

JANUARY 2025



Message from the Headteacher

To all our wonderful APSOL families and school community, we would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

We hope that 2025 is going to be happy, healthy, amazingly successful and enjoyable for all.

Everyone has looked forward to welcoming you back for another exciting school term!

This Spring term we have very exciting weeks for the whole school including Apsol's Got Talent (our annual Talent Show), Carnival and Science week!

Let's make 2025 another year to remember, filled with learning, love, and laughter.

Wandle Schools Sports League

We are pleased to confirm that a group of 6 neighbouring schools, have formed the Wandle Primary School Sports League.

The purpose of establishing an inter-school sports competition between local Wandsworth Schools is to provide students with consistent opportunities to engage in structured physical activity, while fostering the development of physical literacy, sportsmanship, resilience, and healthy competition.

In supporting these objectives, the inter-school sports competition will not only contribute to students' physical and emotional development but will also create a strong sense of community, life skills and school spirit across the participating schools. From Friday 28th February, a squad of eight Year 3 and Year 4 children will be representing the school in a Lower Key Stage 2 Football League. All children in Lower Key Stage 2 have PE on a Friday, so everyone will be taking part in physical activity.

We are very pleased to have been part of the founding group for this league alongside Allfarthing School. Hopefully a significant number of children will now be able to participate in competitive sports and develop their talents.

Benefits of competitive sports:

1. Physical health and fitness
2. Mental and emotional growth - builds resilience, focus, discipline and problem-solving skills
3. Social skills and team work - encourages teamwork, communication, co-operation, friendships and sense of belonging.
4. Goal-setting and time management - instills strong ethic and determination to achieve goals, encourages perseverance.
5. Character development and leadership - fosters sportsmanship, integrity, accountability, fair play

Chinese New Year 2025

On Wednesday 29th January the children had an assembly about Chinese New Year with Ayla and Amba's dad. Welcoming the year of the snake! As we step into the year of the snake, may this lunar new year bring you wisdom, resilience, and prosperity. The snake symbolises transformation, intuition and strategic thinking - qualities which embrace new opportunities and overcome challenges with grace.

We have very exciting opportunities coming up for all children and families to get involved:

APSOL Arts week - Carnival: This year's APSOL Carnival is taking place on Thursday 6th March, which is also World Book Day! What an exciting week this will be at APSOL! Each class have selected their preferred book and will be parading their book costumes at our annual parade which will start at **3:15pm on Thursday 6th March.**

Reception: Tiddler (ocean related costumes)

Year 1: Monkey puzzle (animal costumes)

Year 2: Bob Man on the moon (astronaut/ space related costumes)

Year 3: Harry Potter

Year 4: Anansi Tales (African stories/costumes)

The children will be creating a banner for their class for the parade. Please support by making a Carnival costume using recycled materials or reusing costumes you already have!

APSOL Enterprise Week:

Children will be using their mathematical skills and knowledge about money, to produce items for the APSOL Enterprise Fair. Each class will be given a budget which they will then have to plan, decide and make products to sell at our APSOL fair! Date to be confirmed!

APSOL Sports Day (Sports Week) - Wimbledon Race Track - Sports day 2025 has been moved to **Monday 21st July 2025** so that the children can experience a meaningful sports day on an authentic athletics track!

APSOL House Swimming Gala - Swimmers from across the school will be selected to represent their House at a swimming gala! This will be taking place in **July** also!

APSOL Bake off - House baking competition: In **April**, to promote the love for reading, children will have the opportunity to bake a cake inspired on their favourite books or characters! We will be sending more information soon! This can be an individual or paired project! There will be specific criteria that cakes will be judged by. Children will then be able to decide whether to keep or allow their cake to be sold (money raised for the school fund). All information will be on the March newsletter - don't miss it!

APSOL Neighbourhood:

L&Q have fixed the barrier to Courthouse Way and will be minimising traffic on this road. As a school, we are grateful for this as it means more safety for us and less movement. However, due to Courthouse Way being a private road, access has only been granted for school registered vehicles for parents and children with disability or SEN needs which affect safety. From 31st January, only registered vehicles will be granted access through Courthouse Way.

To facilitate drop-offs given these restrictions, you will now be able to drop off for Breakfast club using the back door too.

