

The Andrew Clark Trust

January Newsletter

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Thursday, 29th JANUARY 2026

Dear Sponsors and Supporters.

Although the first month of the year has already passed by us so quickly, I send you all very best wishes and hopes for 2026. Just as the quote from Alfred Lord Tennyson that I included at the bottom of my last letter said – “Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering it will be happier”.

I wonder if we can find some of that happiness soon, as in mid-February, we will see the Chinese New Year and the Spring festival arrive when it brings in the ‘Year of the Horse’. However, it is said that it is not just any old horse, so if my understanding of what I read is correct, that it is the ‘fire horse’, a once in a 60-year cycle, which signifies that change is coming and is coming fast. The ‘fire horse’ is said to be determined and strong with the ability to bring about progress and transformation with immense courage. So, I will hope for, and cling to that idea, and that the ‘fire horse’ will bring change and that it will bring peace for all the sad and hurting gentle people of Myanmar and for all people around the world who don’t have hope.

I received some exceptionally kind messages in reply to my December news, and I considered them all as Christmas greetings cards so thank you all for taking the time to write to me. I will continue to write out each month and although we must continue to wait for our return to Lintha and our school, I do hope that for the time being, I am able to bring you some stories that will raise a little smile or two.

With that in mind, I mentioned in my December edition that we had visited Yangon. During our time there we were able to visit those of our teachers who had temporarily relocated to Yangon and who held their classes in their homes or in temporary pop-up classrooms. It was wonderful to see them all and spend a little time with them.

Although only two of the teachers held classes during the days of our visit, we were still able to talk with those teachers that didn’t - but we were able to stay a while and meet members of their families again while we were visiting – parents and siblings too. But kindergarten teacher, Tin Tin Khaing had a little surprise for us, and it was an absolute joy, and I am sure it will be for you too. Details in the following pages.....

We had met all the students of our teacher Ma Thanda three or four times before during our previous visits to the class, and it was exciting to hear that they were looking forward to seeing us again and apparently kept asking their teacher ‘when is Thel Thel and Min Min coming?’.(these are our Myanmar names). Their happiness was apparent when we arrived and they were all eager to talk to us and to be given the opportunity to explain about the subject matter of their essays (which they had chosen themselves) and which they had written especially for us, and then, for each of them to read them to us. They were wonderfully confident and spoke without any shyness at all. Each were applauded, and all of them – including Ma Thanda, were rewarded with chocolate coins brought for them all the way from England 😊.

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The second actual class we went to visit was that of our school's headteacher Chaw Su Khaing who was holding her class at a local monastery. When we arrived there, we were introduced to the head Monk and were further spoiled with a wonderful surprise lunch organised by local people which was wonderful. After lunch, we then met Chaw Su Khaing's students – most were from the locality, but two girls were students originally from Lintha.

It was very enjoyable to be able to participate in this mixed age students' class with a variety of subjects and question and answer sessions being included between themselves and with us too. We answered their questions and we asked questions of them as well – what their hopes and aspirations might be and what they might seek to achieve. All the students had a mature positive outlook and with them having an education, realistic ambitions as to what they hoped for their futures. Responses were varied but all had a definite answer that ranged from a professional footballer to a lawyer. These students all looked to the positive. They were wonderful. Even with difficulties that are often encountered each day, every one of the students had a truly admirable attitude, with united voices that seemed to ring out with determination and resilience.

The absolute enduring thing that was so apparent at these class visits was just how much these students really feel love for, and have such a great appreciation for their teachers, and it was wonderful to witness that.

*A good teacher can inspire Hope, ignite the imagination and instil a love of learning
(Brad Henny)*

Do enjoy reading.

From the bottom of my heart, I send you my sincere thanks for continuing your support of our charity and for not giving up on us. Happy 2026!

With my love and thanks.

Tilly

Tilly Wilkinson
Trustee Administrator.



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I wrote earlier about a delightful surprise at visiting another of our teachers. Here is our pre-school teacher Tin Tin Khaing, along with our very youngest 'student' - Ma May Thazin Aung.

Ma May Thazin Aung is just 4 years old and she joins Tin Tin Khaing at home every day to learn more. Then each time there is a class being held, Ma May Thazin Aung joins together alongside Tin Tin Khaing's other young students when they come for their lessons. As she is not old enough to attend big school yet, Ma May Thazin Aung is preparing very well for her first day at kindergarten which will take place in June. She enjoys counting her numbers and can already count to over 50 without making any mistakes. She is learning her times tables as well and recites the English alphabet. She can read confidently and she loves to sing nursery rhymes. Ma May Thazin Aung is a very clever little girl. She told us that she likes learning very much and loves Tin Tin Khaing her teacher.

You will find 2 short clips of her on the links below. She is a real delight. Do enjoy her reciting the alphabet and then also singing her version of the nursery rhyme "Frère Jacques" (Brother John) which is a call to 'wake-up'. I hope that you too will enjoy this little bundle of delight. 😊

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/aQTJufGkC2gb4nzX6>
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/yfphrM5r7Fv5mFx9>



Here is our teacher
Tin Tin Khine
and little superstar
Ma May Thazin Aung



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Our Senior English Teacher Ma Thanda and her class (+1!)



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This is Alex. He is 7 years old. He wrote his story about his birthday and told us how he was very happy all day.



Here is Nyein Htet Kyaw. He is 12 years old, and his story was about his love of nature, the beauty of the mountains and the power of the sea.



