

# Chinese New Year

新年快樂

Kung Hei Fat Choy

That's 'Happy New Year'  
in Chinese.



新年快樂 新年快樂 新年快樂 新年快樂

Hi. We are going to tell you all about the Chinese New Year.



新年快樂

Happy Chinese New Year



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One in every six people in the world celebrate Chinese New Year. Customs vary but the main idea is to remember family and wish everyone peace and prosperity in the coming year.



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Chinese New Year is also known as the Spring Festival. It is the biggest and most important festival in China and is celebrated in Chinese communities all over the world.



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The date of Chinese New Year is based on the lunar calendar and the date changes each year.



2 SÁBADO - 05-31 - Virgo	1 LUNES - 03-05 - Libra	1 MARTES - 23-30 - Ophiuchus	7 JUEVES - 11-04 - Pisces	6 VIERNES - 19-07 - Aries	5 DOMINGO - 07-26 - Taurus	4 LUNES - 11-25 - Gemini	2 MARTES - 21-13 - Cancer	1 JUEVES - 09-07 - Leo	9 DOMINGO - 04-14 - Sagittarius	7 LUNES - 19-19 - Aquarius	7 MIÉRCOLES - 08-05 - Aries
10 DOMINGO - 01-30 - Sagittarius	8 LUNES - 15-04 - Aquarius	9 MIÉRCOLES - 05-56 - Aquarius	14 JUEVES - 03-14 - Gemini	13 VIERNES - 18-44 - Leo	12 DOMINGO - 07-20 - Leo	12 MARTES - 09-32 - Virgo	10 MIÉRCOLES - 18-01 - Libra	9 VIERNES - 11-29 - Ophiuchus	16 DOMINGO - 03-59 - Pisces	14 LUNES - 18-40 - Taurus	14 MIÉRCOLES - 09-19 - Taurus
16 SÁBADO - 23-11 - Pisces	15 LUNES - 07-30 - Taurus	15 MARTES - 18-48 - Taurus	22 VIERNES - 08-54 - Virgo	21 SÁBADO - 20-58 - Leo	20 LUNES - 11-16 - Sagittarius	19 MARTES - 22-32 - Sagittarius	18 JUEVES - 09-43 - Capricornio	16 VIERNES - 18-19 - Aquarius	22 SÁBADO - 19-12 - Cancer	21 LUNES - 18-50 - Leo	21 MIÉRCOLES - 02-19 - Virgo
24 DOMINGO - 02-16 - Cancer	22 LUNES - 18-40 - Leo	23 MIÉRCOLES - 11-49 - Virgo	30 SÁBADO - 03-49 - Aquarius	29 DOMINGO - 12-27 - Aquarius	27 LUNES - 18-46 - Ophiuchus	26 MARTES - 12-19 - Ophiuchus	25 JUEVES - 03-26 - Taurus	23 VIERNES - 03-12 - Ophiuchus	30 DOMINGO - 17-10 - Libra	29 MARTES - 12-19 - Ophiuchus	29 JUEVES - 07-22 - Sagittarius
		31 JUEVES - 18-58 - Sagittarius						30 VIERNES - 23-46 - Virgo			



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The first day of the New Year falls between 21<sup>st</sup> January and 20<sup>th</sup> February. Celebrations last for 15 days from Chinese New Year's Eve to the Lantern Festival.



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There are several legends about how the Chinese New Year came about.



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One legend is that Lord Buddha called together all the animals in the animal kingdom to say goodbye before he left Earth. Only twelve came. He rewarded them by naming a year after each one in the order they arrived.





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Another legend tells the story of a swimming race. Many years ago there was a rat, an ox, a tiger, a rabbit, a dragon, a snake, a horse, a goat, a monkey, a rooster, a dog and a pig.



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The animals argued about who was to be first in the cycle of years. They asked the Gods to decide.

No I should !



I should be first.



But I'm the most important!



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The Gods decided that there should be a swimming race. Whoever came first would be first in the cycle, the rest of the animals would be in the order they finished.



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1st  
rat



2nd  
ox



3rd  
tiger



4th  
rabbit



5th  
dragon



6th  
snake



7th  
horse



8th  
goat



9th  
monkey



10th  
rooster



11th  
dog



12th  
pig



This was the final  
order.



