

- Also known as the 'Spring Festival'
- People all around the world celebrate it
- First day of the Chinese New Year-falls on new moon-appears between 21 January and 20 February
- Chinese New Year-associated with several myths and customs
- Every family-thoroughly clean their house, symbolically sweeping away any ill fortune to make way for incoming good luck
- Windows and doors-decorated with red paper-cuts and couplets representing themes such as good fortune, happiness, wealth, and longevity
- Activities-lighting firecrackers and giving money in red envelopes
- Different animals for each year that repeats with the 12 animals

Table that shows animals:

Gregorian	Date	Animal
2024	10 Feb	Dragon
2025	29 Jan	Snake
2026	17 Feb	Horse
2027	6 Feb	Goat
2028	26 Jan	Monkey
2029	13 Feb	Rooster
2030	3 Feb	Dog
2031	23 Jan	Pig
2032	11 Feb	Rat
2033	31 Jan	Ox
2034	19 Feb	Tiger

The legend of the why we celebrate Chinese New Year:
According to legend, Chinese New Year started with combating a mythical beast called the Nian (a beast that lives under the sea or in the mountains that looks like a lion with horns) during the annual Spring Festival. The Nian would eat villagers, especially children, in the middle of the night. One year, all the villagers decided to hide from the beast. An older man appeared before the villagers went into hiding and said that he would stay the night and would get revenge on the Nian. The old man put up red papers and set off firecrackers. The day after, the villagers came back to their town and saw that nothing had been destroyed. They assumed that the old man was a deity who had come to save them. The villagers then understood that the Nian was afraid of the colour red and loud noises. As the New Year approached, the tradition grew: villagers wore red clothing, hung red lanterns and spring scrolls on windows and doors, and used firecrackers and drums to frighten away the Nian. From then on, the Nian never came to the village again. The Nian was eventually captured by Hongjun Laozu, an ancient Taoist monk