

Chinese Dragons Club

Mandarin Chinese for kids

2009 Chinese New Year Workshop

Welcome/Introduction

The teacher will introduce himself/herself to the class and, in some cases (depending on the age), ask the children to call him/her 'laoshi' (which means 'teacher' in Mandarin Chinese) throughout the session.

Magic Trick/ Juggling/ Making the children feel relaxed! etc.

In the opening few moments, the teacher will aim to relax the children as effectively as possible. Some teachers will perform a magic trick, juggle, sing etc. - it is a great opportunity to let the children know that their time with the teacher is going to be fun!

Their first Chinese words!

The teacher will then teach the children the basic introduction words in Mandarin Chinese i.e. hello, goodbye & thank you.

Basic Introduction to China

The teacher will also tell them about China's size, population and he/she will also emphasise that Beijing is the capital and that last year the city hosted the amazing 2008 Olympic Games. *This may be omitted for the younger children.*

Introduce Chinese New Year

The teacher will then give the children a brief intro to Chinese New Year i.e. it is China's largest festival and it marks the start of Spring; during this period Chinese people travel huge distances to be with their families to celebrate the coming year. Lots of different food is cooked, houses are cleaned of any evil/bad spirits, there are lots of fireworks and everyone has a great time. The teacher will also explain that children are one of the most important features of the period and they receive lots of presents, many of which we will be giving out during the workshop sessions! Lastly, the teacher will explain to the children that the beginning of each new Chinese New Year is marked by recognition of 1 of 12 animals – this year is the year of the Ox.

Fortune Cookies

The teacher will tell the children about lucky number 8 and unlucky number 4 and then all children will receive fortune cookies, each of which contains their fortune. The teacher will individually read with/ ask each child to read out their fortune. *Please note that the chopsticks do not contain nuts but should any form teacher require a list of ingredients in advance, we would be happy to send this through to the school.*

'Xinnian Kuaile'!

The teacher will then teach the children how to say 'Happy New Year' in Mandarin Chinese. 'Xinnian Kuaile'!

'Hóng bāo' / Red Envelopes

The teacher will give each child a red envelope and explain to them why they exist i.e. red is a lucky colour and they are given to people all around China at celebratory events such as Chinese New Year, weddings etc. The teacher will also emphasise the fact that in particular they are given to Chinese children during Chinese New Year. Each envelope will contain a caricature of an ox.

Chopsticks

Since 'eating' is such an important part of Chinese New Year, the teacher will tell the children about 'chopsticks' and teach each child how to use them! Each child will receive their own pair of chopsticks with which the children will play *speed pick-up* either in teams or pairs depending on the size of the class.

Colours Magic Trick / Colours Presentation

We will be teaching them 4 colours during the workshop and the teacher will use a visual aid to reinforce the meaning. Teachers will be performing 1 or 2 magic tricks to add a fun element to this section of the workshop.

Drawing Chinese Characters

The teacher will now teach the children how to write Chinese characters. We will be providing the children with bold black pens, silver glitter pens, red and yellow paper on which they will write their first Chinese characters. Due to the number of children involved in this activity, help from the form teacher would be very much appreciated!

Chinese Signs of the Zodiac

Every child will receive a fun colouring-in sheet of all the animals in the Chinese Zodiac calendar. The teacher will first ensure that every child can work out his/her animal year and next all the children will colour in the animals on the sheet being careful to circle their animal!

Reviewing what has been learnt and saying goodbye in Chinese!

The teacher will then teach the children how to say 'Happy New Year' in Mandarin Chinese. On the back of every colouring-in sheet, there is a list of the words that the children will have learnt during the session. The teacher will review the words and then ask the children all to say 'zaijian' (which means goodbye in Mandarin Chinese) to end the workshop.

Clear up

Equipment List – we will bring:

- Chinese fancy dress plus magic tricks/music/ etc. (this will vary from teacher to teacher)
 - Chinese New Year 'home-sheets' (double-sided) - to be given to each child at end of the workshop
 - Chopsticks - to be given to each child during the workshop
 - Fortune cookies – to be given to each child during the workshop
 - 'Hóng bāo' (red envelopes with Ox caricature) to be given to each child during the workshop
 - 30 x bold marker pens + silver glitter pens
 - A4 sheets of red paper for drawing characters
 - A4 sheets of yellow paper for drawing characters
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School to ideally provide:

- Coloured pens for colouring the animals in the zodiac at the end of the session
- (Access to) a plug in the wall for plugging in a basic ipod speaker
- Space to up to 30 children to sit *on the floor* for the first half of the session and space for up to 30 children to sit *at the table* for the second half of the session.
- Bins for the rubbish at the end!