

Other names for the Chinese New Year are: Spring Festival because 'Start of Spring' is the first season in the traditional solar calendar, and Lunar New Year since the New Year is determined by the lunar calendar.

Dragon & lion dances are performed to scare away evil spirits. Someone has a "Pearl of Wisdom" on a pole and entices the Dragon to follow him to the beat of the drum, as if searching for wisdom and knowledge. Longer Dragons are thought to be luckier than shorter ones.

Billions of red envelopes with cash are given out from older to younger people during the Spring Festival. It's believed that the money will suppress the evil from the children, keep them healthy, and give them a long life.

New Year's Eve dinner, the most important dinner for the Chinese, is the family reunion dinner. Normally fish and dumplings, which signify prosperity, are served.

Days before the Chinese New Year, people will do a complete cleaning of the house, which signifies to remove the old and welcome the new.

According to tales & legends, the Chinese New Year started with the fight against a mythical beast, the "Year", who fears the color red, fire, and loud sounds.

Lunar New Year is a festival for 1/5 of the world's population!

Red or bright clothing is commonly worn on the Chinese New Year because it was believed that red scares away evil spirits & is a color of good luck. People typically wear new clothes to symbolize a new beginning and having more than enough things to use and wear in the New Year.

The world's biggest annual fireworks usage is during the Spring Festival; they are used to drive away evil spirits in China.

Chinese New Year Greetings:

Xinnian Kuai: happy New Year

Wan Shi Xu Yi: may your wishes be fulfilled

Ji Xiang Xu Yi: harmony & everything follows your will

Sui Sui Ping An: harmony & safety always