

Apna Skool Newsletter

January – March 2026

“Together, We Continue to Take School to the Children — Wherever They Are.”

Warm greetings from the Apna Skool family!

As we move into a new year, we are proud to share that our operations are progressing smoothly. We are currently supporting over **800 students**—children of migrant workers—across **23 active teaching centers**.

This first-quarter newsletter highlights our journey from January to March 2026. Our mission to provide foundational literacy and dignity to these resilient young learners is only possible because of the unwavering generosity of our donors and partners. We invite your feedback and suggestions as we continue this journey of empowerment together.



Key Impact Highlights (January – March 2026)

- **Educational Outreach:** Reached over 800 children through 23 centers in UP and 2 in Bihar/Jharkhand.
- **Science & Curiosity:** Hosted interactive science sessions with **IIT Kanpur** mentors and astronomy workshops for teachers led by Dr. Tej Preet Kaur.
- **Health & Wellness:**
 - Conducted a Health and Eye Care Camp serving **165 brick-kiln workers** and families.

- Identified 16 patients for specialized care, including **3 cataract surgeries**
- Executed a vaccination drive (Measles and Rubella) across multiple centers.
- **Learning Beyond Classrooms:** Organized an excursion to **Kanpur Zoo** for approximately **460 students**, teachers, and parents.
- **Advocacy:** Met with the **District Magistrate of Kanpur** to discuss education, health, and infrastructure rights for migrant children, leading to directives for immediate registration camps.

Student Success & Recognition

- **Success Story:** Featured **Keshar Devi**, a former Apna Skool student now pursuing a B.Sc. and training as an Ophthalmology Assistant.
- **Creative Achievement:** Students Nandini, Radha, and Raju had their work published in the national children's magazine **Chakmak**.

Ongoing Programs

- **Nutrition:** Full-time centers provide freshly prepared meals (tahri, dal-rice, Paneer-rice, kheer), while Literacy & Numeracy centers provide daily dry foods (Sprouts, chana, gur).
- **Community Engagement:** Received visits from international partners including **Asha Silicon Valley** (Vijay Poduri) and **Mala India Foundation** (Ms. Nichol)

January 2026

“Celebrating India’s First Woman Teacher: Savitribai Phule”

On January 3, 2026, our students commemorated *Savitribai Phule Jayanti*, paying tribute to India’s first woman teacher and a trailblazer in the field of girls’ education. The program highlighted her remarkable journey and unwavering commitment to spreading knowledge despite immense social challenges. Through an engaging session featuring images, discussions, and creative expressions, students gained deeper insight into her pioneering role in advancing equality and education. Their heartfelt notes and vibrant drawings reflected both admiration and respect, while reinforcing the timeless values of courage, empowerment, and the transformative power of learning.

"If you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate a nation".

January 12, 2026 – National Youth Day

Students across all teaching centers celebrated **National Youth Day** on January 12 to honor the birth anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda**, whose ideas continue to inspire the youth of India. Children learned about his life, values, and message of strength, knowledge, and character.

To mark the occasion, several engaging activities were organized, including **art**



"No need of looking behind. FORWARD! We want infinite energy, infinite zeal, infinite courage, and infinite patience, then only will great things be achieved." Swami Vivekanand

and drawing competitions, speech and writing activities, and a calligraphy contest where students beautifully expressed their thoughts inspired by his teachings. The playground was filled with excitement as students participated in **Kabaddi and other traditional games**, promoting teamwork and sportsmanship. A **general quiz** was also conducted to encourage learning and curiosity.

January 13, 2026 – Special Visit of Mukul Bhaiya from IIT Kanpur

Apna Skool centers warmly welcomed Mukul Bhaiya from IIT Kanpur, with children engaging him in cheerful introductions and lively interaction.

During the visit, students recited poems, asked thoughtful questions, and eagerly participated in simple science experiments demonstrated by Mukul Bhaiya, which sparked curiosity and excitement. He praised their confidence, creativity, and eagerness to learn, making the occasion a memorable and inspiring experience that encouraged the children to pursue their learning journey with enthusiasm and confidence.



