Chinese New Year

25 January

This year the Chinese New Year falls on the same night as Burns Night, so you may want to use activity coordinator’s licence and do one or other on a different day! Why not celebrate the Chinese New Year on the Friday and keep Burns Night for the 25th? There are no real rules! The Chinese New Year is a great opportunity to explore the foods, traditions and crafts of another culture.

Chinese Fortune Sticks
All you need are felt tipped pens and lolly sticks which you can get from a craft store. Have enough for all residents and extra for staff. What To Do
Number them on the end, say 1-30.
Decorate the sticks with colourful squiggles and patterns.
Put them in a pot, number side down.
Ask your resident to pick a stick.
Match that stick to the corresponding fortune.
You may want to write the fortunes yourself so that they are suitable for your residents. Here are a few ideas:
1. You will be rewarded with chocolate
2. Good things come to those who wait
3. If at first you don’t succeed - try, try and try again
4. Patience is a virtue
5. Take a rest, you deserve it
6. Your first love has never forgotten you
7. Don’t be afraid to try something new
8. Practice makes perfect
9. The sun shines on the righteous
10. With age comes wisdom
11. Don’t hide your talents from others
12. You will soon be making a new friend
13. Good luck is coming your way
14. You will soon receive a letter
15. An important person will offer you support
Alternatively, write the fortunes out on paper and cut them up into strips. Fold up and pick them out of a hat.

Simple Chinese Lanterns
All you need is colourful A4 card and double-sided tape or a stapler. What To Do
Cut a strip off the shorter end of the card (about 1 inch wide) and reserve for the handle. Fold the remaining card in half lengthways. From the long folded side, cut into the card to about 1cm away from the other side, and repeat about 1cm apart along the length. Open up the card and bring the two shorter ends together to make a round lantern shape and secure with double sided tape or stapler. Attach the handle with tape, and push down on the top of your lantern to give it a more rounded shape. You could then thread them on to a string to make bunting!

Other Ideas
• Taste Chinese foods - homemade or takeaway.
• Explore the culture and traditions.

The Year Of The Rat

Have A Quiz
What is the name of the only man-made structure that came be seen from space? (Great Wall of China)
What does the flag of China look like? (Red with 1 large yellow star in top left and 4 smaller ones fanning out from it)
What is the currency of China? (Renminbi)
What do the Chinese use instead of a knife and fork? (Chopsticks)
What is the longest river in China? (The Yangtze)
In which year did Hong Kong return to Chinese rule and who was the last British governor? (1997, Chris Patten)
What is the capital city? (Beijing)
What was the name of the great Chinese philosopher and thinker? (Confucius)
What is the name of the endangered bear, which is also the symbol of the WWF, and what does it eat? (Panda, bamboo)

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