Has Chinese New Year been through a Cultural Revolution?

Video transcript for “What's the symbolism behind traditional Chinese New Year objects?”

Chinese New Year is the most important festival in China, just like Christmas in UK.

This is the first year that we are not in Hong Kong in Chinese New Year so we are now going to go to China Town to buy something to celebrate New Year here.

Every couplet has four words that has a lucky meaning in mainland China. This is a popular one “Gung Xi Fa Cai” which means to be very wealthy. We usually stick these couplets on the door or on the wall and make the whole house more colourful with this red paper.

These are the beautiful red paper lanterns that we hang on the ceiling of the house or outside the house back in the old Chinese villages. The significance of the lanterns is to bring luck to our house, especially when the colour is red.

Fire crackers. Fire and the sound of the fire crackers is to scare away a monster that is called ‘year’ in China. The year symbolises something evil so we have to play the fire crackers to scare it away. But this is not a real one, it's a fake one, because maybe it's illegal to play fire crackers in the UK!

Usually the parents give children red packets during the New Year to bless them, to hope that the children can grow faster, have a better academic result and to be healthier for the coming year. Like this one is the word for luck. And this is the tangerine because the pronunciation of tangerine in Chinese is equal to luck also.

Happy New Year – Gung Xi Fa Cai!