

Who wears red noses? Well, the obvious answer is clowns. Red noses are part of their traditional make-up.

On Red Nose Day, you can help people and have great fun, too. People all over the country buy millions of plastic red noses – and all the money goes to charity. Children and teenagers wear them to school and university. Even adults wear them to work!

In a special TV programme, celebrities and comedians do silly things and viewers phone in and pay money. In 2011 people gave more than £74 million in a single day.

An organisation called Comic Relief started Red Nose Day in 1985. A group of comedians decided to use comedy and laughter to educate people about poverty in the UK and Africa.



The grand total raised for charity since Comic Relief began is over £650 million! 60 per cent goes to charities in Africa and 40 per cent to charities in the UK.

Most schools have special Red Nose Day events. Last year some students in Oxford wore pyjamas all day at school. And in a school in Cambridge, students dressed as superheroes.

Its first TV programme was on Christmas Day on the BBC.

The money helps poor families, the old and the sick. It also helps young people to get a better education.

But on one special day in March every two years, millions of British people wear them, too. And what's this special day called? Red Nose Day, of course!

The Prime Minister, Take That and Susan Boyle were on the show. One year, a group of celebrities, including pop stars, climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania to raise money.