

Lunar New Year



Webpage with video

1. As the pupils enter

Have the [webpage open](#). Play your chosen music and display the image of the [Chinese zodiac](#) if you wish.

2. Introduction

1. Tell the assembly that today they will be finding out about Lunar New Year (which is also known as Chinese New Year): how it is celebrated and its importance to the Chinese community.
2. Ask the pupils if they have ever heard of Lunar / Chinese New Year or ever been to a Lunar / 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 watch a short video about Lunar New Year and that you would like them to think about the differences between Lunar New Year celebrations and the New Year celebrations held on 31 December in the UK and elsewhere.
5. They should try to remember these special traditions and be ready to discuss them after the video.

3. Play the video

Duration: 4' 06". Final words: 'Happy New Year!'

4. Time to talk

Ask everyone to turn to the person next to them and try to recall as many Lunar New Year traditions as they can from the video.

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

1. Ask: *Can anyone tell us why the Lunar New Year is different to the UK New Year?* (It 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 for getting ready for Lunar New Year?* (Cleaning the house to welcome in the new).
4. Ask: *Can anyone tell us what colour is lucky for the Chinese at Lunar New Year and what it means?* (Red - thought to bring good luck).
5. Ask: *Can anyone remember what happens on the 15th night of Lunar New Year?* (The Lantern festival - Yuan Xiao).

5. Opportunity to sing

An opportunity to sing your chosen song.

6. Opportunity to reflect

Ask everyone to close their eyes if they want to, while you say:

Lunar 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 Lunar New Year reminds us that there is always an opportunity for a fresh start with lots of good things to come...

7. Opportunity for prayer

Use your normal form of address ('Dear God', 'Let us pray', etc) and: *We want to thank you for the lessons we can learn from Lunar 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.