

# Chinese New Year

## INFORMATION

### Did You Know?

For weeks prior to the new year, Chinese families spring clean their houses and businesses, settle debts, and forgive each other for past wrongs.

On New Year's Eve all family members meet for a special reunion dinner. They eat traditional food cooked with symbolic ingredients such as water chestnuts and melon seeds, liver sausages and waxed ducks.

At midnight the new year is welcomed with explosions of firecrackers which are believed to frighten away evil spirits. The ground is strewn with a 'lucky' red carpet from the crackers. In the morning there are noisy street processions with lion dances, dragon dances and stilt walkers.

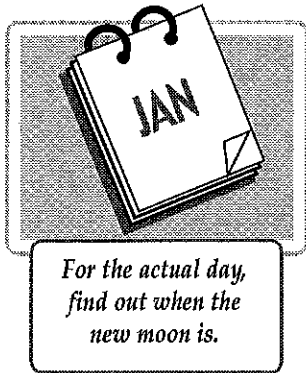
Over the new year, flowering plants and oranges are given to older relatives to symbolise long life and good luck. Grown ups give children crisp bank notes in red packets to symbolise prosperity and fortune.

Everyone wears brightly coloured new clothes and new shoes to greet the new year, and they visit family members and friends, starting with the eldest.

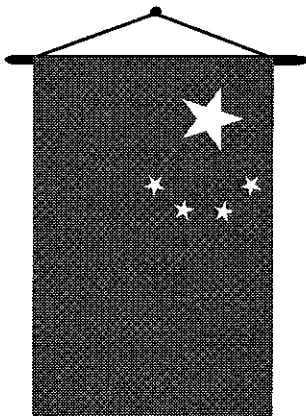
Special prayers are said for dead relatives, and bluff paper money is burned as an offering of respect for ancestors.

The seventh day of the new year is 'Everyone's Birthday', when all Chinese celebrate being one year older.

The new year celebration lasts 15 days and ends with a street parade when children carry coloured lanterns, and there is dancing in the streets, along with displays of fireworks.



For the actual day, find out when the new moon is.



Chinese Horoscope