

Celebrating Chinese New Year

Learning objective: To understand the traditions and beliefs associated with Chinese New Year.

Read the story about Pip and the Lunar New Year, then answer the questions in full sentences.

Pip the bookworm was excited to learn about Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival. He read that this special celebration follows the Lunar calendar, meaning the date changes every year. Pip discovered that red is the most important color because it symbolises luck and happiness. Families spend a lot of time preparing by cleaning their homes to sweep away bad luck from the previous year, making room for a fresh start.

During the celebrations, families gather for a huge feast. Pip read that many people eat dumplings and fish, as these foods are believed to bring prosperity and wealth. One of the most exciting parts is the giving of 'hongbao'—bright red envelopes containing money, such as £5 or £10, given to children by their elders. To finish the celebrations, loud firecrackers are often set off. Pip learned that these loud noises were traditionally used to scare away a mythical beast called the Nian, ensuring the new year begins with peace and joy.

Word bank: tradition · prosperity · Lunar · symbolise · celebration

1. What is another name for Chinese New Year? (1 mark)

2. Which two foods are mentioned that are believed to bring prosperity and wealth? (2 marks)

3. Why do families clean their houses before the celebrations begin? (2 marks)

4. Why does the date of Chinese New Year change from year to year? (2 marks)

5. In your opinion, which of the traditions mentioned is the most important for bringing a family together? Explain why. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a traditional red 'hongbao' envelope and some lucky red decorations.



Extension challenge: Can you research which animal represents the current year in the Chinese Zodiac and write one fact about it?