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1<sup>st</sup>  
rat



2<sup>nd</sup>  
ox



3<sup>rd</sup>  
tiger



4<sup>th</sup>  
rabbit



5<sup>th</sup>  
dragon



6<sup>th</sup>  
snake



7<sup>th</sup>  
horse



8<sup>th</sup>  
goat



9<sup>th</sup>  
monkey



10<sup>th</sup>  
rooster



11<sup>th</sup>  
dog



12<sup>th</sup>  
pig

The calendar has followed a rotating cycle ever since then.



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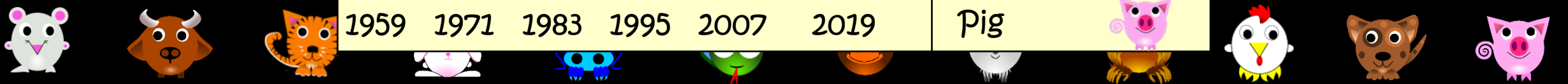
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Here is the Chinese Calendar.

What is your zodiac animal? Find the year you were born in. Then look for the animal.



Year						Zodiac Animal
1948	1960	1972	1984	1996	2008	Rat 
1949	1961	1973	1985	1997	2009	Ox 
1950	1962	1974	1986	1998	2010	Tiger 
1951	1963	1975	1987	1999	2011	Rabbit 
1952	1964	1976	1988	2000	2012	Dragon 
1953	1965	1977	1989	2001	2013	Snake 
1954	1966	1978	1990	2002	2014	Horse 
	1967	1979	1991	2003	2015	Goat 
1956	1968	1980	1992	2004	2016	Monkey 
1957	1969	1981	1993	2005	2017	Rooster 
1958	1970	1982	1994	2006	2018	Dog 
1959	1971	1983	1995	2007	2019	Pig 















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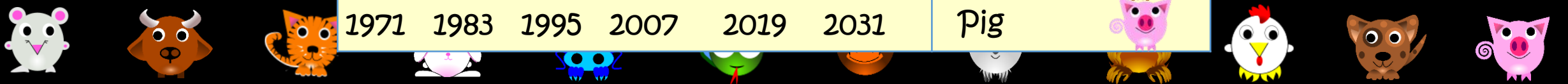
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What year will 2021 be?

Year						Zodiac Animal
1960	1972	1984	1996	2008	2020	Rat 
1961	1973	1985	1997	2009	2021	Ox 
1962	1974	1986	1998	2010	2022	Tiger 
1963	1975	1987	1999	2011	2023	Rabbit 
1964	1976	1988	2000	2012	2024	Dragon 
1965	1977	1989	2001	2013	2025	Snake 
1966	1978	1990	2002	2014	2026	Horse 
	1979	1991	2003	2015	2027	Goat 
1968	1980	1992	2004	2016	2028	Monkey 
1969	1981	1993	2005	2017	2029	Rooster 
1970	1982	1994	2006	2018	2030	Dog 
1971	1983	1995	2007	2019	2031	Pig 



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Yes, 2021 is the Year of the Ox!





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In 2021 the Chinese New Year begins on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February and lasts until 26<sup>th</sup> February.



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We make a lot of preparations for the New Year.



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We clean our homes to sweep away any bad luck.



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Some people paint their front doors and windows red.



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We buy new clothes to wear.



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We have  
our hair  
cut.



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We decorate our homes with lanterns. Most of our decorations are coloured red and gold.



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We believe that red and gold are lucky colours.





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Red frightens away the monster Nian who some Chinese people believe comes on New Year's Eve. Click on the image to hear the story of Nian.



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We also decorate our streets and cities.



