Celebrating Chinese New Year with Zara

Learning objective: To understand the symbolism and traditions of the Chinese New Year festival by creating a detailed, labelled illustration.

Follow the drawing prompts below to create a scene showing how families prepare for and celebrate the Spring Festival. Use the word bank to label your finished drawing.

Draw: Draw a vibrant scene of a home interior decorated for the Spring Festival. In the centre, draw a table set for a reunion dinner. Above the table, draw glowing round lanterns hanging from the ceiling. On the walls, draw 'spring couplets' which are pieces of red paper with black brush-stroke symbols (calligraphy) written on them. In the foreground, draw a child holding a small red envelope. Add a decorative border around your page inspired by the stripes of Zara the zebra.

Label words: Red envelope · Lantern · Zodiac animal · Calligraphy · Firecracker · Spring couplet

Steps:

1. Why is the colour red used so frequently during Chinese New Year celebrations?
2. List two ways that families prepare their homes for the festival.
3. Draw a small red envelope in your scene. What do these envelopes usually contain?
4. Look at Zara the zebra's patterns. If you were designing a traditional lantern, what geometric shapes or

patterns would you use to decorate it?

5. Explain why the Chinese zodiac is important to the timing of the festival each year.