Aung Bhone Khant is now 12. You have seen him before. He told us about his appreciation and love for his teacher and how his learning journey means so much to him. See the next page for more very exciting news!



And this is Su Su who is also 12 years old. Su Su's story was about the changing seasons and how she finds



Thoon Wi Nge is 15 years old and spoke very poignantly about the great love she has for her mother. It was very moving to hear her talk so confidently



Snow is 13 years old. She is a very bright girl and wrote about her personal development and how she is learning to be more patient and tolerant with her younger brother Alex especially when she is busy studying. Snow has recently been awarded a scholarship, and she is very happy and we are very proud of her



And Nay Chi Khin who is 16, and an older student who is happy to assist and encourage the younger students to express themselves and be confident in their speaking.

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FIRST PRIZE



Here again is Aung Bhone Khant, one of our young superstar students who has recently been awarded with the first prize for his submission to the annual English Essay competition. Aung Bhone Khant said he was really very proud when he was awarded his trophy which he said was grateful to his teacher for all the support and encouragement that he is given.

For his essay, he wrote of his education journey and how he hopes to continue to strive to do well. For sure we wish him all the very best for the future.

And without any doubt, I am confident that I will be able to tell you of further success stories for Aung Bhone Khant in the future.

See and hear him speak of his story on the link below.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1m0TYG4El8y41baSopDFjxkAkGt0nPHrY/view?usp=drivesdk>

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From our visit to our school's Headteacher Chaw Su Khaing and her class.



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Students from Chaw Su Khaing's class at our visit



Kaung Khant Soe is 11



Htun Myint Myat is 15



Khant Paing Phyto is 14



Wint Nadi Soe is 15



Khin Akari is 14



Phway Phway is 15



Wint Yamon Tun is 13



Yu Yu Hlaing is 14

Wint Yamon Tun
and
Yu Yu Hlaing

are from Lintha
and are both
students who
attended our
school there

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Visits to our teachers



Here is our
Headteacher of Pre-
school Chu Chu and
her lovely parents
when we visited them
at their temporary
home in Yangon

And here we visit the
temporary home of
Zarni Win
our English teacher
seen here with
her parents



From our visit to the
temporary home of
our Pre-school
Teacher
Saw Mon,
here she is with
her niece

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Newsletter by Hnin Thant Phyu – January 2026

Happy New Year to all of my respected supporters.

My name is Hnin Thant Phyu. Currently, I am studying at Yangon University (Hlaing Township). I am specializing in International Relations as my major subject. In addition, I study Geography, English, and aspects of Myanmar as minor subjects, which are closely related to International Relations. I find IR is an engaging and lively field of study, and it continues to motivate me academically.

My university programme will last for four years, with each semester consisting of four months. During the academic year, students are required to participate in sports and extracurricular activities which contribute to overall academic assessments based on involvement and performance. Furthermore, the university offers scholarship opportunities for outstanding students. With an International Relations background, career paths such as diplomat, minister, political advisor, or MOFA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) officer largely depend on long-term goals.

I would like to sincerely thank all my supporters for your continued help with my education. Each and every one of your support, your encouragement, trust and belief means more to me than words can express. Some of you may see your help as a small act, but to me, these acts have gradually opened my eyes to a new world of opportunities. I truly appreciate your kindness from the bottom of my heart. I promise to continue working with dedication, honesty and perseverance throughout this time. I am deeply grateful to have such supportive and inspiring people standing beside me.

With sincere gratitude,
Hnin That Phyu.



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Educational University Journey Update - January 2026

I am Aye Su Aung and a third year student specializing in the field of education. My school schedule is fully packed throughout the week. As in previous years, I have to attend in law classes twice a week. The academic subjects are English, Myanmar, Educational Method, Educational Psychology and Educational Theory. Each subject is further divided into different branches and taught accordingly.

As a third-year student, I study the behaviour and learning abilities of students aged between 12 and 18. Regarding secondary school student, we are taught how to manage the classroom problems. After school, regardless of where we may work in the future, we are carefully trained in the mental and physical qualities that a teacher should possess.

As a third year student, I have started to place greater emphasis on my lessons. After completing each lesson, we have to answer tutorials. Assignments must be presented according to the required standards by clearly connecting theoretical knowledge with real situations.



We are divided into groups and as a volunteer representative of my group, I teach biology in front of the class. During school holidays, I have joined the Walkie Talkie English Club. Since I am currently learning highly academic subjects, such progress would not have been possible without your support. Therefore, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your assistance in my Educational journey. I'm committed to working hard and making meaningful contribution in return.

Warm regards
Aye Su Aung

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Monthly Learning Report – January 2026

Sharing my journey with gratitude to Mummy Su and the Respected Founders

What I'm Learning:

This month, I have been focusing on Medicine OSCE, particularly history taking and patient examination. I attend morning lectures and then go to Yangon General Hospital, where I practice interacting with many patients according to the systems we are learning about

- Hepatobiliary issues: cholestasis, alcohol withdrawal, splenomegaly, jaundice, etc
- Kidney failure: chronic kidney disease (CKD) with oedema, dialysis patients, etc
- End-of-life care: patients receiving palliative or terminal care

This hands-on experience has been both challenging and rewarding.



Surprises & Fun Moments:

One thing that has surprised me is how large the hospital is. Even getting a little lost while navigating the corridors has turned into fun and memorable moments.

Personal Growth:

Through this experience, I have become more sympathetic toward patients and deeply appreciate the importance of compassion in medicine.

Thank you for your continued support and guidance, which makes this journey possible.

Warm regards - Amy