Closing date for September 2025 Reception Admissions

The closing date for Reception 2025 (September) admissions, closed on 15th January. If you missed this deadline or are applying for a Reception place from abroad and need support with this, please contact our school office.

Siblings form:

If you already have children at APSOL, or you are a member of staff and would like for your child to attend APSOL, please complete this form so that we can keep Wandsworth admissions up-to-date:

<https://forms.gle/wQf67tZ5ExAyGFUT6>

ENRICHMENT

Year 4 Trip to the Buddhist Temple in Wimbledon 16th January

In RE Year 4 have learned about Buddhist places of worship and practices.

On 16th January, Year 4 visited the Buddhist temple in Wimbledon, where they had a talk by Monk Owen who showed the children all of the special statues in the temple and the beautiful paintings on the wall.

Monk Owen spoke about important stories they represent. He then showed us how the monks meditate and show mindfulness. Everyone took part by counting to 10 and focussing on our breathing. At the end of our visit, we all made a wish for everyone in the world to be happy. We all felt very relaxed and calm after our session. We have learnt so much about Buddhism and how Buddhists live their lives.



Reception Clip 'n' Climb sessions

This term, we have managed to secure more Clip-n-climb sessions for Reception after their initial visit on Friday 10th January where the children demonstrated great confidence and courage.

This month, Reception have had 2 visits to Clip n Climb, we are looking forward to more sessions in February!

Reception lunchtime at Clip n Climb has also worked very well so we will continue with this provision after the half-term!



Apsol Talent Show 2025

It's time to start preparing for our annual Talent show!



At APSOL, we believe that individual talents and interests should be encouraged and nurtured from a young age. We are therefore planning to hold our Talent Show 2025 on **Friday 14th February** (school finishes at 1:30pm so the Talent Show will be held in the morning).

Parents of shortlisted children, will be able to attend on the day and watch their child's performance. This year's Talent Show will have a special performance by the School Choir.

Applications for this year's Talent Show are now closed. Ms Alexandra, Ms Ines and School Council, will be shortlisting for the show which will be held on the 14th February.



World Religion Day

On 19th January, was World Religion Day.

On Monday 20th January, Ms Marta led an assembly for both key stages providing an exciting opportunity to consider the diverse, multi-cultural world we live in.

During the assembly, the children had the opportunity to think about how religions are all special in their own way, whilst also having a common thread; we should be kind to others and treat others, as we wish to be treated ourselves.

Year 2 Trunk theatre workshop: Great Fire of London 20th January

Year 2 have been learning about the Great Fire of London.

To further enrich their learning experience, they had an immersive theatrical workshop with Trunk Theatre, listening with awe and participating in interactive activities. This workshop supports the children to learn and retain information about historical events and supports their writing about historical fiction.



ACHIEVEMENT & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

School Ambassador Badges

Well done to the following children for achieving their Ambassador badges this month!

Year 2: Siyana, Marcel, Eyas



Pen Licences

Congratulations to the following children who are now writing cursively and achieved their pen licences!

Year 1: Ayla

Year 2: Phillip, Eyas

Year 3: Manuela, Jose, Angelina

Maths Badges: Timestables Rockstars Year 3 & 4!

Bronze: Isabel Y3

Silver: Valentina Y4

Gold: Alexandre Y4, Eva Y3

Well done children!

Supporting with regular outings - volunteering

At APSOL, we have regular weekly outings to PE venues, including swimming centres, the Wandle etc

As a volunteer, you are expected to support the staff with supervision and help with lesson readiness. Volunteers are expected to remain with the groups at all times to ensure that children are well-supported in out-of-school activities.

We also expect all volunteers to be encouraging and supportive, following the ethos of the school, not just to their own child, but other children. In under no circumstance should parent volunteers comment on individual children (other than their own) with other volunteers.

We are very grateful for all our volunteers for dedicating their own time to support the children and couldn't deliver such exciting opportunities without you!

