

Balfron kids are building blocks for Malawi

Children at Balfron Nursery have been building strong links with orphans in Malawi by donating Lego bricks.

The nursery had heard of a request by the William Stewart Hope for the Hopeless Foundation seeking donations of toys and had offered some of their spare Lego.

Much of it will be making its way out to Africa by shipping container, however was also been sent by air so that it arrived in time for a Lego Party planned to celebrate both the birthday of one of the charity's co-founders and the first anniversary of the foundation.

The Balfron children were shown photos of some of the plans for a resource centre for the 203 orphans of the Ibuluma villages in Northern Malawi.

This will provide facilities for learning life skills and, essentially, provide the



Lunks Children from Balfron Nursery with their Lego bricks donations for Malawi orphans

children with meals from the foundation's crops which are almost ready for harvesting.

The nursery learned about poverty in Malawi and that children there must come out

of school if they cannot afford a pencil or a notebook.

The Stirlingshire youngsters looked at photos of typical houses in rural Malawi - small straw-roofed huts without a

door or windows - and heard how, because many Malawians are forced to go into bushes if they need the toilet, the first build of the resource centre will be

properly constructed latrines housed in brick.

Sarah Black, who is the foundation's fundraising team coordinator, collected the Lego, and the children all waved and cheered for the children in Malawi.

Mary Young, who lives in Killearn and is the foundation's administrator, told the Observer that a campaign will be starting very shortly - 'Save A Penny; Let Orphans Spend One' - to raise funds for the build of the latrine blocks.

Mary added: "If anyone would like to read about the projects already in place and support the aims of the Foundation in any way, Sarah or I can be contacted through the form on the website www.williamstewartfoundation.org. Details of where pennies will be collected will also be on the website in a couple of weeks."