Chinese New Year

1 Osserva le foto e il titolo della pagina web. Quali credi che sia il significato di Gung Hay Fat Choy? Leggi il brano e controlla la risposta.

‘Gung Hay Fat Choy!’
Han lives in London. He tells us about an exciting important festival:
Chinese New Year!

‘Chinese New Year is the most important festival of the year for our community. It’s always in January or February, but it depends on the moon. The New Year festival starts on the new moon and ends fifteen days later, on the full moon.

At New Year, Chinese people decorate their homes with traditional red decorations. Red brings good luck in Chinese culture.

On New Year’s Eve, families meet for a traditional meal. It is traditional to eat food that brings good luck.

For example, we have a whole chicken, because that is a symbol of wealth. And long noodles are a symbol of long life. It’s bad luck to cut them!

On New Year’s Day we often have fireworks and firecrackers outside. We wish each other Gung Hay Fat Choy, which means ‘Happy New Year!’ Chinese people don’t give presents at New Year. Instead, they give Li Shi. These are special red packets decorated with lucky symbols. A special event at New Year in London’s Chinatown is the Dragon Dance. People carry a ‘dragon’ and dance through the streets. The dragon frightens bad spirits away and brings good luck.

In the Chinese zodiac, each year is named after an animal. There are twelve different animals. I was born in 1992—the year of the monkey!’

2 Rileggi il brano. Decidi se le frasi sono True (T) o False (F). Correggi le frasi false.

   Every year Chinese New Year is on a different date.
   T

   The New Year festival is fifteen days.
   T

   Red is an unlucky colour for Chinese people.
   F

   Long noodles are a symbol of long life.
   T

   Li Shi is a traditional food.
   T

   In Chinatown in London, people carry a dragon and dance in the streets.
   T

   In Chinese culture, every year has the name of an animal.
   T

3 Qual è il tuo segno zodiacale occidentale? Cerca delle informazioni sul tuo segno e prendi degli appunti usando le seguenti domande per aiutarti:

   • What sign are you?
   • What are the good and bad characteristics of your sign?
   • Are any of these characteristics true for you? Which ones? Which are not true?

   Ora usa gli appunti per scrivere un breve paragrafo sul tuo segno zodiacale e la personalità che lo contraddistingue.

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