school aid India

NEWSLETTER

Letter from Helen Jones - Autumn 2026

I can hardly believe that Roseberry School is approaching the end of its 20th year, a major milestone in its history. Founded on little more than a wing and a prayer, the school has earned a reputation for excellence in the Darjeeling area. It has become a true centre of learning and a beacon of hope for local families seeking a good start for their children.

Twenty years ago, a friend wrote of the school, “Great oaks from little acorns grow.” Even so, I never imagined that our funny little school in the mist would survive and grow as it has. Nor could anyone have foreseen how far our largely untrained teachers would develop their skills. Today they help children from deprived backgrounds grow into the confident, ambitious young people we see now.

I recently found this little photograph (bottom right), and it shows how far our project has come. Every one of the smiling children I photographed in 2013 has done especially well, and each is carving their own path in the world. Barun is a violinist with the Indian Philharmonic Orchestra. Bibek is in the army and supports his two siblings through college. Gracie and Pritisha are fully qualified nurses, Riya is training to be a nurse, and Mikit is working towards an honours degree in political science. All are public-spirited, conscientious and well-adjusted young people who made the most of their foundation at Roseberry. They can look after themselves and their families, and their futures look bright. What more could we wish for?

Thank you all for staying with us on this long journey. The achievements of our former pupils bring great pleasure to all of us at School Aid India, and we love to share our news with you. After 20 years, however, we have accepted that posting newsletters twice a year is neither effective nor sustainable, even though some of you enjoy them. After much soul-searching, we have decided to change how we share our news and send it only to those of you who still wish to receive it.

From now on, we will use WhatsApp to send up-to-date news, free of charge, to everyone who is interested. To join, simply email me or text me your mobile number using the details above on the right.

We have a few things planned to mark Roseberry’s 20th anniversary next year. Trustees Rob and Evie will visit Darjeeling in the spring, and we will post photos and videos on the website afterwards. Meanwhile, the younger trustees are gradually taking over the running of School Aid India. With continued support from SAI, I am confident the staff in Darjeeling have the tools they need to carry the school into a second successful 20 years. It is an exciting time.

Helen Jones

Banking matters

Our original account with Natwest is no longer in use.

Our current account is now with CAF Bank.
Acc. No 00034784
Sort code 40-52-40

Heartfelt thanks to all who continue to support the work of Roseberry School with regular payments.

Contact

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Barun, Bibek, Gracie, Pritisha, Riya and Mikit, former SAI pupils