Schools join BBC Children in Need

LEVEL A2/B1


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I. WARM-UP

1. Have you ever helped at a school fundraiser? What did you do?
2. Do you play an instrument, or would you like to?
3. Which TV or online stars inspire you to help others? Why?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

- **charity** — an organisation that helps people and raises money for good causes
- **fundraising** — activities that collect money for a cause
- **challenge** — a difficult task you choose to try
- **donate** — to give money or things to help a cause
- **performance** — a show with music, dance or acting
- **presenter** — a person who hosts a TV or radio programme
- **instrument** — a tool used to make music, like a drum or guitar
- **cyclist** — a person who rides a bicycle

III. READING

BBC Children in Need is a UK charity appeal that raises money for projects for children. The 2026 aim is to make sure children have someone by their side when they need it. There will be a big night of television with fundraising and performances, and the appeal asks people to donate.

Four young people have formed a Challenge Squad. Zoe, 16, will dance with the cast of High School Musical. Harri, 22, will join presenter Owain Wyn Evans during the Welsh part of his ride. Ana, 16, will take on a three-day kayaking challenge.

Serena, 22, will give a live drum performance after a masterclass from Roger Taylor of Queen. Owain says he is not a regular cyclist, but hopes the ride will inspire others to try exercise.

Morning Live presenters Michelle Ackerley and Gethin Jones are learning an instrument for the Big Band Challenge, and will perform live on the night. Schools can help with a bake sale or a non-uniform day.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News:** *"What's happening for BBC Children in Need and...". Original article linked at* theenglishwire.c...

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the aim of the 2026 appeal?
2. Who is in the Challenge Squad and what do they do? Name one.
3. What does Owain Wyn Evans say about himself as a cyclist?
4. What are the Morning Live presenters preparing to do?
5. What simple events can schools run to raise money?

V. DISCUSSION

1. What fundraiser will your class organise this term?
2. Which challenge would you try for charity, and why?
3. Would a live TV show make you donate more? Why or why not?
4. Which song would you choose for a big band performance?



VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Will / won't

Use will/won't + base verb to talk about the future: plans, promises, and predictions. Form: will/won't + verb (will help, won't join). Time words like tomorrow, next week, later often signal this.

*"There **will be** a big night of television."*

*"Zoe, 16, **will dance** with the cast of High School Musical."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete the sentences with will or won't + the verb in brackets.

1. Our class (hold) ___ a bake sale next week.
2. Students (not/forget) ___ to donate online tonight.
3. Our school band (learn) ___ a song for Children in Need.
4. My friends (join) ___ the charity stream on Friday.
5. If it rains, we (not/run) ___ the mini-marathon.

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 6–8 minutes warm-up, 8–10 minutes vocabulary, 10–12 minutes reading, 8 minutes comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach or check: charity, fundraising, donate, challenge. Use quick school examples like a bake sale or fun run.
- Run the reading in pairs: give a gist question per paragraph, then swap partners to compare. Teen topic note: charity and giving can feel personal, so let students answer about school plans rather than family money.
- Differentiation: stronger students script a 20-second donation message; others list three steps their school could take (who, when, what).

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. For Q1, do a 1-minute brainstorm in groups, then take a quick class vote on the top idea.
2. For Q2, use pair-share. Ask them to name one risk and one way to prepare safely.
3. For Q3, make a line from 'yes' to 'no'. Students stand on it, then explain their place.
4. For Q4, set a 2-minute limit: pick a song, give two reasons it fits a big band.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Writing: In pairs, write a 60-word announcement inviting students to your school fundraiser.

Presentation: In groups, plan a 1-minute pitch for a BBC Children in Need challenge your class will do.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Will / won't

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the aim of the 2026 appeal?
   To make sure children have someone by their side when they need it.
2. Who is in the Challenge Squad and what do they do? Name one.
   For example, Zoe will dance with the High School Musical cast.
3. What does Owain Wyn Evans say about himself as a cyclist?
   He says he is not a regular cyclist.
4. What are the Morning Live presenters preparing to do?
   Learn an instrument and perform live in the Big Band Challenge.
5. What simple events can schools run to raise money?
   A bake sale or a non-uniform day.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete the sentences with will or won't + the verb in brackets.

1. Our class ___ a bake sale next week. **will hold**
2. Students ___ to donate online tonight. **won't forget / will not forget**
3. Our school band ___ a song for Children in Need. **will learn**
4. My friends ___ the charity stream on Friday. **will join**
5. If it rains, we ___ the mini-marathon. **won't run / will not run**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use will/won't + base verb to talk about the future: plans, promises, and predictions. Form: will/won't + verb (will help, won't join). Time words like tomorrow, next week, later often signal this.

"There **will be** *a big night of television."*

"Zoe, 16, **will dance** *with the cast of High School Musical."*