



Chinese New Year 2026 - Year of the Horse

Developing Children's Vocabulary

Our topic this week is 'Chinese New Year'. We will be revisiting discussions about different celebrations and how different events are celebrated around the world.

Together we will share the traditional story of Chinese New Year.

The children will have the opportunity to make blossom pictures, individual lantern and dragon collages and contribute to making a large dragon to display in our classroom. We will look at Chinese writing and explore tracing Chinese characters.

In other literacy activities, we will be identifying letter sounds with games of 'I Spy...' and 'Kim's game'.

Together we will be watch a dragon parade and lion dancing and investigate making up and copying rhythms by beating drums and banging cymbals. In our PE lesson we will have our own Chinese New Year parade which, weather permitting, we will also carry out in the Preschool playground.

In maths, we will continue to investigate numbers and match number to quantity. We will also look at how we can represent and identify numbers in pictorial form.

Key vocabulary:

Celebrate, celebrating, celebration

Decorate, decorating, decoration

Festival, party, tradition

Animal names including ox, cockerel and dragon.

Costume, parade, drum, beat, rhythm, dance

Letters, Chinese characters

Some stories we will be sharing:

Chinese New Year - Traditional Tale

The Chinese Dragon - Poem by Catherine Benson

Cleversticks - Bernard Ashley

The Magic Paintbrush - Julia Donaldson

Zog - Julia Donaldson

George's Dragon - Claire Freedman and Russell Julian