From Pongal to Lohri: Sankranti's Many Names, One Spirit



On January 14, 2026, Apna Skool centers celebrated Makar Sankranti with joy and gratitude, marking the harvest season and the end of winter. Known by different names across India—such as Pongal in Tamil Nadu, Uttarayan in Gujarat, and Lohri in Punjab—the festival reflects the country's cultural diversity. Families shared festive sweets like til laddoos and revdi, while rice and jaggery dishes added warmth to the occasion. Children filled the skies with colorful kites, turning the day into a vibrant celebration of unity, tradition, and happiness.

Interactive Science Experiment Session at Apna Skool

A **Science Experiment Session** was organized at the Apna Skool center led by **Adhip Bhaiya** from Physics Department of IIT Kanpur. He captivated the students with a series of engaging and hands-on experiments. The activities were designed to spark curiosity and make complex scientific concepts easier to grasp. Students participated enthusiastically, asking questions, sharing observations, and immersing themselves in the joy of discovery.

This interactive approach transformed science learning into a fun experience, helping children connect theory with practice. The session not only deepened their understanding but also inspired them to explore the wonders of science beyond the classroom.



Apna Skool Monthly Meeting and Astronomy Workshop for Teachers

On January 17, 2026, during the monthly teachers' meeting, **Dr. Tej Preet Kaur** IIT Kanpur, conducted a special session on the **basics of astronomy and space science**. The workshop was interactive and hands-on, designed to make complex scientific ideas simple and engaging.

The discussion covered several fascinating topics:

- The **Moon** and its mysteries
- **Planets and stars** in our solar system and beyond
- **Meteors and asteroids** and how they appear in the sky
- The science behind **solar and lunar eclipses**
- The natural cycle of **day and night**



Teachers actively participated, gaining new insights and practical knowledge that can be shared with students in classrooms. The session highlighted how astronomy connects everyday observations—like sunrise, sunset, and eclipses—with the vast universe.

The workshop concluded with the inspiring thought that **science is not just about facts, but about curiosity, exploration, and wonder**.

Visitor of the Month: Vijay Poduri from Asha Silicon Valley

Apna Skool had the privilege of welcoming **Vijay Poduri**, associated with **ASHA for Education**, as the Visitor of the Month. He visited several centers including Samrat, Kalra-2, Dedupur, and Tatiyaganj, where children



confidently introduced themselves in English and showcased their learning through science experiments, poems, stories, songs, and presentations on topics like the Solar System. Using posters, maps, and globes, students demonstrated their creativity and curiosity, while teachers explained the activity-based pedagogy supported by NCERT and Eklavya Foundation resources.



The visit also highlighted Apna Skool's broader initiatives such as libraries, computer learning, tree-plantation drives, and children's contributions to magazines like *Phuljhadiyaan* and *Chakmak*. In the evening meeting, the team shared updates on the Migrant Labor Project, the number of centers

and students, and appreciated the long-standing efforts of **Vijaya Didi**. The visit concluded on an encouraging note, with gratitude for the children's spirit of learning and assurance of continued support in the year ahead.

Unity in Spirit: Celebrating India's 77th Republic Day

On January 26, 2026, students across all Apna Skool centres celebrated India's 77th Republic Day with deep patriotic fervor, honoring the day the Constitution came into effect. The festivities began with a vibrant *Prabhat Pheri* (morning rally), where children marched with pride, raising slogans and singing songs that echoed their love for the nation.

The program featured a diverse array of cultural performances, including patriotic dances, poems, and speeches that beautifully articulated the values of freedom, democracy, and national unity. As the tricolor flag fluttered high, it served as a powerful symbol of hope and responsibility for our young citizens. The celebration concluded with the distribution of sweets and snacks, leaving the children with a sense of joy and a renewed commitment to building a stronger, united India.



