Text E (English / A2)

Red Nose Day (A1)

No, it isn't a clown festival. Red Nose Day is a time for people to do silly things for a serious reason.

in 1985, there was a terrible famine in Ethiopia. A group of British comedians decided to do shows to **raise money** to donate to Ethiopia. In 1988, they started Red Nose Day: they encouraged the public to wear red clown noses and collect money. And they had a TV show with celebrities doing **silly** things too. Red Nose Day was very popular and raised lots of money. So the comedians continued, and decided to help people in need in other developing countries and in Britain. They called their charity Comic Relief. It now organises Red Nose Day in March every second year. On alternate years, it organises another **fundraising** campaign: Sport Relief.

In 2015, Red Nose Day started in the U.S.A., too. Since 1985, Comic Relief has raised and distributed more than £1billion (1.17 billion euros). The money is given to projects in **developing countries** and in Britain to help children, handicapped people and people in need. For example, thanks to money raised in 2015, over 860,000 children received vital vaccines.

Do Something Funny for Money!

Many schools in the U.K. do fundraising activities for Red Nose Day. In 2015, over 17,000 schools took part, and raised over £7.1 million (8.3 million euros) for education projects. And the British government added £10 million.

Schools sell special red noses, organise quizzes, shows, cake or dance competitions. Pupils pay to come to school in silly costumes or to throw **custard pies** at their teachers. They laugh and have a good time. And they know they are helping Comic Relief in its objective: "A Just World Free From Poverty."

Help:
- silly(adj): stupid.
- raise money(exp): collect money.
- second year(exp): in 2017, 2019, 2021...
- developing countries(exp): poor countries, not industrialised.
- people in need (exp): who need help, money, food, etc.
- charity (n): organisation that collects money to help poor, handicapped or ill people.
- fundraising(v): collect money for a charity or good cause.
- custard pies (n): tart with custard (thick yellow cream).

Red Nose Day at school © Comic Relief

Red Nose Day is in March every second year © Comic Relief

Source : BRNE Nathan, cycle 4