

Autumn 2026

Brighten Up assembly for schools

Themes: Fundraising, solidarity, water access, rights, Zimbabwe

Time: 10 mins

Learning outcome: Pupils will understand how access to clean water affects education and will understand how fundraising can help make a difference.

	Hello and welcome to the CAFOD Brighten Up assembly!
	CAFOD is very excited about brightening up our world – so this year they are inviting us all to make a splash! Think neon, think patterns, think rainbows, think high vis!
	CAFOD is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. Their logo is 'A better world needs all of us.' This means a world where ALL people have clean, safe water to drink and enough food to eat. Where everyone has a safe home, children can go to school, anyone who is sick can visit a doctor or nurse and everyone can live in peace. Who thinks this would be a better world?

 A better, brighter world takes all of us. We stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world, making sure they have access to all the same things we do. Can you help us?	A better, brighter world takes all of us. We stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world, making sure they have access to all the same things we do.
	This term we are brightening up for people like Maggie! Maggie is 16 years old and lives in Zimbabwe. She loves school and loves playing netball. Let's find out about Zimbabwe.
	Zimbabwe is a land-locked country in southern Africa. Harare is the capital city. It's known for its amazing wildlife and natural wonders, including the famous Victoria Falls, one of the world's largest waterfalls which it shares with Zambia.
 Zimbabwe - Zimbabwe is a country in southern Africa. Harare is the capital city. - Amazing wildlife and natural wonders. - Years of unpredictable weather caused by climate change. - Poor rainfall has led to crop failure in most parts of the country. Drought also brings severe water shortages. - In some areas with water shortages, young people miss school collecting water. Capital city: Harare Beidings northern Zimbabwe	But sadly, the climate change continues to make life hard for many people in Zimbabwe. Poor rainfall means crops can't grow and severe water shortages across much of the country. Water shortages also bring risk of disease. Young people in areas of water shortages may also miss school to travel long distances for water.



Sometimes Maggie would miss school because she had to collect water far away for her family.

She would carry 5 litres. that's like 10 water bottles.

Maggie said:

"Carrying water was difficult for me. It made me very angry at first, but I realized that the water is for us, we have to wash our hands, and the vegetables from the garden."



With CAFOD's help, Maggie's school installed solar-powered taps and showers to run clean water.

This means that the water is pumped using energy from the sun! It has brought about an incredible transformation!



Maggie says the showers are good for when she's sweaty after a netball match!

But importantly, she doesn't have to worry about missing school.



Here are some words from Maggie:

"Every day, I'm loving coming to school. It means that we have water. It means that we no longer have to carry water to school."

So, water really is life.

 £35. Water for a family £89. Community toilet £750. Community water supply!	At the start of the assembly, I said that CAFOD believes a better world needs all of us. So, what can we do? Well, we can raise money by brightening up to help more communities have safe, clean water! Did you know if 35 of you brought in a pound, you could help supply a family with clean water? If we raised £89 selling cakes, then we could help install a toilet in community that needs it? A big fundraising effort could help supply a whole community with water for £750!
	There are loads of ways to Brighten Up and raise money! This autumn let's raise money for CAFOD and help to build a better world.
Loving God, We think of our neighbours, near and far. We pray we may share generously all you have given us. Help us to work together to build a better and brighter world, where each of us can be the best person we can be. Amen. CAFOD	Let us end with a prayer.
 CAFOD	Thank you!