

## Assembly notes: The Chinese New Year

Slide one: What is Chinese New Year and why is it on a different date from New Year's Day?

Slide two: What is this picture about?

- It shows children holding lanterns, last week, while taking part in a parade beginning Chinese New Year celebrations in Lisbon, Portugal.
- This important date on the Chinese calendar has been celebrated for many centuries. During the festivities, ancestors are honoured and traditional ceremonies are held. People all over the world dress up and welcome the New Year with customs that are believed to bring good luck, wealth, prosperity and happiness.

Slide three: Discuss — Why are over a billion people celebrating the Year of the Rat? (Ask for volunteers. Suggested answers: One out of every five people in the world is Chinese. There are 7.7 billion humans on planet Earth – not surprisingly, over a billion of them will celebrate the Chinese New Year, which in 2020 is the Year of the Rat.)

Slide four: Key facts about Chinese New Year and the Year of the Rat.

Slide five: What is this picture about?

- These adorable rats are called “Dumbo” rats because their sticking-out ears look a bit like the ears of Dumbo the elephant!
- Here they are on show for the Year of the Rat celebrations at Singapore Zoo.

Slide six: This video is a really child-friendly explanation of everything to do with the Chinese New Year and the Lunar New Year. (It was made to cover 2019 as well as 2020, *so don't be alarmed if it sounds out-of-date in one part!*) (8:20)

Slide seven: Discuss — Why do people call it Lunar New Year? (Volunteers.)

This is very much explained in the video, so this is a good way to follow up with a discussion.

Slide eight: A traditional Chinese blessing. (Discuss: Blessings in general, and wishing people well. What would we wish for our friends this year?)