<https://angloportugueseschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Guidance-for-Volunteers-for-School-Trips-1.docx>



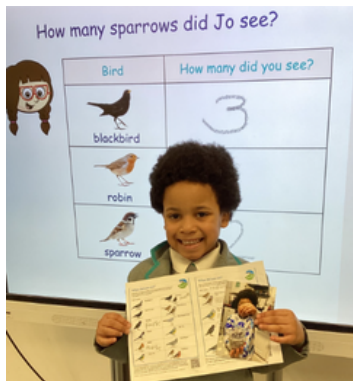
Little Apsolings have been working very hard on their manners. We can see a significant improvement. Please continue to support your child with these at home, so that these become habit. Please continue to support your child with these at home, so that these become habit.

- good morning, good afternoon
- Please and thank you
- excuse me please (when passing)
- after you (letting someone go in front/ holding the door for others)
- Sorry (when they have done something wrong)
- Pardon (when they didn't hear something and need it repeated)

Once the children show **consistently** good manners in all aspects of school life, they will be able to get the good manners badge.



BIG SCHOOLS' BIRD WATCH



'Update from Ms Michelle, Science Co-ordinator:

'Big School's Bird Watch' is back for 2025 and APSol will be taking part this year. We will be joining thousands of schools to find out which birds visit our school grounds.

The children will be involved in bird watching activities from 7th January to 14th February 2025 and we will be submitting our results to the RSPB. Find out more on <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/get-ready-for-big-schools-birdwatch>

You will need to print your photographs and RSPB recording sheets at home to submit to your class teacher in February. If you can't print at home, please send an email to the school office with your child's name and class.

Thank you to all the children that have already started and are taking part!

Science week is coming up - 17th March

We are launching Science week with a whole school Birds of Prey workshop! Each class will have a workshop which will cover a range of curriculum-based topics including: habitats, food chains, life cycles and conservation. Sessions include learning about and meeting a wide variety of birds and the children can even get involved when the birds are flying. At the end of the school day, everyone can take part in a flying demonstration outside!



Sports News

Wandle Schools Sports League

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In supporting these objectives, the inter-school sports competition will not only contribute to students' physical and emotional development but will also create a strong sense of community, life skills and school spirit across the participating schools.

Proposed participating schools:

Allfarthing Primary School	Earlsfield Primary School
Swaffield Primary School	Beatrix Potter Primary School
Anglo Portuguese School of London (APSOL)	Franciscan Primary School

First round of events

Where?

Host school – Allfarthing Primary School (walking distance from APSOL)

When?

Proposed dates – Friday 28th February 2025, Friday 7th March 2025, Friday 14th March 2025, Friday 21st March 2025 and Friday 28th March 2025

If your child is not entered in the league, do not worry as all Year 3 and Year 4 children at APSOL have PE on Fridays, so no-one misses physical activity!

Who?

Year groups – 3/4 mixed gender (teams of 5 children + 3 subs)
Staff will select children inclusively. Parents will receive direct communication if their child is selected to participate and on which dates. There will be more opportunities for your child to participate and other sports, once the partnership is established.

What?

• Sport – Football

Celebration:

• Final festival style event – venue tbc with parents of participating children will be invited (example locations – Southfield Academy, Wandle Recreation Centre, Battersea Sports Centre)

What's needed? How will this work?

Tournament structure and rules

- Round robin group
- Five players per team. Seven/eight players per squad – each team having a minimum of one female player on the pitch at all times
- Two pitches operating simultaneously – referees provided by host school
- Normal FA rules
- Participation medals for all players. Trophy for winning team presented at the final.



School Team Design a Kit Competition Winners

In December we announced our School Team Design Competition.

The children in Lower Key Stage 2 have been very busy and very creative, designing the school team kit that can be used by all children when representing the school in different sports.

These are some of our entries:



School council will be shortlisting designs next week! Thank you to all children who entered the competition. The shortlisted designs will then be sent to a kit creating company to produce the APSOL Team Kit! How fabulous!

APSOL Swimming sponsorship for in-year admissions

For children who have joined APSOL after Year 2 and missed our yearly swimming programme, we are going to fund a swimming programme so that these children do not miss such an essential part of the curriculum! So if your child joined us in Year 3 or Year 4, the senior leadership team will be in touch with you soon about our swimming offer.

Sports/Creative House events currently being planned:

- APSOL House Swimming Gala
- APSOL Sports Day - Wimbledon Race Track
- APSOL Bake off - baking competition

If you would like to get involved in supporting with these events, please let us know in the office!

