

大年初一派发红包

2014年1月31日，是中国马年的第一天，也就是传统的大年初一。在英国的伦敦 St Mary Magdalene Academy 校园里迎新年的活动正式开始并要持续 15 天。校园里到处洋溢着中国新年的气氛。大厅里挂满了红灯笼，窗户上、教室的门上贴满了福字、春字和马年的图案。教师们今天都在自己或灰色或黑色的职业装上点缀了红色，女教师红色的裙子、毛衣，男教师红色的领带和围巾，这一切都告诉人们——今天是中国的新年。（见图片）

尤其让孩子们兴奋的是，今天学校会像往年那样派发红包。只要准确的说出：“新年快乐，恭喜发财”和正确的做出作揖的动作，就会从中文老师的手中得到一个装着中国茉莉花茶茶包和利是糖的红包。早在一个星期前，孩子们就已经在练习这两句中文了。楼道里总是会听到“新年快乐，恭喜发财”的声音，中文教室的门也常常被学生推开，让中文老师帮助纠正发音。因为，要拿到那个红包不是很容易的，要有标准的发音和标准的动作。

大年初一，一大早，孩子们就把他们的中文老师——詹妮佛和来自汉办 IOE 孔院的郑洁、朱淼老师围了起来，争先恐后地用标准的中文说出“新年快乐，恭喜发财！”欢天喜地地接过了代表吉祥、祝福的红包。在此后的十五天，这两句吉祥话，会在学校的各个地方听到。

在 St Mary Magdalene Academy 每年都会举行各种庆祝中国新年的活动，今年由于两位汉办老师的到来更加丰富多彩！

（见图片）

英国 IOE 孔院 郑洁 朱淼

2014年2月5日

Chinese New Year celebration at St Mary Magdalene Academy

The year of the horse began on Friday 31st January 2014 as the year of the snake came to an end. Celebrations in St Mary Magdalene Academy also started on the very same day and continue throughout the 15 days.

Weeks prior to Chinese New Year, the whole school was being decorated with various traditional Chinese decorations creating an atmosphere of rejoicing and festivity. Bright red lanterns were hung on the pillars, all the doors were decorated with Chinese New Year couplets, Chinese calligraphy with black characters on red paper delivered the message of wealth, luck and prosperity. Classroom doors and windows beautifully decorated with horse-shaped ornaments and upside down “Fu” (meaning blessings) characters. In Chinese, the “reversed fu” means “blessings come from heaven”. It is a very popular character for Chinese to have in their house to welcome blessing into their families.

All staff members at the school showed their excitement for this festival by wearing a piece of red item on the first day of Chinese New Year. Strolling around the school, the red and gold colours were in sight. It created such breath-taking and joyful scenery to see everyone joining in Chinese New Year festival celebration. (see photo)

The students were especially excited because like in previous years, the Mandarin department gave out up to one thousand Chinese red packets containing traditional Chinese Jasmine tea bags and lychee flavoured candies. It was a very thoughtful blessing to give and yet a great chance to introduce Chinese New Year customs to the students in a lively context.

However, in order for the students to be able to receive a red packet from the Mandarin teacher, they must first bow respectfully with clasped hands and deliver the following two lines in fluent Chinese, “Xīn nián kuài lè, gōng xǐ fā cái” which means “Happy New Year, wishing you prosperity”. All the students started to practice these two lines weeks before the Chinese New Year approached. Since the red packets were limited, the Mandarin teachers became quite strict with the accuracy of the tones pronounced by the pupils. Throughout the 15 days of Chinese New year, the sound of “Xīn nián kuài lè,

gōng xǐ fā cái” consistently echoed in the corridor as well as in the classrooms, reflecting the harmonious spirits all around.

Every year, St Mary Magdalene Academy holds a massive celebration for Chinese New Year. This year, the additional staff members from Han Ban/IOE Confucius Institute have indeed added extra cultural spirits to the Academy.
(see photo)

The Confucius institute of IOE

Zhengjie Zhumiao

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