

Hello!
恭喜发财
(kung hei fat choi)
Happy New Year!
My name is Liang.
This is part of my
diary from the
New Year
celebrations.



Chinese New Year

Jan 26th

Spending New Year with Auntie Lei in Hong Kong. It's going to be amazing - so different from New Year at home in the UK! Bought flowers today. So excited!

Jan 27th

Auntie Lei cleaned the house, to sweep away any bad luck. Then we went shopping for new clothes for NY. Bought a T-shirt - red for good luck!

Jan 29th

No time 4 diary last night - NY's Eve. Had to stay awake until 12. If you fall asleep before midnight, some Chinese say you won't live to be old! Chen fell asleep. Ha ha! We stuck the front door with lucky red paper so no unwelcome spirits could get in. There were fireworks going off everywhere! Were they loud!!! They're meant to scare off ghosts, etc. Now it's the Year of the Dog! Today, Grandma and Grandad came. We got another treat - all the children got money in lucky red envelopes.

Feb 4th

Today everyone celebrates being a year older.
We Chinese say New Year is everyone's birthday!

Feb 5th

Lots of friends and relatives dropped in.
Lush food!! Spring rolls, lucky red and gold fruit.

Feb 12th

The parade! It was fab!! Thousands of people on the streets. We nearly lost Chen. Balloons! Lion dancing! Floats! Lanterns, lanterns everywhere! Then the dancing dragon. It went on and on, snaking and dancing down the street. Auntie Lei says over 100 people were inside it. It was brilliant.

狗 = dog

AMAZING!

The longest ever dancing dragon contained 3200 people! It would have taken two hours to walk from one end to the other!



Question time

- How do people get ready for the Chinese New Year?
- What is important about the colour red?
- What makes you think the writer enjoyed the New Year celebrations?
- What sort of person do you think the diary writer is?
- What questions would you like to ask the writer?
- Why do people write diaries?



Boris Bug's things to do

- Make a list of words or phrases in the text that show it is written as an informal diary.
- Imagine you are writing a newspaper report of the Chinese New Year celebrations. Try re-writing the text using more formal words.
- Keep a diary for a few days. You can make up your own secret way of writing if you do not want other people to read it.



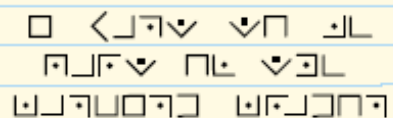
Work out the diary code!

Part of Liang's diary is written in a secret code. Can you work out what it says? Use the code grid and the example to get started.

This is called the pigpen code. Each letter is represented by the part of the pigpen that surrounds it. If it is the second letter in the box it has a dot too.

ab	cd	ef	st	a =
gh	ij	kl		uv
mn	op	qr	wx	w =
			yz	x =

Can you work out what Liang has written here?



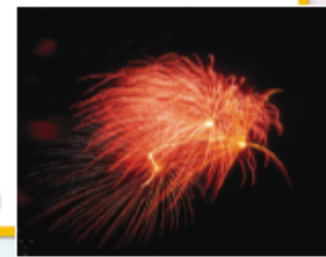
Write some messages to your friends using the pigpen code.



Sid Spider's things to find out

Find out why the Chinese name each year after an animal.

Find out about some of the many things invented in China, such as **paper**, **fireworks** and **silk**.



Key words

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| celebration | firework |
| Chinese | lantern |
| dancing | luck |
| diary | midnight |
| dragon | New Year |
| envelope | relative |

When were you born?

 1993 and 2005 rooster – hard-working	 1994 and 2006 dog – honest	 1995 and 2007 pig – easy-going	 1996 and 2008 rat – charming	 1997 and 2009 ox – good leader	 1998 and 2010 tiger – brave
 1999 and 2011 rabbit – affectionate	 2000 and 2012 dragon – popular	 2001 and 2013 snake – wise	 2002 and 2014 horse – independent	 2003 and 2015 ram – artistic	 2004 and 2016 monkey – intelligent

Coco Caterpillar's cartoon corner

