



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Message from the Headteacher:

Dear Apsol Community,

Arts Week

This term, we were delighted to celebrate Arts Week across the school. The children immersed themselves in a wide range of creative activities including painting, sculpture, music, Carnival and Talent Show. It has been wonderful to see their confidence, imagination and teamwork flourish through the arts. The quality of work produced has been outstanding, and we are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and creativity. Thank you to all the children who took part in the Talent Show and to all our families for supporting us with Carnival costumes and the parade!

Rights Respecting Schools Unicef - School council

As part of our commitment to the Rights Respecting Schools programme, our School Council members had the exciting opportunity to visit Burntwood School. During their visit, they met with student leaders, shared ideas and discussed how to further promote children's rights within our school community. The children represented our school brilliantly and returned inspired with new ideas to develop our work on pupil voice and leadership.

Friends of APSOL Valentines Disco

On Friday 13th February, FoAPSOL organised a fantastic Valentine's Disco after school. This was a very successful event, filled with music, dancing and lots of smiles. The children had a wonderful time celebrating with their friends, and the event raised valuable funds to support future school projects: playdecks. A huge thank you to FoAPSOL and all the parent volunteers who helped make the evening such a success.

Building works update

Update from Mark Smethurst, DfE Capital Project Team: The Contractor (Kier Construction) submitted its final Contractor Proposals for the remaining works this January. These are under review by the DfE's Technical Advisors (Mace) following completion of the site investigations, technical design, pricing, and meetings with the project team. This technical and cost review should be completed by April 2026 subject to any issues identified during it, and relevant approvals. The review will determine the overall compliance of the proposals and value for money to the public purse to enable the remaining works to proceed. It is intended that these works will be completed in two phases, with additional first floor areas including a playdeck and Y6 classroom for September 2026, and the rest of the works in 2027. We will provide a further update after Easter to confirm the status of the works and programme dates.

Parent-Teacher Meetings - Spring Term

Our parent-teacher meetings are taking place on Thursday 5th March and Thursday 12th March. Please log on to your MCAS app to book your appointment.

Teachers: Ms Dina YR, Ms Erin Y1, Ms Tazi Y2, Ms Ellie Y3, Ms Lucy Y4, Mr Oscar Y5

Ms Alexandra, Portuguese Teacher, will be available in the school office to meet with parents.

World Book Day - Turn the Page Project

In celebration of **World Book Day**, our school is launching a fun and meaningful **Book Drive** to help put more stories into the hands of young readers!

World Book Day reminds us that books have the power to spark imagination, build knowledge, and open doors to new worlds. To share that joy, we're inviting families to **donate new or gently loved books** to help us grow our classroom libraries. Whether it's a favorite picture book or an exciting adventure story, every page makes a difference. Let's come together to turn the page toward brighter futures, one book at a time!

We would be especially delighted if pupils could donate books from one of the following categories:

- Portuguese fiction and non-fiction books
- Books about people who have inspired you, especially those from the Little People, Big Dreams series
- Non-fiction books linked to a topic you love - animals, space, history, science... anything you're passionate about!
- Dual-language storybooks that include both English and your first language
- Poetry collections for children

These types of books help us reflect the wide range of interests, identities and inspirations across our school community.

Please bring your donations on Thursday 5th March. Children can come to school wearing their book day costumes.

CARNIVAL 2026
THEME:
CELEBRATING
DIVERSITY



School
Community
Event
Location: APSOL
Date: 12th
February
Time: 3:15pm





APSOL Talent Show



TALENT Show!

Congratulations to all the children who took part in this year's APSOL Talent Show
A massive thanks to all the parents for your support and the staff: Ms Alexandra, Ms Bethany and Ms Andreia



Music Update

Ms Bethany



Reception have been exploring music through fun, movement filled activities that get everyone involved from the very start. The children warm up with rhythm games, freeze moments, and copycat actions, helping them feel the beat in their bodies. They are enjoying singing familiar songs such as Wind the Bobbin Up, Five Little Monkeys, and If You're Happy and You Know It, using actions and expressive voices. Through listening, singing, and moving, the children are discovering how music can be playful, exciting, and full of energy. They also experiment with different sounds, vocal effects, and musical actions. These joyful sessions are helping Reception begin to understand what makes us musical while building confidence and creativity.