If you would like to become a regular volunteer at APSOL please email or call the school office.

For copies of all policies and guidance, please follow this link to our school website:

<https://angloportugueseschool.org/en/school-policies/>



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

11th February	Year 1 Class assembly for parents at APSOL at 3:15pm
13th February	Year2 Class Assembly for parents at APSOL 3:15pm start Y3 Heritage workshop at library - landscape changes Y1 Heritage workshop - how has the local area changed over time?
14th February	Talent Show - parents of participants will be invited to attend. School finishes at 1:30pm.
17th-21st February	School closed for half-term
24th February	Spring term 2 starts Reception online parents meeting - appointment only
25th February	Year 1 online parents meeting - appointment only
26th February	Year 4 online parents meeting - appointment only
27th February	Year 3 online parents meeting - appointment only
28th February	Year 2 online parents meeting - appointment only
6th March	Whole School Carnival Parade at APSOL 3:15pm & World Book Day
17 March	Y2 Around the world workshop
24 March	Y1 trip to London Eye
25 March	Y3 Trip to British Museum - Ancient Egypt

Please click here to access the 2024-25 Term dates and the 2025-26 updated Term dates
<https://angloportugueseschool.org/en/term-dates/>

ATTENDANCE & BUILDING UPDATE

STAFFING UPDATE

Year group	Attendance Year-to-date
Reception	92.5%
Year 1	94.1%
Year 2	94.7%
Year 3	95.7%
Year 4	94.0%

The school target is **96%**. Currently only one year group is on track. Please help us to ensure that this target is met this year.

This month there has been a lot of childhood illnesses going round, affecting attendance, however, as the children get older and the weather improves, we should see an improvement in attendance and reduction in absence.

The majority of our families prioritise their children's learning and do not take holidays during term-time. Thank you for your commitment to your child's education, this does not go unnoticed.

Children only have school for 190 days per year, the only absences should be medical or illness related.

The January Attendance Cup winners are **Year 3** again!
Well done everyone!



DfE Building Update

The survey of the existing mechanical and electrical installations has been completed by Kier Construction, with further works proposed in Spring / Summer 2025 for completion by September 2025 to accommodate an additional intake of pupils subject to agreement of costs and relevant approvals by the Department of Education (DfE).

The final scope of any remaining works will be determined following the additional design and surveys which are still to be completed to ensure compliance and value for money.

We will provide a further update on progress and the remaining works in future newsletters.

Tom Bryant, Project manager

Reception:

Class teacher: Ricardina Oliveira
Teaching Assistant: Andreia Santos
Lunch Support: Sabhudin Khan

Year 1:

Class teacher: Michelle Clough
Teaching Assistant: Naoual (Naz) Lamaani
Lunch support: Chris Ly & Lauren Regan

Year 2:

Class Teacher: Oscar Fielder
Teaching Assistant: Vanessa Caldeira
Lunch support: Lauren Regan & Chris Ly

Year 3:

Class Teacher: Tazi Gunde
Teaching Assistant: Regan McDonald from Monday 3rd February
Lunch support: Chris Ly & Lauren Regan

Year 4:

Class Teachers: Polly Sands and Lucy Mathieson
Teaching Assistant: Garfield Francis
Lunch support: Chris Ly & Lauren Regan

Portuguese Teachers across the school:

Alexandra Taveira
Ines Ferreira

Music Teachers:

Sian Greenhalf (Y1-4)
Mariana Chew (Rec)

Wrap around care assistants:

Breakfast club:

Irondina Gomes
Susan Spinola
Yamin Njair (Starting 24th february 2025)

After school club:

Rec & Y1: Fatima Rodrigues & Irondina Gomes
Y2-Y4: Lauren Regan & Fernanda Kaur (starting Monday 3rd February)

We would like to say a massive thanks to Ms Svetlana for her hard work with wrap around care at APSOL. We wish her the best for the future.



