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## Hannah Memorial Academy 2025 Newsletter

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To: john.p.higham@gmail.com

15 December 2025 at 13:46



**Welcome to the Hannah Memorial Academy end of year newsletter. 2025 has been a productive year for the charity as we continue to work with the school's founders in Darjeeling to make improvements to the school and ensure they have all they need. A huge thank you to all of our supporters, we hope you have a good holiday season and a happy new year for 2026.**

### **Growing the student population**

Student numbers are healthy with just under 30 pupils currently receiving primary education. Numbers have fluctuated over the past few years due to social and economic changes in the area, including the closure of the local tea garden. Plans are underway to expand our catchment area and attract more students from nearby communities. To aid this, the charity will support the purchase of an additional vehicle for the school to help transport students from villages within a 10km radius.



## **Renovations to school buildings after recent storms**

With funds from the charity, the school is undergoing renovations to update the existing infrastructure following a series of bad storms in the Darjeeling area during the Monsoon season that saw with heavy rainfall and severe flooding. Repair works include rebuilding the toilet block and the water tank that were damaged in a landslide, replacing some roofs and laying additional hard flooring for the children to play on.



See a video of Elsina talking about how HMA has helped her get a good start in life

## **HMA pupils receive new shoes for Children's Day**

In November Hannah Memorial students were delighted to try on their new shoes. They are a gift from the school to mark the national holiday of Children's Day, which falls on the 14th November. Children's Day (known as Bal Diwas) aims to increase awareness of the rights, care and education of children. The shoes are designed to be suitable in all weathers. With our support, the school continues to provide healthy lunches, uniforms, books, stationery and toothbrushes for the children on a regular basis.





## **Doctors use school to provide medical care for the local community**

In addition to providing children with free primary school education, the Hannah Memorial Academy is used for community and health activities when closed to the students. The school grounds were recently used by a team of medical



professionals who shared advice with locals about family planning and administered polio vaccines. The school also supports local campaigns to raise awareness against human trafficking.



If you are looking to make a donation this festive season, please [visit our website](#) to find out more about the different ways you can make a contribution to our cause.

The Trustees of the Hannah Memorial Academy Charitable Trust are **Christine Browning, Roger Maclaverty, Ben Pattie, Ram Varma, Helen Wilde, and Camilla Maclaverty**. We would like to say a special thanks to the school's founder Jason Lepcha and his wife Isabella who is the Headmistress Principal. As well as all the teachers, two caretakers, a cook and a driver. Their hard work and dedication in Darjeeling make it all possible.

We hope you are happy to receive occasional news about the progress of the school, but if you would prefer not to receive our newsletters, please email us at [admin@hannahmemorialacademy.org](mailto:admin@hannahmemorialacademy.org) to unsubscribe

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