



For Kids only

In this month's kids' activity page, get creative with your colouring pencils, weave a card that looks like a ketupat and learn about a fun New Year tradition in Thailand.

WORD OF THE MONTH

Measles

Is it just a harmless rash or something more serious? Measles, a disease which is on the rise now, is highly contagious, meaning it spreads very easily. It spreads through droplets in the air and you may catch it when someone with the virus coughs or sneezes near you.

In 2026, Singapore has recorded 15 measles cases as at Feb 23, a significant rise compared with the past few years. Besides getting a rash on the skin, your respiratory system can be affected by measles. It can lead to more serious problems such as lung infections, hearing loss and, in severe cases, death.

In Singapore, children must get a shot to be protected against measles. The vaccination is also mandatory for school enrolment.



ST ILLUSTRATION: Lim Yong



DID YOU KNOW?

Songkran marks the start of the Thai New Year. The festival is held on April 13 every year, and usually lasts three days.

At this festival, water plays a big part, with water fights happening all over Thailand. It symbolises "washing away" the previous year to welcome a new one. People gather big buckets of water, sometimes with blocks of ice in them, and water guns, then they hit the streets to playfully soak one another.

Songkran is also a time for tradition. Many families visit Buddhist temples together to seek blessings for the upcoming year. At home, younger people pour scented floral water on the hands of their elders to show their respect and ask for blessings.

Join in Songkran festivities at the Royal Thai Embassy, Singapore on March 29 from 10am to 7pm. Admission is free.

LET'S CELEBRATE HARI RAYA PUASA!

Make a ketupat-themed card by following these instructions. You will need:

- The green and yellow strips on this page
- A piece of art card or drawing block, about 18cm by 9cm
- A pair of scissors (or an adult's help in cutting out the pieces)
- A second piece of art card or drawing block, about 18cm by 9cm
- A pair of scissors (or an adult's help in cutting out the pieces)
- Glue

TIP
Be careful when handling scissors as they are sharp!

- 1 Cut out the pieces along the dotted lines.
- 2 Use the square card as the base. Paste the ends of the three green strips on the left side of the card.
- 3 Do the same with the three yellow strips on the bottom of the card.

- 4 Flip the card over. Fold down each strip.
- 5 Now, begin weaving the ketupat. Tuck the first green strip under the first yellow strip, then place it over the second yellow strip. Then tuck it under the third yellow strip. You should see this sequence: yellow, green, yellow.

- 6 For the second green strip, place it over the first yellow strip, tuck it under the second yellow strip, then over the third yellow strip. This row should show green, yellow, green. Repeat step 5 for the last green strip.

- 7 Flip the square over, then glue down the strips.
- 8 Paste the chevron-shaped pieces at one of the corners of the card.

- 9 Fold the larger piece of card, then paste your woven design on one side to make the card.

