

# Chinese New Year

## 1. As the pupils enter

Have the webpage open:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/assemblies-ks1-ks2-chinese-new-year-festivals-lunar-festival/zp993j6>

Play music and display the image of the Chinese zodiac if you wish:

[http://teach.files.bbci.co.uk/schoolradio/assemblies/images/chinese\\_new\\_year\\_zodiac\\_frame.jpg](http://teach.files.bbci.co.uk/schoolradio/assemblies/images/chinese_new_year_zodiac_frame.jpg)

## 2. Introduction

1. Tell the assembly that today they will be finding out about Chinese New Year - how it is celebrated and how important it is to the Chinese community.
2. Ask the pupils if they have ever heard of Chinese New Year or ever been to a Chinese New Year celebration?
3. Gather feedback and if anyone has been to a celebration before you can ask them to share what it was like.
4. Explain that they will now be watching a short video about Chinese New Year and that you would like them to think about the differences between the Chinese New Year celebrations and the New Year celebrations held on 31st December.
5. They should try to remember these special traditions and be ready to discuss them after the video.

## 3. Play the video

The duration is 4' 06". Final words: 'Happy New Year!'

## 4 & 5. Time to talk

Ask the children to turn to the person sitting next to them and try to remember as many Chinese New Year traditions as they can from the video.

Then ask: **Who would like to share something they found interesting about Chinese New Year from this video?** [Gather responses.]

1. Ask: **Can anyone tell us why the Chinese New Year is different to the UK New Year?** (CNY lasts for 15 days and is based on the lunar calendar).
2. Ask: **Can anyone remember how each of the Chinese new years are named?** (After the 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac). Follow up by asking: **Can anyone remember any of the 12 animals?**
3. Ask: **Can anyone remember any of the traditions families do when getting ready for Chinese New Year?** (Cleaning the house to welcome in the new).
4. Ask: **Can anyone tell us what colour is for Chinese New Year and what it means?** (Red is seen as a lucky colour and will bring good luck)
5. Ask: **Can anyone remember what happens on the 15th night of Chinese New Year?** (The Lantern festival - Yuan Xiao).

## 6. Opportunity to sing

Play the video



## 7. Opportunity to reflect

Focus your reflection on the theme of good luck, happiness and hope for the year to come. Ask the children to think carefully and close their eyes if they want to, while you say the following: **Chinese New Year is about starting afresh and hoping for good things in the future for you and for your family and friends...**

**Think about anything that brings you good luck, happiness and hope for the future...**

**Sometimes things do not always go well...and we can feel unhappy...but Chinese New Year reminds us that there is always an opportunity for a fresh start with lots of good things to come...**

## 8. Opportunity for prayer

Your usual form of address ('Dear God' / 'Let us pray' etc) and then:

**We want to thank you for the lessons we can learn from Chinese New Year, about the importance of family, friends, community and happiness.**

**Help us to be hopeful for the future and to share happiness and hope to all around us.**

**Amen.**