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PORTUGUESE UPDATE



At APSOL, our students have been engaged in exciting learning experiences, exploring everything from environmental awareness to Portuguese history and storytelling. Here's what each year group has been up to this month:

Year 1 – Recycling, Saving Our Planet, and Storytime

Year 1 has been learning about how they can help protect the planet by recycling, reducing waste, and making eco-friendly choices. Through hands-on activities and discussions, they have been discovering how small changes can make a big difference to the environment. In addition to their sustainability efforts, they have also been enjoying the story A Galinha Pedrês que Queria Ser Bailarina. This charming tale has sparked wonderful discussions about perseverance, dreams, and following one's passions—important lessons for our young learners!

Year 2 – Discovering Lisbon

Year 2 has been on an exciting journey to Lisbon, exploring its famous landmarks, culture, and traditions. They have been learning about the city's rich history and reading Lisbon Story, a book that brings the vibrant capital to life through storytelling. Comparing life in Lisbon to their own experiences has helped them gain a deeper understanding of this beautiful city.

Year 3 – Fables, Donkeys, and Letters to Scientists

This term, Year 3 has been diving into the world of fables, focusing on stories featuring donkeys and the important lessons they teach. Inspired by their learning, they are now preparing to write letters to Portuguese scientists, asking questions about nature, animals, and science. We are excited to see what responses they receive!

Year 4 – The Story of Pedro and Inês

Year 4 has been exploring the legendary love story of Pedro and Inês from the 14th century. Through creative writing and historical research, they have been transported back in time to understand the significance of this famous tale in Portuguese history.

Reception – Magical Storytelling

Reception has been enjoying classic Portuguese stories, including O Coelho Branco and Os Três Porquinhos. Through storytelling, role play, and creative activities, they are developing their language skills and imagination while having fun with these much-loved tales. It's been a fantastic month of learning at APSOL, with students engaging in meaningful and enriching experiences. We can't wait to see where their learning takes them next!

Na APSOL, os nossos alunos têm participado em experiências de aprendizagem emocionantes, explorando desde a consciencialização ambiental até à história e contos tradicionais portugueses. Aqui está um resumo do que cada turma tem andado a fazer este mês:

Ano 1 – Reciclagem, Salvar o Planeta e Hora do Conto

O Ano 1 tem aprendido sobre como pode ajudar a proteger o planeta através da reciclagem, redução de resíduos e escolhas mais sustentáveis. Através de atividades práticas e debates, descobriram como pequenas mudanças podem ter um grande impacto no meio ambiente.

Além disso, também têm explorado a história A Galinha Pedrês que Queria Ser Bailarina. Esta história encantadora tem gerado belas reflexões sobre perseverança, sonhos e a importância de seguir as nossas paixões – lições valiosas para os nossos pequenos aprendizes!

Ano 2 – A Descoberta de Lisboa

O Segundo ano tem embarcado numa emocionante viagem a Lisboa, explorando os seus marcos históricos, cultura e tradições. Aprenderam sobre a riqueza da história da cidade e estão a ler Lisbon Story, um livro que dá vida à vibrante capital através da narrativa. Comparando a vida em Lisboa com as suas próprias experiências, os alunos estão a desenvolver uma compreensão mais profunda desta bela cidade.

Ano 3 – Fábulas, Burros e Cartas para Cientistas

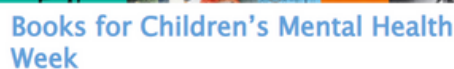
Este período, o terceiro ano tem mergulhado no mundo das fábulas, com especial enfoque em histórias que envolvem burros e as lições importantes que estas ensinam. Inspirados pelo que aprenderam, estão agora a preparar-se para escrever cartas a cientistas portugueses, colocando perguntas sobre a natureza, os animais e a ciência. Estamos ansiosos para ver as respostas que vão receber!

Ano 4 – A História de Pedro e Inês

O quarto ano tem explorado a lendária história de amor de Pedro e Inês no século XIV. Através da escrita criativa e da pesquisa histórica, os alunos têm viajado no tempo para compreender a importância desta história trágica na História de Portugal.

