



Finham Park MAT

Summer 26 Newsletter



Welcome to the summer edition of Finham Park MAT MEP Newsletter.



Welcome all.

The sun is finally shining and the summer holidays here to enjoy, after lots of exciting events have taken place for Mandarin students.

This newsletter celebrates the Chinese New Year event that took place at Lyng Hall School. Year 7 MEP students, from FP, FP2, MP and LH came together to take part a wide variety of activities.

I hope you were able to see their creative skills with the painted Chinese masks, Chinese knot key-rings and Moon cake shortbread, although I suspect they were eaten before you had a chance to taste their cooking skills.

Also, our year 7 Mandarin students visited China Town in Birmingham and used their Mandarin skills in native language situations, through a quiz, questionnaires and challenges. They also experienced a wide range Chinese food at buffet at Ming Moon restaurant.

This term was exam season for our year 11 MEP students and we wish them the very best of luck for GCSE results.

Finally, our year 9 students have just returned from their residential intensive learning trip to Shanghai, China. A carefully constructed itinerary blend of university study days, with cultural experiences, which will never to be forgotten. More on this in the next edition.

Best Wishes,

Vanessa Priest.

MAT MEP Intensive Learning Co-ordinator



Students learning
to dragon dance at
Fudan University,
Shanghai in 2025



Enjoying a boat ride in
The Water Village, Zhujiajiao.



Birmingham China Town Visit June 2026

MAT MEP year 7 Students

On a lovely sunny day in June, students from Lyng Hall, Meadow Park, Finham Park and Finham Park 2 visited China Town in Birmingham to put their year of Mandarin learning into practise.

They completed surveys with native Mandarin speakers, worked in teams to complete photo and language challenges and enjoyed the reward of a Chinese Buffet at Ming Moon restaurant.

This year Miss Mansell set a new photo challenge, to be shown in our next edition.

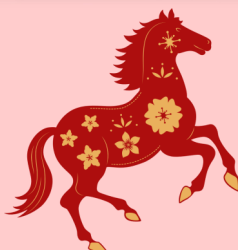




This Chinese New Year is the Year of the Horse. This represents speed, strength, and independence and is a symbol of passion, ambition, and adventure, and associated with optimism.

- Lucky Colors: Red, yellow, and green
- Lucky Numbers: 2, 3, 7
- Lucky Flowers: Calla lily, jasmine
- Lucky Directions: South, southeast

Year 9 Mandarin student helpers welcomed and supported year 7 Mandarin learners from Lyng Hall, Meadow Park, Finham Park and Finham Park 2.



Songs are one of the best ways to commit new language to long term memory...and the students love them! So of course there was a Chinese New Year Song ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SogrKDhvoMw>

The Chinese New Year Objectives...

01	ABOUT THE DAY	02	THE PLAN
	We are going to have fun learning about the Chinese culture and traditions of Chinese New Year		• Groupings • Activities • Quiz • Celebration
	<u>ABOUT THE DAY</u>		<u>PLAN FOR THE DAY</u>
03	CELEBRATIONS	04	ICONIC CRAFTS
	How do the Chinese celebrate Chinese New Year?		How creative are you? What will you make to celebrate Chinese New Year?
	<u>ABOUT THE CELEBRATIONS</u>		<u>ICONIC CRAFTS</u>

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Mandarin language learning takes a huge amount of dedication and hard work. The aim of the Chinese New Year event is for students to have fun learning about the culture and customs through art, crafts, drama and cooking.

This year we were extremely fortunate to have Tai Chi activity led by Yan Fu (Helen from the Confucius Institute in Coventry University).

The mixed school groupings gave students the opportunity to make new friendships through shared experience and is always hugely successful in cementing a love for Mandarin language learning and all things Chinese.

Students are able to take home the Chinese crafts and moon biscuits that they have made to share their memories and experiences of the day with family and friends.

Tai Chi

Thank you to Helen for leading 3 sessions of Tai Chi



FINHAM PARK

MAT MEP

Moon 'cake' biscuits

Cooking is one of the students' favorite activities and although not everyone could participate in cooking (due to Health and safety numbers), every student went home with shortbread moon biscuits made by themselves or their friends.

Moon cakes are traditionally eaten on Chinese New Year and take a very long time to make, so we adapted Moon cakes to become moon shortbread. Using New Year themed cutters, usually used for the moon cake tops, students worked in mixed school teams to bake all day long.

Huge thanks to Miss Coletta (LH) and Miss Mansell (FP2) for their efforts in the hot kitchen all day.

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**Mandarin
Excellence
Programme**



From Moon cakes to...



...to Moon biscuits





Masks have been used through the history of Chinese theatre and today they are very popular in ethnic operas. One very interesting detail is that every colour symbolizes certain characteristic!

It made everything easier for the audience who can know a character's personality from the first moment they see what mask is he wearing.



- **Red** mask indicates courage, heroism, bravery as well as loyalty.-
- **Yellow** mask indicates that the character is evil and cruel.-
- Interestingly, **black** indicates someone who is neutral.
- **Green** mask is used for violent characters.
- **Golden** and **silver** masks are reserved for supernatural creatures – gods and evil spirits."



Chinese Knot Keyrings

New for this year, Chinese New Year Keyrings. Students learnt how to make Chinese Knot from red thread and then created their own designs using Chinese symbols, beads and coins. We then added a keyring fob to complete the keyring. Such concentration!



KNOTS

A Chinese knot is a single length of rope (or cord) that is tied and weave into different shapes with coins or bells on the hanging cord.

- ward off evil spirits
- symbol of longevity and eternity
- good-luck charms

Today you will make your own Chinese Knot Keyring complete with lucky coin.



Mandarin
Excellence
Programme



JULY
2026



Mandarin
Excellence
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MEADOW PARK
SCHOOL



Conclusion

Diary of events



Thank you to all the staff who have taught Mandarin this year and helped to make the extra curricula learning events a success.

Particular thanks to Confucius Institute at Coventry University and the teaching, support, admin and catering staff at Lyng Hall for their efforts and hard work in making the Chinese New Year 2026 event one to remember.

Congratulations to the students for their dedication to learning Mandarin in school and at home, with the invaluable support of parents and carers.

zhòng yào rì qī 重要日期 Important dates

Year 7 Mid Autumn festival –

Friday 25th September 2026

Year 7 Chinese New Year –

Friday 5th February 2027

Year 7 China Town Birmingham –

Friday 18th June 2027

Year 8 Event – TBC

Year 9 Residential trip to China – To be confirmed by MEP and British Council later in the year.

Year 10 – Tourism Project

Year 10 – University visit