

Chinese New Year

Year 2

Subject Focus: Celebrations

★ Dance

Objectives Pupils will learn to:

- explain how and why they and their communities have celebrations
- reflect on and share their own experiences of celebration
- begin to understand its significance and symbolism for the believers
- identify some of the ways in which believers celebrate festivals
- recognise cultural diversity
- explain the importance of the festival to believers and their communities

- ★ respond to different stimuli with a range of actions
- ★ copy simple movement patterns from each other and explore the movement
- ★ choose movements to make into their own phrases with beginnings, middles and ends
- ★ practise and repeat their movement phrases and perform them in a controlled way
- ★ use simple dance vocabulary to describe movement
- ★ talk about dance, linking movement to moods, ideas and feelings.

Activity

- Ask the children: what year is it? What year was it last year? When did the year change? How did your family celebrate?
- Tell the children that the Chinese are celebrating New Year now.
- In their celebration they dance to show how everything is waking up.
- Read a Chinese New Year poem e.g. 'Chinese New Year' by Wendy Larmont and, second time through, ask the children to join in the first and last verses.
- Re-read the first verse.
- Follow teacher's actions for dragon dance.
- Begin curled on floor, stretch one arm in the air and tuck back in, repeat with other arm.
- Stretch one leg in air and tuck back in, repeat with other leg.
- Slowly stand up, keeping chin tucked to chest hiding face.
- Stretch and yawn and change facial expression to snarling dragon.
- Move around the room leading with arms above head, undulating up and down, bending knees to get as low as possible.
- Try these moves to some music.
- Re-read second verse and line by line ask the children to show how they would move to show e.g. banners flying. Choose a good example for everyone to use.
- Re-read third verse and do as above.
- Children perform whole dance to music ending with dragon going to sleep by reversing actions from first verse.

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- Ask the children how they felt when they were e.g. turning from a sleeping dragon to a snarling dragon
- As above but during the second verse split the class into four groups each performing actions to one line of the poem then swap roles e.g. banners become bands, bands become lions etc.
- Explore working with a partner within the group for actions in third verse
- Ask the children to watch each other's performance and comment on which actions showed the Old Year had ended and which showed the New Year was definitely awake.



Get moving,
Get learning

