send some in for reapplication if your child is staying for a full day.
- Shorts for warmer weather.
- Water play clothing (something that can get wet) as we will be enjoying water-based activities.
- Please also pack an additional set of clothing in case a change is needed.

Thank you for your continued support in making Jazz class such a wonderful and enriching environment for all our children. We're looking forward to our seaside adventures!



ROKIT CLASS

I hope you're all enjoying the lovely spring weather!



Rockit Class has had a really busy month as we wrapped up our "Slime and Grime" cycle and have loves exploring the wonders of spring.

Now, we're diving into our exciting new theme about the seaside and the amazing animals that live under the sea! The children have been having a blast with sensory stories, water and sand play, and even making their own ice cream!



One of the highlights was a visit from the ice cream man, which made everyone smile from ear to ear.

We also had a fantastic Cultural Diversity Day, where we celebrated the different backgrounds in our school and centre. It was so fun to learn about the places our friends come from and to try some new foods together!



As we head into the last half term of the year, we're really looking forward to all the fun activities ahead, especially our end-of-year show! We'd love for you to chat with your little ones about all the sea creatures we'll be learning about, and maybe it will inspire some seaside adventures this summer!

Thank you for your ongoing support and have a wonderful half term break!

CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY



On Wednesday 21st May, the school joined the centre to celebrate and learn about the rich and varied cultural diversity that we have at St Elizabeth's.

We were very proud to share and promote who we are and what is important to us. Stalls were based on the nine protected characteristics where staff and the learners could share their culture, beliefs and identity, through food and stories from around the globe.



VE DAY



We had a fantastic afternoon celebrating VE Day, marking 80 years since Victory in Europe was declared.

We brought our own picnics and enjoyed lawn and sports games on the field, celebrating together. Our fantastic catering team provided tea and biscuits, with Jubilee class baking their own cookies for everyone to enjoy.



INCLUSIVE QUALITY MARK (IQM)



We are delighted to share that we have been awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark's Inclusive School award. Furthermore, our assessor felt that the school has the capacity to move forward and share our expertise and has recommended that the school should consider applying for Centre of Excellence status.

We have included below some quotes from our report, which can be found in full on our website or via the link below.

[Inclusion Quality Mark Report](#)

'Community is not just spoken about at St Elizabeth's—it is felt.'

'From the moment you step through its doors, St Elizabeth's feels warm, open, and thoughtfully designed.'

'Results are inspiring: a school filled with confident, curious and happy children who are not only supported but empowered.'

"Personally, this school is my safe space – and the only safe space I have." Such heartfelt expressions underline the powerful, trust-based relationships that the school builds with families.'

JUBLIEE YEAR - PILGRIMS OF HOPE



Pauline Meaney
Catholic Ethos Advocate

As a school we will be attending the Jubilee Mass at Westminster Cathedral in June and walking our very own pilgrimage journey around the magnificent scenic surrounds of St Elizabeth's.

We also hope to erect a permanent seating area in our Forest school space to represent the journey that all our students take when they join St Elizabeth's. We welcome moments of rest to ponder the hope that is always in our hearts as a community and how we build upon that positive outlook that is instilled through our steadfast pilgrim journey of hope, prayer and love.

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into the right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

Pope Francis gave us the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope' as it is to be a year of hope for the world.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/what-is-a-jubilee/>



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 4th September – Wednesday 17th December)

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

SPRING TERM 2026

(Tuesday 6th January – Friday 27th March)

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

SUMMER TERM 2026

(Tuesday 14th April – Tuesday 22nd July)

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

SCHOOL ACADEMIC INSET 2025/26

3rd September
18th December
5th January
13th April
23rd 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

We publish a centre-wide newsletter twice a year. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please email **fundraising@stelizabeths.org.uk**

