

WORD OF THE MONTH

resolution

Meaning a firm decision to do something. Every year, around New Year's Eve or New Year's Day, many people decide to commit to something over the course of the coming year. Such decisions are called New Year resolutions. Popular ones include exercising more, eating more healthily or picking up a new skill. What are your 2026 resolutions?

For kids only

Colour, solve and explore! This page will appear monthly, offering hands-on activities for families as part of The Straits Times' new series on managing screen time.

LIGHT UP THE NEW YEAR

Singapore – and many cities around the world – was bathed in fireworks at midnight on Jan 1. Not all fireworks are the same. Some erupt immediately from ground level, while others first launch as a shell into the air before exploding. See if you can spot the names of different kinds of fireworks in the word search puzzle below. The words may be horizontal or vertical.



ROMAN
CANDLE

MINE

ROCKET

AERIAL
SHELL

SPARKLER

SAXON

PALM

BROCADE

CELEBRATE PONGAL

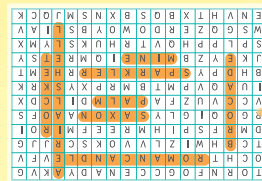
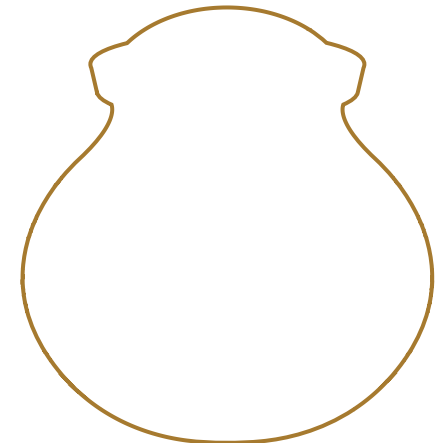
Pongal is a Hindu harvest festival celebrated by the Tamil community. It is dedicated to thanking the Hindu sun deity Surya, nature and farm animals. It marks the start of the Tamil month of Thai and was celebrated from Jan 14 to 17 in 2026.

Traditionally, a dish also called pongal is made during the festival. The mixture of sweet rice is typically cooked in a claypot until it boils over, to symbolise abundance. The dish is offered to Surya and served to family members and visitors.

Pongal pots are frequently painted with designs like flowers, leaves or mandalas, then decorated with turmeric leaves or flower garlands. How would you decorate your pot?

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know there's a type of Chinese folk art where blacksmiths cast hammered molten iron against a surface like a wall, creating a shower of sparks that looks like fireworks? This artform is called "iron flower" and is popular in areas such as Henan and Shanxi in China.



Relax & colour

When was the last time you visited East Coast Park? Here are some fun activities to enjoy with your family the next time you head there. In the meantime, bring this page to life with your colour pencils, crayons or markers.