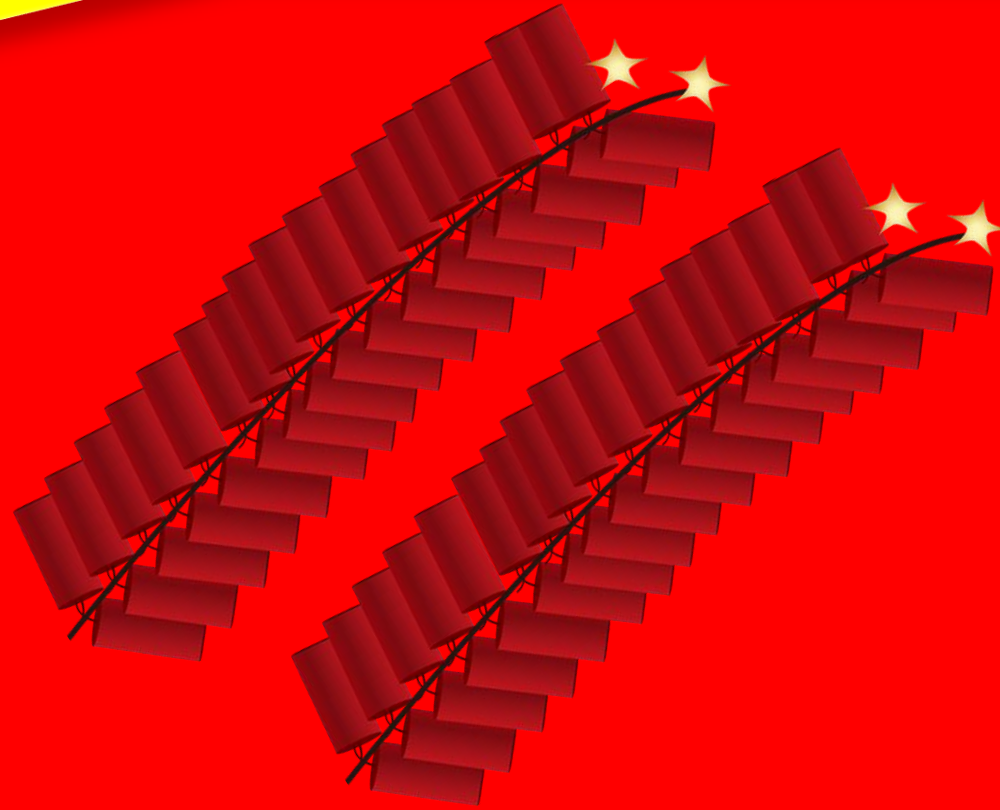
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There are colourful decorations and lights everywhere.



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We put firecracker decorations on our doors to bring us good luck.



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We also put door Gods on our doors.



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We do this to frighten away evil spirits. That is why the door Gods look so fierce and have weapons.



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We also hang up red banners called chunlians on our doorways.



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These are decorated with messages called Spring Couplets.





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Tangerines and oranges are important Chinese New Year symbols. We believe that these fruits bring good luck.



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The Chinese word for tangerine sounds like the word for 'luck' and the Chinese word for orange sounds like the word for 'wealth'.



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When we visit our friends and family we take gifts of oranges or tangerines.



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When people visit us we offer them oranges and tangerines.



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We decorate our homes with plum and peach blossom as these are symbols of the start of a new year.



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We believe that following these customs will help bring about a plentiful crop of fruit later in the year.



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Our streets and cities are also decorated with peach and plum fruit blossoms lights.



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Fish decorations can be seen everywhere. The Chinese word for 'fish' sounds exactly like the Chinese word for plenty.





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We believe that by hanging up fish decorations we will have plenty of good fortune.



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Many Chinese people go to the temple on New Year's Eve.



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Chinese people often travel long distances to be with their family at this special time.



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On New Year's Eve we have a special family re-union dinner we call "Nian Ye Fan".



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We prepare a place and food for the spirits of our ancestors who we believe are present at the meal. Can you see the empty chair?



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We have delicious food to eat including fish dishes and dumplings. We eat the dumplings just after midnight.



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The dumplings, called yuanxiao or tangyuan. They are made of sticky rice flour stuffed with different fillings.



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Sometimes lucky coins are hidden in the dumplings. We believe that the coins bring good luck to the people who find them.