February 2026

Educational Horizons: A Grand Adventure to Kanpur Zoo

One of the year's most anticipated highlights, Apna Skool organized a large-scale educational excursion to the **Kanpur Zoo**, bringing the wonders of nature and wildlife to life for approximately **460 students, teachers, and parents**. This major event, supported by our dedicated staff across multiple centers, aimed to provide a transformative learning experience outside the traditional classroom.

The day began with great enthusiasm as children traveled together by bus, sharing laughter and excitement along the way. Students from across the Apna Skool Centres joined the trip, accompanied by their teachers. Once inside the zoo, the children explored different enclosures and observed a wide variety of animals and birds. They were fascinated to see animals like **lions, tigers, leopards, crocodiles**, and many colorful bird species. The aquarium displaying vibrant fish and the lifelike **dinosaur replicas** captured their imagination, while the nocturnal animal section gave them an interesting glimpse into the lives of creatures active at night.



The outing concluded with a joyful picnic where everyone enjoyed a variety of refreshments, including cake, fruits, and savory snacks. This grand event was not just a trip, but a milestone in our mission to provide **holistic development** and unforgettable experiences to the children of migrant workers, leaving them with a profound appreciation for the natural world.

A Meeting with the DM for Children's Education and Welfare



At the request of Apna Skool, the District Magistrate (DM) of Kanpur hosted a pivotal meeting at the Civil Lines office to address the education and welfare of migrant workers' children. The session brought together our team—Mukesh Kumar, Sangeeta Verma, and Brijnarayan Sharma—alongside the BSA, Labour Inspectors, and the Brick Kiln Association. Apna Skool team was commended by the DM for its quality work and 40 years of service to migrant children. He emphasized that education, health, and infrastructure are collective responsibilities, reminding officials that the Right to Education applies equally to every child, whether of a kiln worker or the President.

The team raised key issues including expansion beyond the 27 kilns currently covered, safe transport for children, proper classrooms and facilities, documentation challenges, and labour registration. In response, the DM directed immediate BOCW registration camps at every kiln and Aadhaar camps for migrant children, with a follow-up meeting scheduled

next month to review progress. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with the DM thanking Apna Skool and Vijaya didi.

Visit of Ms. Nichol and Mr. Michel to Apna Skool (14.02.2026)

Apna Skool recently had the honor of welcoming Nichol, President of the Mala India Foundation, and Michel, who were greeted with a heartfelt traditional welcome of garlands and tilak. Our senior students showcased their growing global awareness by introducing themselves in English and locating Belgium on the world map, followed by a lively exchange where they asked the guests about Belgian culture and weather. The visit was a wonderful celebration of creativity and learning, featuring student poetry, science experiments, and action-based activities, while our teachers shared updates on our academic curriculum, nutrition programs, and the success of students transitioning into mainstream schools and residential hostels.



Community Wellness: Comprehensive Health and Eye Care Camp (February 21, 2026)



On February 21, 2026, Sunita Srivastava from Apna Skool team organized a vital healthcare initiative near the Dedupur Rama Brick Field, serving approximately 165

brick-kiln workers and their families. In collaboration with **CHC Chaubepur** and **Shankara Eye Hospital**, three specialized medical teams provided essential services. The general health team, led by Dr. Rajeev Singh, conducted check-ups and distributed medicines, identifying 23 individuals—primarily women and children—who required further clinical testing. Simultaneously, Dr. Mobeen's ophthalmology team performed thorough

eye examinations, providing necessary eye drops and referring 16 patients for specialized hospital care, including **three critical cataract surgery cases**.

Beyond immediate medical screenings, the camp prioritized long-term welfare and preventative health for the migrant community. A dedicated team facilitated **Ayushman Card registrations** to improve future healthcare access, while a significant focus was placed on menstrual hygiene through the distribution of **sanitary pads to women and adolescent girls**. Supported by the dedicated efforts of our staff—Sangeeta Didi, Mukesh, and Raksha Didi—this initiative successfully bridged the gap between marginalized families and essential medical services, reinforcing Apna Skool's commitment to the **holistic well-being** of those living at the brick kilns.