Year 1 have been learning all about what music is and exploring a wide range of exciting musical genres. They listened to and discussed styles such as pop, rock, hip-hop, reggae, jazz, classical, folk, and electronic music, discovering how each one sounds and feels different. The children enjoyed sharing their opinions and naming songs they recognised from each genre. In practical lessons, they played glockenspiels and experimented with improvising using the notes C and D. They also worked on rhythm games and ensemble skills, learning how to stay in time together. These lessons are inspiring curiosity, confidence, and a growing love of music-making.

This month in Year 2, the children have been developing their musical skills through singing, listening, and creating their own sounds. They began each session with a lively "Hello Song" to warm up their voices and get ready for learning. The class explored a new song and practised listening carefully to identify different musical features they could hear. They enjoyed singing I Wanna Play in a Band, working hard to remember the words and actions together. The children also experimented with improvising using claps and their voices, showing great confidence and creativity. They are also experiencing the chance to compose their own simple melodies, becoming real young musicians and composers.

This term, Year 3 have been developing their musical skills through singing, listening, and performing. They explored the song Three Little Birds, identifying key features and learning how music makes us feel. Pupils practised playing the recorder alongside the song, building confidence with new notes and rhythms. They also experimented with improvisation, creating their own musical ideas and patterns. To finish, the children composed their own melodies, working like real musicians and composers. It has been fantastic to see their creativity and enthusiasm grow in music lessons!

This half term in Year 4, the children have been developing their skills as real musicians by learning to play and sing at the same time. They have been exploring the ukulele, focusing on smooth chord changes using C, Am, F and now adding the G chord into well-known songs like Lean on Me. Lessons have been full of energy, with listening activities, warm-ups, and fun musical games to build confidence and rhythm. Pupils are learning how to recognise chord patterns, improve timing, and support one another when playing as a group. Singing while accompanying themselves has been a big highlight, helping them grow in confidence and performance skills. They are working towards playing and performing pieces fluently, just like a band. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and teamwork shining through each week.

This term, children have been developing their musical skills by learning to play songs on the ukulele using four different chords while singing at the same time. They successfully performed the ukulele song "It's Too Hot Like a Cookin' Pot", showing great coordination between playing and singing. Pupils have been exploring a range of music by listening to and analysing songs from well-known artists and composers, including Adele and Luther Vandross. They have been learning to recognise musical features such as rhythm, tempo, and structure, and discussing how these elements make songs expressive and engaging. Through practical playing and listening activities, they are building confidence as performers and thoughtful listeners. The children have also strengthened their understanding of musical rhythm through clapping, playing, and ensemble work, and their enthusiasm for music continues to grow.

We are sorry you're leaving Ms Bethany

Unfortunately, we have to say farewell to Ms Bethany who, due to a family emergency, will have to put teaching on hold.

On behalf of everyone at APSOL, we would like to thank Ms Bethany for all her hardwork with Music this year.

We would like to welcome Ms Fiona, and Mr Benjamin who will be teaching music across the school.





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FEBRUARY ENRICHMENT MS LUCY, ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER



We wanted to give a special mention to three of our fantastic pupils - Evie, Eva, Amanda, Bianca (Year 4) and Ellie (Year 3)- who took it upon themselves to create their very own sleep hygiene cloud at home. Inspired by our recent assembly about healthy bedtime routines, they chose to reflect on their learning and highlight the different things they can do to unwind before going to sleep. It's truly amazing to see children taking their learning beyond the school day, using their own time at home to think carefully about good habits, relaxation strategies, and the importance of winding down before bed. Their thoughtful clouds show not only creativity, but also a real commitment to understanding how taking care of themselves helps them feel ready for the day ahead. Well done to each of them for showing such initiative, enthusiasm, and independence. We are incredibly proud!