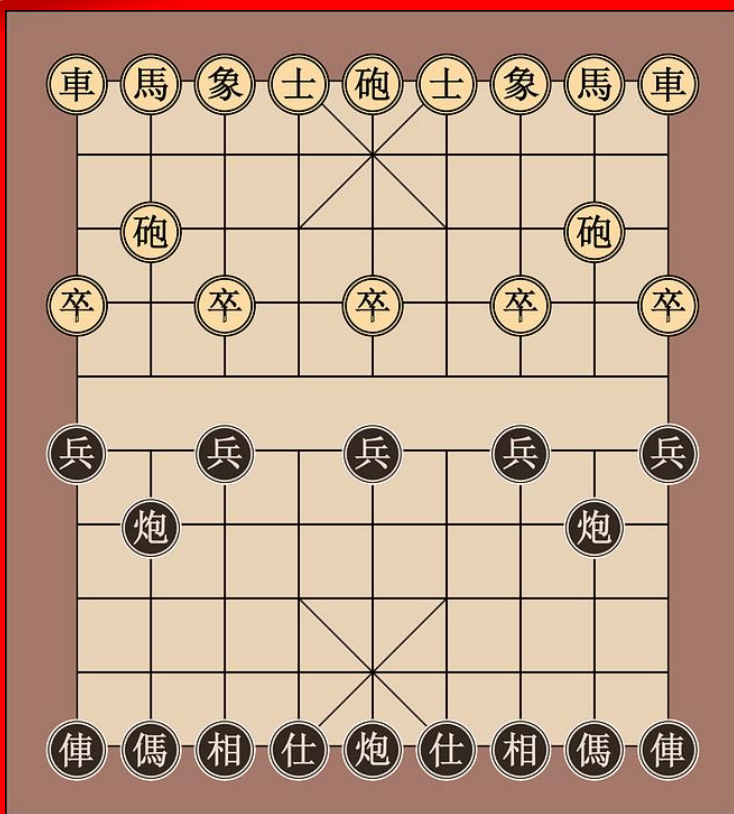
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After dinner we play card games and board games like Chinese chess.



象棋



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At midnight we we set off fireworks and firecrackers to scare off evil spirits.



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We switch on all the lights in our homes until midnight to keep away evil spirits.



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On New Year's Day we receive lucky red packets or envelopes called 'Hong Bao'.



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These are given to us by our parents and grandparents and contain 'lucky' money.



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The amount of money in the envelope is always an even number.



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On the third day of the Chinese New Year we go to the temple.



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Some people take fortune sticks with them. The way the sticks fall show the kind of luck the person will have in the coming year.





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During the New Year we join in the street celebrations and see lots of lion and dragon dances.



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The lion and dragon dances are performed to scare away evil spirits.



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Click on the image to see a dragon dance.



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In the lion dance there are usually two dancers. One acts as the head and the other the body. They dance to a drum, cymbals and a gong.



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On the head of the lion is a mirror so that evil spirits will be frightened away by their own reflections.



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Click on the image to see the lion dance.



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The ninth day of the Chinese New Year is the birthday of the Jade Emperor, the King of the Gods.



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People burn incense on his birthday.





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Many people go to the temple.



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Our New Year celebrations end on the fifteenth day, the day of the full Moon, with the 'Festival of Lanterns'.



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Lanterns of different sizes can be seen everywhere.



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It is a custom for children to put riddles on lanterns.



What occurs once  
in every minute,  
twice in every  
moment, yet never  
in a thousand  
years?



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Can you solve this riddle?

What occurs once  
in every minute,  
twice in every  
moment, yet never  
in a thousand  
years?



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Did you get it?

What occurs once  
in every minute,  
twice in every  
moment, yet never  
in a thousand  
years?



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There are lots of exciting things to see - street theatre, parades and exhibitions.



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There is music and dancing.





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We light lanterns and set them off into the sky. We do this to thank the rain god for the rain he has sent to make our Crops grow.



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It is very exciting. Thousands of lanterns light up the night sky.



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Click on the picture to watch the Lantern Festival.



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We also have amazing firework displays.



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We hope that you have enjoyed learning about how we celebrate the Chinese New Year.



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Some of our customs have changed over time, but many Chinese people still celebrate the traditional Chinese New Year.



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Kung Hei Fat Choy

Kung Hei Fat Choy

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Happy Chinese New Year



# Your tasks: choose a task to complete

- Make a Chinese dragon - dt
- Design a new Chinese dragon – art
- Write a new version of Nian story – writing
- Perform a Dragon dance with your family – record this! PE
- Make some music using household items that would accompany a Dragon dance - Music