
What is Chinese New Year?



In Ancient China, every year during Spring, a dragon called Nian came to the village and destroyed it.

One year, an old beggar man said he would stay in the village that night. He asked an elderly woman if he could stay at her house.

When Nian the dragon came, he got scared by the firecrackers, red lanterns and bright lights.

This is why people use these things around this time and also why Chinese New Year in mandarin is Xing Nian Kuai Le.

Red Packets



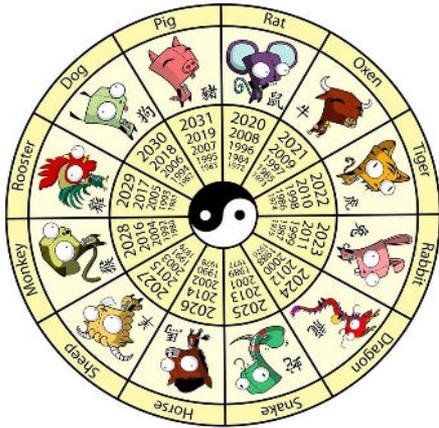
People celebrate this festival all over Asia by eating big meals with their family, lighting lanterns and giving red packets.

Red packets or Hong (red) Bao are filled with money and is given by mums, dads, nans and grandads. (doesn't that sound nice!)

Traditionally , you could only give red packets if you were married.



Chinese Zodiac Signs



Most people know their zodiac sign but do you know your Chinese zodiac sign?

The year you were born in determines what animal you are, a bit like normal zodiac signs.

For example, I am an ox as I was born in 2009 and this year is also the year of the ox as it repeats every 12 years.

2010=tiger

2011=rabbit



Chinese New Year foods

Every year, a day before Chinese New Year, there is a gathering called Reunion Dinner which is where family gets together to have a meal and celebrates the new year with each other (like on December 31st)

Some favourite foods are dumplings which gives wealth , noodles which give happiness and tangyuan (sticky rice balls) which give family togetherness.

Lion Dances



The Lion Dance is very entertaining at this time of year as people would put on a costume as Nian and dance in it.

In some places the outfit would give good luck and fortune.

This dance is so popular, that they made it a sport in China!

Thanks For Listening!

Happy Chinese New Year or Gong xi fa cai !





新年快乐

2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR

YEAR OF THE OX