Big Garden Birdwatch – Super Scientists at Home!

A huge well done to: Evie (Y4), Bianca (Y4), Nevaeh (Y4), Dinero (Y4), Sara (Y4), Beatriz (Y4), Matilde (Y3) and Lucas (Y3) who took part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch at home! They spent time observing the birds visiting their gardens, balconies, and local green spaces, carefully recording what they saw and bringing their results back to school.

It's fantastic to see pupils choosing to continue their learning outside the classroom, showing curiosity, care for nature, and a real enthusiasm for wildlife. By taking part in this national event, they not only developed their scientific skills but also contributed to an important project that helps protect the birds in our local environment. We are incredibly proud of their motivation and initiative. What a brilliant example of independent learning and a love of the natural world!



FEBRUARY CLASS UPDATES



Year 4

A big well done to everyone in Year 4 who submitted their home learning Project in Term 3. This time our projects were linked to our Art lessons. Children were asked to think about what made a good friend to them and cut this word out of card. They then used these cut outs to create shadow art - as you can see the result is very impressive! Well done to all the super artists in Year 4!



Our first successfully made chair!



To test his structure, Christian decided to use his water bottle to think about if his chair could bear the weight of baby bear! What a success!

Year 2



Year 1 trip top Wetlands Centre





FEBRUARY CLASS UPDATES

In February, Year 3 the children moved on to studying sculpture in Art. They learned to identify the differences between 2D and 3D art and explored a variety of ways to join materials securely. Using play equipment as their inspiration, they planned and created their own abstract sculptures, experimenting with shape, balance and form.



Year 3



We were also delighted to see the children's home learning projects brought into school. They proudly shared their work with the class, demonstrating confidence and enthusiasm while celebrating each other's efforts.



Year 1 have been exploring and learning about stable structures during their DT unit. This week they focused on how building their very own basketball hoop and used playdough to find out how where the most stable point would be. They also presented their home learning projects in line with our Science unit of exploring our planet and different animal groups.



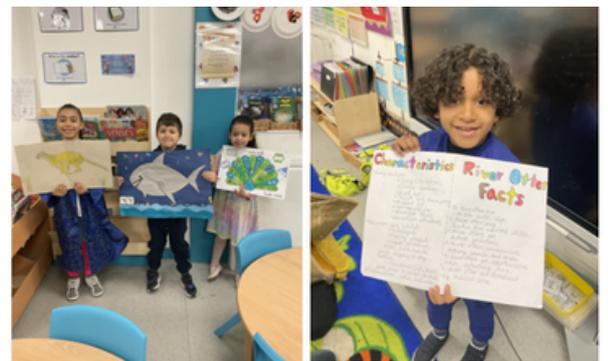
Year 1

Reception had great fun celebrating Valentines' Day with a threading activity.



Reception

Inspired by Jack and the Beanstalk, our Reception children have planted their very own runner bean! As young gardeners, we are learning about the different parts of a plant and exploring what plants need to grow strong and healthy. Throughout March, Reception will help their beans grow by giving them the right conditions: sunlight, water, soil, and lots of care. The children will observe changes, make predictions, and experience the excitement of watching their very own "beanstalk" come to life!





FEBRUARY CLASS UPDATES



Year 4

Year 4 began their new Art topic this month based around Sculpture and 3D work. They experimented with visualising shapes, sketching bold, sweeping outlines, and exploring how artists turn simple forms into sculptures. Inspired by the work of real sculptors, pupils learned how familiar shapes can be used to imagine 3D designs and became more confident taking creative risks in their drawing. In the next lesson, things got even more hands-on as the class explored the art of carving. Using bars of soap, the children experimented with tools and techniques to shape, refine and smooth their sculptures. They learned how sculptors use carving to create form, and they practised working carefully and safely while trying out different ways of removing material to reveal a shape. There was a real buzz of excitement as their flat drawings evolved into miniature 3D creations they could hold, rotate and proudly show off!