Vaccination Drive at Apna Skool Centres, February – 2026

A vaccination drive was conducted for children across Apna Skool centres at **Kalra-3, Samrat, Rama, Vishnu Brick Fields, Tatiyaganj and other centres**. During the drive, children received **Measles and Rubella vaccines** as part of the routine immunization program to ensure their health and protection.

The vaccination was carried out by **Nidhi Ji, Vandana Ji and Saama Ji. Saurabh Ji**, who coordinates the vaccination planning, also visited the centres and appreciated the ongoing efforts and the work being done at Apna Skool.



National Science Day at Apna Skool Centres

On **28 February 2026, National Science Day** was celebrated across several **Apna Skool centres**. Children learned about the importance of the day and the discovery of the **Raman Effect** by the renowned scientist C. V. Raman.

Students enthusiastically presented simple science models and experiments such as **Dancing Skeleton, Air Pressure, Fountain, Spin (Top), Transparent–Opaque–Translucent models, and Colors of Flowers**. Class 6 students also displayed different types of flowers and leaves in various shapes and colors.



At the **Vibhu and Sharad centres**, children enjoyed fun experiments related to **sound, air pressure, optical illusions, carbon dioxide formation, and a bottle rocket demonstration of Newton's Third Law of Motion**. The activities encouraged curiosity, observation, and a growing interest in science among the young learners.

"Learning gives creativity, creativity leads to thinking, thinking provides knowledge, and knowledge makes you great." A P J Abdul Kalam.

March 2026

🌈 Holi Celebration – A Festival of Joy and Togetherness 🌈

Students at all Apna Skool centers celebrated Holi with great energy and big smiles. The children stayed busy making colorful greeting cards, drawing pictures, and writing essays about the festival. They also listened to the famous story of Prahlad and how good always wins over evil. To keep things traditional, many centers made beautiful floor designs using flower petals and created small crafts to show the meaning of the festival.

The best part of the day was playing together with safe, natural colors. Teachers encouraged everyone to use organic powders to stay healthy while having fun. The school felt like one big family as the children walked together in a small parade, wishing each other a "Happy Holi." The celebration ended happily with everyone enjoying sweet treats like halwa and laddoos before heading home.



🌸 Empowering the Future: Celebrating International Women's Day 🌸

On **March 8, 2026**, Apna Skool celebrated International Women's Day with an inspiring program focused on honor and equality. Our students filled the day with creativity, using their voices to write about women's rights and creating beautiful drawings and slogans. These activities allowed the children to express their deep respect for the women in their lives and the world, highlighting the incredible contributions women make to our society every day.

The event was also a wonderful opportunity for learning and growth. A special session shared the history of this important day, celebrating the achievements that have paved the way for a more equal future. We also held an engaging discussion about using technology wisely, specifically looking at how mobile phones can be a powerful tool for empowerment when used carefully. It was a day filled with pride and progress, leaving everyone feeling motivated to support and uplift one another.



Sharing the Joy: Eid Celebrations at Apna Skool



On March 21, 2026, our school centers came together to celebrate Eid. It was a wonderful day focused on friendship and sharing. Teachers spoke to the children about the true meaning of the festival, explaining how it is a time for kindness, helping others, and being thankful.

To make the day even more special, the school prepared a sweet treat for everyone. The children enjoyed bowls of delicious sevai, a traditional sweet dish, as they celebrated the holiday with their friends. It was a lovely way for the students to learn about different traditions while sharing a happy moment together.

Workshop on Space and Our Universe

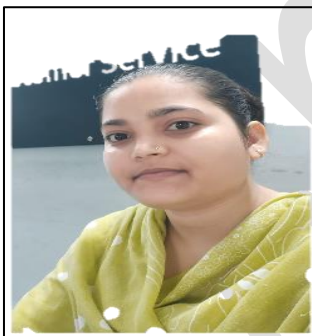
On 30th March 2026, a workshop was organized at Dhamna Center by Dr. Tejpreet Kaur Didi IIT Kanpur

During the session, children learned about space and celestial bodies such as stars, planets, and satellites. They were introduced to the shapes, colors, and unique features of different planets, and also understood the difference between day and night.



