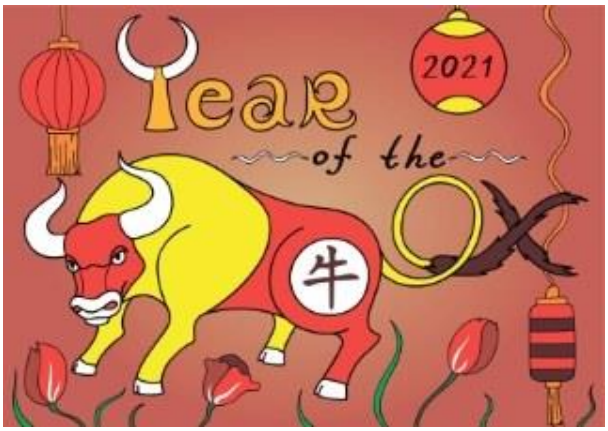
Chinese New Year



On 12th February 2021 we wave goodbye to the Year of the Rat and welcome in a new Chinese New Year, the Year of the Ox!

So today we have lots of activities and ideas that will help you to celebrate and learn a bit more about the festival.

恭喜發財

1 - Happy New Year!

There are many ways to wish people a Happy New Year, depending on where you come from. In the official language of China, Mandarin, and you might wish someone **Xin Nian Hao** or **Xin Nian Kuai Le**. Also popular is the greeing **Gong Xi Fa Cai**, which means "wishing you happiness and prosperity."

In Hong Kong and southern China, where people speak Cantonese, the traditional greeing is Kung Hei Fat Choy - which also means "wishing you happiness and prosperity".

Nine Asian countries celebrate the **Lunar New Year** with public holidays and variations on the activities you will find described below. About 1/5 of the world's population will be enjoying the Lunar New Year festivies, and New Year's Eve is the world's biggest annual migration, with over 200 million people making every effort to get home for a big celebratory dinner with their extended families!

Celebrating Chinese New Year

What is Chinese New Year?

Chinese New Year is the most important of the Chinese holidays, and is a time of feasting with the family, celebration, fireworks and gift-giving. It is a 15-day holiday, beginning on the first day of a new moon and ending with the full moon on the day of the Lantern Festival.

The Chinese calendar is based on the lunar year, so the date of Chinese New Year changes every year. The Chinese calendar follows a 12-year pattern with each year named after an animal. There are various stories which explain this. The simplest is that Buddha (or the Jade Emperor) invited all of the animals to join him for a New Year celebration, but only 12 animals turned up. To reward the animals that did come, Buddha named a year after each of them in the order that they arrived, starting with the Rat, followed by the Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat (or Sheep), Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig.

The Great Animal Race

What year were you born?

What animal does that make you?

Can you find out what characteristics that animal has? Does it reflect your personality?

2 - Chinese Crafts

Lots of different crafts to try

Chinese Lantern

We would love to see some of the things that you make!

3 - Chinese Food

Chinese food to cook

More recipe ideas

We would love to see any of the food that you cook, add your photographs to our facebook post so we can see!

4 - Chinese Art Work

Art was very important in Ancient China and it produced many types of beautiful works of art. Each generation and area had its own style and specialty.

The Three Perfections

The three perfections were calligraphy, poetry, and painting. Often they would be combined together in art.

Calligraphy - This is art of handwriting. The Ancient Chinese considered writing an important form of art. Calligraphers would practice for years to learn to write perfectly. Each of the over 40,000

characters needed to be drawn precisely. In addition, each stroke in a character had to be drawn in a specific order.

I wonder if you could have a go at writing your name in Chinese?

Poetry - Poetry was an important form of art as well. Great poets were famous throughout the empire, but all educated people were expected to write poetry. If you wanted to work for the government you had to write a poem as part of the exam!

Could you write a poem? It could be about the weather? your family? or even the Corona virus!

Painting - Painting was often inspired by poetry and combined with calligraphy. Many paintings were landscapes that featured mountains, homes, birds, trees, and water.

You could have a go at drawing your own landscape picture, have a look out of your window and draw what you can see.

Here are some other art activities you could have a try of:

Chinese Blossom Crafts

How to draw a koi fish

Paint your own pottery