Year 5



In February, Year 5 brought their Victorian topic to a close by exploring what life was like for children during that era and learning about the important steps taken to improve their health and well-being. The children also produced impressive biographies of the famous suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst, reflecting on her determination and activism in the fight for women's right to vote.

In science, pupils set up a practical investigation to discover which materials are the best thermal conductors. They explored how different material properties make certain objects suitable for specific purposes, developing both their scientific understanding and enquiry skills.

In art, Year 5 have been diving into the world of 3D installations. Inspired by the artist Cai Guo-Qiang, they created their own dynamic "explosion artworks." They also designed imaginative 3D sculptures by transforming everyday school items into surprising and creative pieces of art.

Character Education Day – Celebrating Our Value of Resilience

At the end of term 3, our Apsolings took part in Character Education Day, centred on our key school value of resilience. Throughout the morning, every year group explored what resilience looks like overcoming challenges, staying positive, and supporting one another when things get tough. From creative activities to hands-on problem solving, the children showed determination, teamwork, and a growing understanding of how to persevere even when things feel difficult.

Reception

Reception strengthened their hand-eye coordination and fine-motor skills by weaving wool through holes to create beautiful heart shapes. Although the process was sometimes tricky, the children showed wonderful persistence. Completing their woven hearts gave them a real sense of pride and served as a lovely reminder that effort and determination help us achieve great things.

Year 1

Year 1 had a very busy and creative day! They designed shields of resilience, decorated positive-thinking caps with encouraging words, and built friendship flowers that highlighted the qualities of a good friend. They also created their own resilience toolboxes, filling them with ideas and strategies for staying strong when they face challenges.

Year 2

Year 2 began their day with a mindfulness activity to help everyone feel calm, focused, and ready to learn. They discussed what resilience means and then took on their first challenge: spotting a series of tiny objects hidden within a very detailed photograph in a limited amount of time. This helped them reflect on how it feels to struggle, how to manage these feelings, and how to persevere. They wrote thoughtful reflections and shared them as a class. Afterwards, they took on a teamwork challenge—building towers using blocks of different sizes and shapes—developing both their resilience and collaborative skills.

Year 3

Year 3 spent time reflecting on their own strategies for coping when life becomes difficult. They shared ideas with one another and then created personalised resilience toolboxes to display in their classroom—a daily reminder of the importance of never giving up.

Years 4 and 5

Years 4 and 5 worked together on an exciting engineering challenge: building the tallest possible tower using only newspaper and tape. Just as they were getting the hang of it, they were given extra twists, only using one hand, standing on one leg, and even working in complete silence! Despite these hurdles, the children persevered brilliantly and discovered how the encouragement and support of friends can boost resilience. They ended the day by designing resilience shields filled with positive affirmations to motivate them to keep trying, even when things get tough.





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SCIENCE WEEK COMING UP 9-13TH MARCH



Get ready to celebrate British Science Week 2026 as we explore this year's theme:

Curiosity: What's Your Question?

This theme encourages pupils to think deeply about the questions they have about the world and how they might go about exploring the answers. Curiosity is at the heart of every scientific discovery, and this week is the perfect chance to spark new ideas and investigations.

Poster Competition

All pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 are invited to take part in our Curiosity: What's Your Question? poster competition, which will be set as a home learning project.

Pupils can base their posters on any question they are curious about - animals, space, technology, music, sport, or any interest that sparks their imagination. The theme encourages children to explore the questions that matter most to them.

Curiosity - one of APSOL's School Values

To celebrate Curiosity, pupils will vote the top three posters in each class.

These may be awarded for categories such as:



Calling all parents and carers:

Throughout the week, students will be taking part in hands-on investigations, experiments, and exciting STEM challenges designed to spark curiosity and inspire a love of discovery.

We would love to involve members of our school community who work in science-related fields. If you work in science, technology, engineering, medicine, research, environmental science, data science, or any related area, we would be thrilled to hear from you.

