The Lunar New Year Celebration with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the traditions, symbols, and significance of Chinese New Year (Lunar New Year) within the context of global religious and cultural celebrations.

Ellie the elephant has been learning about the traditions of Chinese New Year. Below are several statements about how people celebrate this festival. Decide whether each statement is 'True' or 'False'. If it is False, use your knowledge to write one sentence explaining the correct fact.

Word bank: Red envelopes · Lunar calendar · Zodiac animals · Lion dance · Family reunion · Spring Festival

1. 1. Chinese New Year always falls on the same date every year according to the Gregorian calendar (the calendar we use in the UK). (2 marks)

2. 2. Red envelopes, known as 'hongbao', are traditionally given to children by elders to bring good luck and blessings. (2 marks)

3. 3. The festival is also known as the Spring Festival, marking the end of the coldest part of winter. (2 marks)

4. 4. Cleaning the house during the first day of the New Year is encouraged to sweep away all the good luck brought by the previous year. (2 marks)

5. 5. There are twelve animals in the Chinese zodiac cycle, and each year is represented by one of these creatures. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a traditional Chinese lantern or a dragon used in a dance, including patterns that represent good luck or prosperity as described in your research.

Extension challenge: Ellie wants to know about your own family traditions! Write a short paragraph describing a special celebration your family enjoys. Compare one of your traditions to a Chinese New Year tradition—how are they similar in terms of bringing people together?