The workshop was engaging and informative, sparking curiosity among children and helping them explore the wonders of the universe in a simple and interactive way.

From Brick Kilns to a Bright Future: The Story of Keshar Devi



Keshar Devi was born into a humble family in Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh, where her parents worked as migrant laborers at various brick kilns. Because her family had to move constantly to find work, Keshar and her siblings were unable to attend school regularly during their early years. However, her life changed completely when she was in Class 3 and her family moved to a kiln in Kanpur. It was there that she joined the Apna Skool – Murari Center, a moment that became a major turning point in her life.

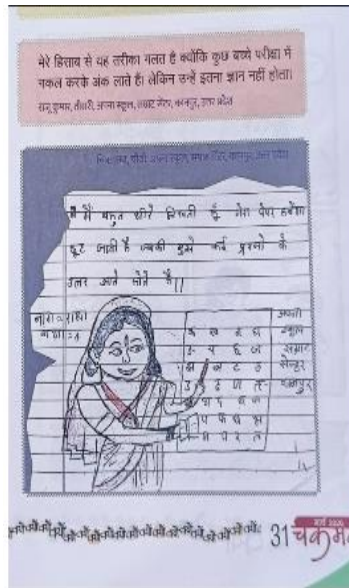
With the steady academic and financial support of the Apna Skool team and SOS Scholarship by Ashok Gupta ji, Keshar remained dedicated to her studies and successfully completed her education through Class 12. Today, she is a hardworking young woman who is balancing a professional job while pursuing a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree. She is also training to become an Ophthalmology Assistant, showing her strong commitment to building a better career in healthcare. Keshar credits her success to the guidance she received, stating that Apna Skool gave her the confidence to move forward in life. Her journey is a powerful example of how consistent support and the right opportunities can help a child overcome difficult circumstances and achieve their dreams. Through her hard work, Keshar has transformed her future and serves as an inspiration to her entire community.

Keshar Devi B.Sc. 1st Year

Our Students Featured in *Chakmak* Magazine!

Nandini, from our Tatiyaganj Centre, had her writing featured in the February 2026 edition of *Chakmak*, a popular children's magazine.

The excitement continued in the March 2026 edition, which featured stories and poems by **Radha** and **Raju** from our Samrat Centre. *Chakmak* publishes work from children all over the country, and we regularly send in the creative pieces our students write in class. Seeing three of our students get their work printed in this recent edition is a proud moment for everyone at Apna Skool. It shows just how much our students can achieve when they find their voice through writing.



हमारे दोस्त तो बाहर का खाना खाते हैं, जैसे समोसे, बतारो, फिंगर। कभी-कभी हम भी खाते हैं। पर हमें घर से ये सब खाने के लिए मम्मी-पापा पैसे नहीं देते। हमें भेलपूरी बहुत पसन्द है जिसे हम घर पर बनाकर खाते हैं। पापा हमारे कहते हैं कि घर का खाना ही खाना चाहिए, जो साफ होता है और जिसे खाकर हम बीमार नहीं होते। मुझे दाल-चावल खाना बहुत पसन्द है। पर वो कभी-कभी बनता है। केला, गाजर, मूली खाना हमें अच्छा लगता है।

नन्दिनी, छठवीं, अपना स्कूल, ततियागंज सेंटर, कानपुर, उत्तर प्रदेश

Nutrition Program at Apna Skool

At our full-time centers, children receive freshly prepared nutritious meals, including spiced rice with vegetables (tahri), vegetable rice, and dal, ensuring balanced daily nourishment. Our weekly menu is carefully planned to support growth and includes paneer with rice once a week, kheer once a week, and dal or vegetables with rice on other days. We also adapt to the seasons, providing eggs and seasonal fruits in winter and cooling Sattu (roasted gram flour) during the summer months.