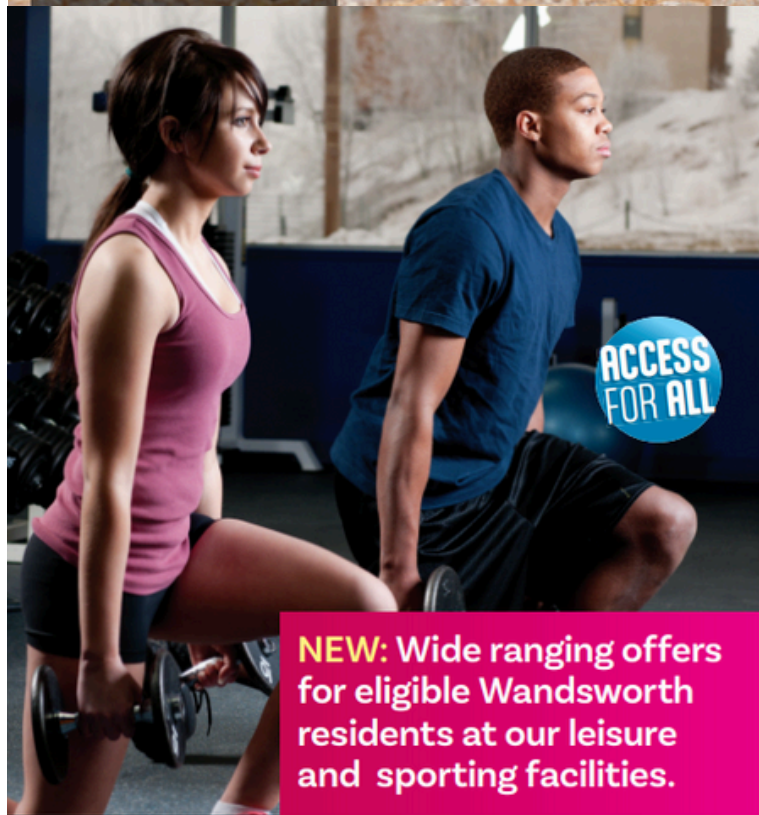
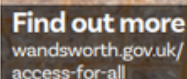
Pré-Escolar – Contos Mágicos

Os alunos do Pré-Escolar têm desfrutado de histórias clássicas portuguesas, incluindo O Coelho Branco e Os Três Porquinhos. Através da narração, dramatização e atividades criativas, estão a desenvolver as suas competências linguísticas e a imaginação, ao mesmo tempo que se divertem com estes contos tão queridos. Tem sido um mês fantástico de aprendizagem na APSOL, com os alunos envolvidos em experiências ricas e significativas. Mal podemos esperar para ver onde a aprendizagem os levará a seguir!



We have to update our catering of any changes every term. If your child is having a packed lunch from home, please send an email via MCAS to confirm this.

FREE swimming lessons during school holidays for eligible children in Years 2-7 who cannot swim 25 metres. All Wandsworth children under 8 swim for **FREE** at our leisure centres.



- Free off-peak gym and swim
- Discounted monthly all inclusive memberships available at all times: £21.50 for adults, and £15.00 for children
- Discounted casual rates of £5.00 for adults and £2.50 for children
- Free drop in sport activities for children on Free School Meals during school holidays



Find out more
wandsworth.gov.uk/
access-for-all

If you have changed your address, phone numbers or authorised pick-ups please email the school office or send a message via MCAS.



Celebration



Certificates and Achievement

Well done to all the children who have received a certificate this week!

At APSOL we celebrate children for various reasons and certificates can be awarded for the following:

Star of the week
Great effort
Kindness award
Maths Award
Writing Award
Portuguese Award
Reading Award
Headteacher Award

Children can receive Ambassador badges when they demonstrate excellent learning behaviours and a consistently positive attitude to learning, putting maximum effort in what they do.

January birthdays:

Zayn, Bernardo
Diana, Iulia, Erik
Christian, Aidan
Phoebe, Olivia
Nina, Eva, Alexia



January House Points

Each child is assigned to a House at the beginning of the year and the points have been reset for this academic year. It is incredible to see how much praise the children at APSOL get given how many points they have already achieved collectively!

Children are also able to see their points individually.

Children will participate in several house activities throughout the year. Children receive house points on a daily basis.

The winning house has a very special prize at the end of the year.

Academic Year: 2022-2023 | Welcome! Anglo-Portuguese School of London | Log out



Discoverers

[Click to Enter](#)

15518 Points



Expeditioners

[Click to Enter](#)

13135 Points



Explorers

[Click to Enter](#)

14665 Points



Navigators

[Click to Enter](#)

16061 Points