There are many ways you could get involved:

- Giving a short talk about your career
- Leading a simple workshop or demonstration
- Taking part in a Q&A session with students
- Supporting a classroom activity
- Sharing how science is used in your everyday work





Attendance

	R	1	2	3	4	5	All Years
Attendance	96.55%	94.26%	96.15%	95.09%	95.63%	93.81%	95.32%

Attendance Matters

Dear families,

We are on the trajectory to improvement in our biggest area for development - which is Attendance! Our target this year is **96%** at the end of the year, hopefully together, we will achieve this! Well done to **Reception and Year 2** - both year groups are on track to meeting the school target of 96%.

It's very positive to see whole school attendance at 95.3% which is slightly above National.

Congratulations to Our Reception and Year 2 Attendance Stars for February reaching school target !



Punctuality

Getting young children to school on time helps them start the day calm and ready to learn, ensures they don't miss key morning lessons, supports their social development, avoids disrupting the class, and builds strong lifelong habits about responsibility and routine.

Please can you support us to ensure all children are at school by **8:45am**. **The best punctuality in the school is in Reception and Year 1.** ★★

Please remember school starts at 8:45am meaning all children should be at school then. Reception have superb punctuality!

	R	1	2	3	4	5	All Years
All	0.41%	0.68%	1.53%	3.08%	2.49%	1.15%	1.55%

PARENT FEEDBACK SURVEY 2026

Thank you to all our families who took part in this year's survey, your support and recommendations are invaluable for our school improvement.

Please click on the link below to access our Parent Feedback survey results.

<https://angloportugueseschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Parent-Satisfaction-survey-2026.pdf>





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SPORTS EVENTS



Wandsworth School Games

26 March	Y5 Spencer Lynx Hockey Club	Team - 8
29 April	Y4 Netball Burntwood School	group of 10 children
5 May	Y3 Tennis Tooting Common	group of 10 children
19 May	Trinity Games	Y1 AM / Y2 PM
2 June	Y5 Cricket - Spencer Cricket Club	group 10 girls
2 June	Trinity Shield Y4 Cricket	Whole class
8 June	Y5 - Dynamos - cricket tbc	Team - 8
16 June	Y5 Cricket festival	Group of 10 children
19 June	APSOL SPORTS DAY Trinity Fields	Whole school
30 June	Y3 Cricket Festival Spencer Cricket club - AM	Group 10 children
30 June	Y4 Cricket Festival Spencer Cricket club - PM	Group 10 children

Wandle Sports League

Autumn	Football
Spring Term	Hockey
Summer Term	Netball

APSOL is part of a cluster of local schools, forming the Wandle Sports League. Building on the success of our recent football festivals as part we were thrilled to see the Wandle League introduce hockey to the competition calendar this term. We have entered Hockey team for the competitions but create opportunities for various children to participate in the festivals.

Wandsworth School Games

Our Year 5 pupils recently attended the 'Sportshall' athletics event, where they competed in a high-energy environment across a range of track and field events.

APSOL Swimming Gala



Celebration



New Ambassadors!
Rosie Y1

February birthdays:

Children:

- Frankie
- Alayah
- Clara M
- Nicola
- Lara
- D'Angelo
- Zephaniah
- Leonor A
- Saray-Arie

Staff:

- Ms Fatima
- Ms Phoebe



Good manners badge
Francisco Y1



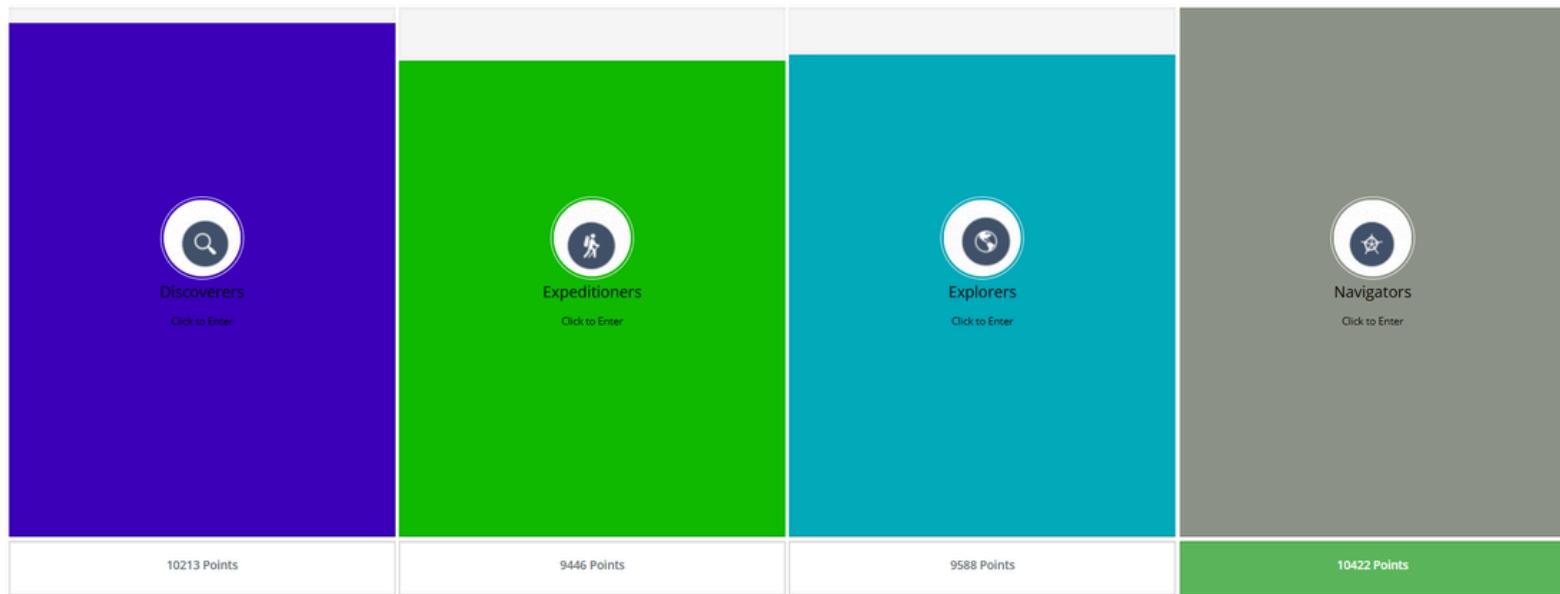
February House Points

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. Last summer the winning House attended a slime workshop! We wonder what the prize will be this year!



Parent Information



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JOIN OUR

RECEPTION CLASS SEPTEMBER 2026

Submit your
application by 15th
January 2026

- Was your child born between 1/9/2021 – 31/8/2022?

Then they need to join Reception!

- Deadline for applications was 15th January via your local authority of residence. If you missed the deadline, please contact our school administrator.



Contact:

info@angloportugueseschool.org
Tel 0203 417 0905

Volunteers

We welcome volunteers for reading and helping out at APSOL.

Before anyone volunteers at APSOL they have to undergo a robust vetting process as part of our safeguarding procedures and an enhanced DBS check.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact the school office for a volunteer application pack.

Donations

Please only bring books or toy donations to the school if these have been approved by the school office. We recommend that donations are not dumped in the local area to avoid the school getting complaints. If toys and books are in good condition, please liaise with the FoAPSOL as these can be sold at the Fairs.

Medication Administration requests:

If your child needs to have medication at school such as antibiotics, please complete this form:
<https://forms.gle/UUEFnSWQ3K6sYwAx8>

Is my child too ill for school?

Please check this [NHS Guidance on what to do if your child becomes unwell with early childhood illnesses:](#)

School start time: 8:45am

Please ensure your child is in at this time so that they are well prepared and settled for the morning.

School finish time:

3:50pm Reception, Year 1
4:00pm Y2,3,4,5

Reporting absence:

Please contact the school office on your child's day of absence to report the reason for absence. You can also provide this via the MCAS app.

In-year admissions into other year groups:

If you know anyone who would like for their child to join APSOL, please ask them to complete our in-year admission form

<https://forms.gle/JKKhywo5nC9esQmRA>

For more information on school meals, please visit our school website:
<https://angloportugueseschool.org/school-meals/>