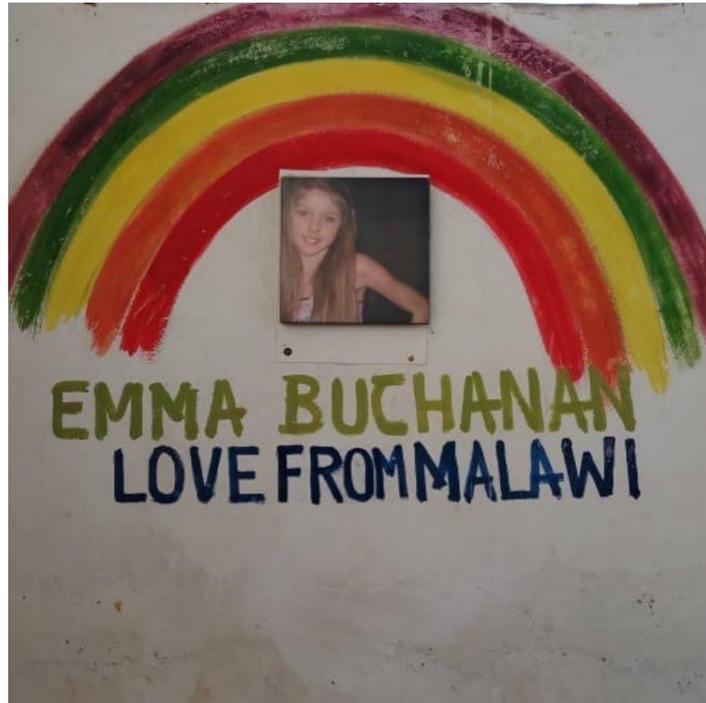


Emma Buchanan



Emma, a very courageous girl, lived with her parents, Tracy and Johnny, and elder sister, Jordan, in Balfron, Stirlingshire in Scotland. She was a real fighter, but she lost her battle with cystic fibrosis at the age of 15. On 17th November, 2019, she would have celebrated her 21st birthday.

Her school had a partnership with one in Northern Malawi and Emma had learned a lot about the country and the problems of poverty which her African peers had to contend with. It had been her wish to go to Malawi and do what she could to help. Sadly, this was not to be.

The above photo is already in the Skills Shed; the children painted a rainbow above it because Levison told them that at Emma's funeral service, rainbows had been mentioned and then, as everyone came out of the church, a beautiful coloured arc appeared right above them.

For her birthday her family wished to do something extra special and organised a fundraiser for the Foundation Library, and for books. They gave some lovely wording to accompany the fundraiser, which was replicated in an article in the local Stirling newspaper about Emma and her family's kind gesture. Emma loved books and the family recalled how Johnny used to read to his daughters every night.

Levison decided to hold a party in Emma's honour, to celebrate her heavenly birthday.

Some of the children already knew about Emma but at the party they all learned a lot more and were saddened to hear how she had died at such a young age and this is reflected in their faces in the photo below. They were made happy again, though,

when Levison said that he was sure that Emma would know that her friends in Malawi were celebrating with her and she would want them not to have tears in their eyes but to be smiling. Some of the girls went and collected hibiscus flowers for her.

The children had a special treat of doughnuts as well as their main meal. They all sang happy birthday to Emma; they held their banners proudly as they celebrated the special day of the girl from Scotland who, although she wasn't able to go, in person, to Malawi, will be remembered because her name will live on. Levison had already realised that, to cater for the increased numbers of children, the Skills Shed would need to be extended. It was decided that the extension should include the Library and there was no doubt what it would be called –

The Emma Buchanan Rainbow Library.