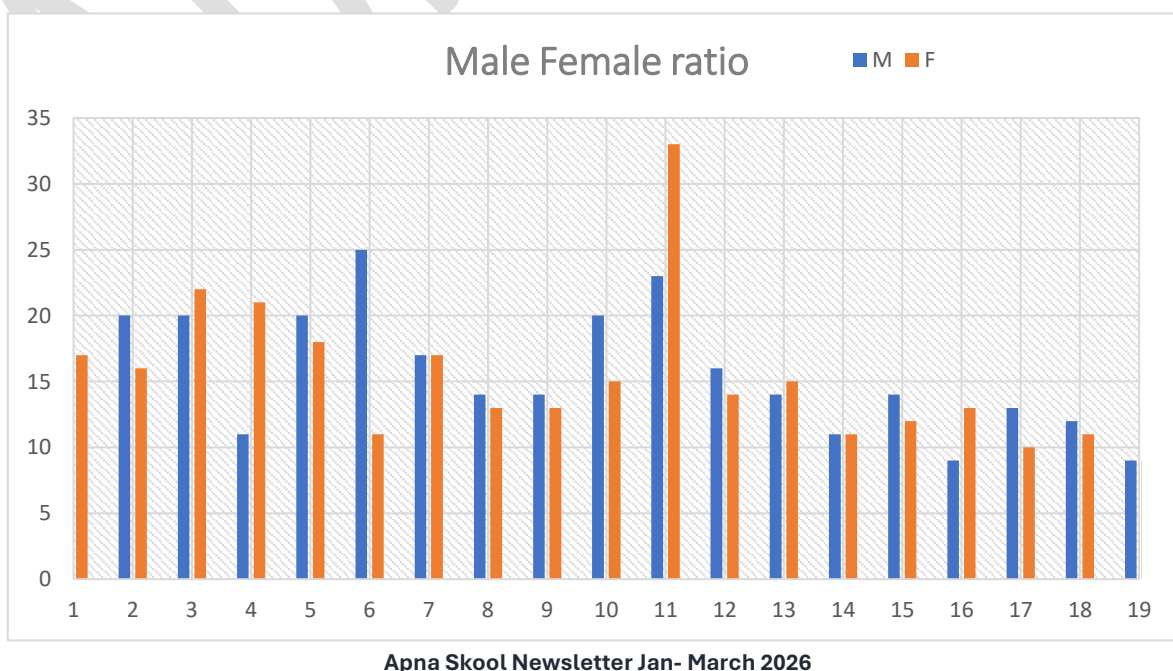


In addition, children at our Literacy & Numeracy centers receive daily dry foods such as gram (chana), jaggery (gur), and laddoos. Fruits and sweets are also distributed on special occasions. These meals and snacks not only provide essential nutrition but are vital in encouraging regular attendance and active participation in Apna Skool.

Take up one Idea. Make that one idea your life- think of it, dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success...

Swami Vivekanand

Functioning centres of Apna Skool (JAN - MARCH 2026)						
S.N	Name of Centre	Name of Teacher	Timing	Jan	Feb	Mar
1	Apna Skool, Tatiyaganj	(1) Urmila (2) Ranno	10:00 am to 4:00 pm	36	34	32
2	Apna Skool, Dedupur	(1) Raksha (2) Sangeeta	10:00 am to 4:00 pm	32	36	36
3	Apna Skool Kalra-2	(1) Renu (2) Hema	10:00 am to 4:00 pm	42	42	35
4	Apna Skool Kalra-3	(1) Nirmala	10:00 am to 4:00 pm	31	32	32
5	Apna Skool Samrat	(1) Manju	10:00 am to 4:00 pm	38	38	32
6	Primary School Dhamna	(1) Mithlesh	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	35	36	34
7	Primary School Fattepurva	(1) Sadhana	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	34	34	34
8	Apna Skool Kadhaikheda	(1) Muskan	10:00 am to 4:00 pm	22	27	27
9	Apna Skool Murari	(1) Nazma	10:00 am to 4:00 pm	24	26	26
10	Apna Skool Amauli Centre	(1) Shwati Yadav	9:00 am to 3:00 pm		35	33
11	Apna Skool Indra 2	(1) Ankit (2) Priyanka	10:00 am to 4:00 pm	56	56	56
12	Apna Skool Atwa Centre	(1) Kalpana	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	30	30	30
13	Apna Skool Kanikend Jharkhand	(1) Kailash	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	20	20	20
14	Apna Skool Pipra Rajauli (Bihar)	(1) Vikas	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	30	30	30
15	Apna Skool Bhognipur	(1) Ugrasen	10:00 am to 2:00 pm	32	30	29
16	Avon Brick Field	Pradeep	10:00 AM to 1:00 PM	22	22	22
17	Jagriti Brick Field	Mukesh	1:00 PM to 4:00 PM	26	26	26
18	Vibhu Brick Field	Kuldeep	10:00 AM to 1:00 PM	22	22	22
19	Sharad Brick Field	Kuldeep	1:30 PM to 4:00 PM	23	23	23
20	Ankit Brick field	Pradhyumn	10:00 AM to 1:00 PM	24	22	22
21	Chacha Brick Field	Pradeep	1:30 PM to 4:00 PM	18	18	20
22	Mera Brick Field	Pradhyumn	1:30 PM to 4:00 PM	25	25	25
23	939 Brick Field	Roli Verma	10:00 to 12:50 PM	15	15	14
Students Studying in other Schools who are supported				65	65	65
Students studying in Residential (Bihar & Jharkhand)				111	111	111
Total Number of Students				813	855	836



Join Our Mission to “Take School to the Children — Wherever They Are.”

At **Apna Skool**, we believe that every child deserves the chance to learn, dream, and thrive—no matter where life takes them. We are dedicated to providing **quality education and holistic support** to underprivileged migrant children, empowering them with the tools to build a brighter future.

To support our work, you may donate by cheque or bank transfer using the details provided below. Kindly inform us once the transaction is complete, so we may issue an official receipt. This receipt will enable you to claim income tax deduction under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.

Together, let us ensure that every child, regardless of background, has access to the learning, dignity, and opportunity they deserve.

Details		
For Foreign Donations		For Indian donations
Account Name	Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti	Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti
Account Number	40267845617	537202010003642
PAN Card Number	AACTJ0902C	AACTJ0902C
Bank Name	State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch	Union Bank of India, IIT Kanpur
Branch Bank Code	691	553727
Bank IFSC Code	SBIN0000691	UBIN0553727
SWIFT CODE	SBININBB104	

Funding Sources:	
ASHA for Education, Silicon Valley	Mala Foundation, Belgium
R.V. foundation	Pragati Foundation
Association for India's Development (AID), Portland	Owners of a few brick kilns, Kanpur, (in-kind)
Triveni Trust, Prayagraj - Allahabad	Many individual donors

Apna Skool Organizational Structure	
Principal Co-ordinators: Ms. Vijaya Ramachandran	
Vijaya Ramachandran	Tel: +91 7408900999; Email: vijayav26@gmail.com
Shivam Tripathi	Tel: +91 9005663618; Email: shiva@iitk.ac.in
Sub-Co-ordinators:	B.N. Sharma, Sangeeta Verma, Mukesh Kumar, Raju Gaur
Transport Coordinator: Kripa Shankar Shukla	Health & Hygiene mentor: Sunita Srivastava

Important Links:

- Apna Skool Youtube: <https://youtu.be/5zPidgurNTw?si=bghq7LVHEcw8feja>
- Webpage: <https://sites.google.com/site/apnaskools/>
- Blog: <http://apnaskool-kanpur.blogspot.com/>
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/apnaskool>

Newsletter compiled by Apna Skool Team.

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