

Kem's Good Luck

Kem was excited; so excited. It was to be Chinese New Year. She, and her Mum and Dad were all getting ready for the big celebration and party. But one thing was bothering her, really bothering her. Just at the back of her mouth, one of her baby teeth was loose, and no matter how much she wiggled it with her tongue, it wouldn't come free.

The day started early; Kem was given a dustpan and brush and told her job was to sweep the stairs, to sweep up all the bad luck from last year so good luck could come in at New Year. Mum was busy with a broom in the kitchen and Dad was hovering the front room. Kem started at the top of the stairs as she had been told but all the time, despite how excited she was, she kept having to stop to give that loose tooth a wiggle. So annoying and frustrating!

When all the bad luck had been swept away and put in the bin, it was time to help Mum in the kitchen cooking. Part of the feast tonight was to be traditional dumplings. These were called Jiaozi and Mum and Kem set about mixing the ingredients. They were meant to look like gold bars and Kem's job was to make the dumplings into bar shapes. But all the time, however much she was enjoying herself amongst all the smells and tastes in the kitchen; wiggle, wiggle, wiggle with no success.

Mum said, "I've just got to put a special, secret ingredient into one of the dumplings, you go and see how your Dad is getting on. It's a secret and I don't want you to see."

Kem was disappointed and excited but off she went to find Dad. Wiggle, wiggle, wiggle as she went.

Dad was standing at the front door busily doing another traditional New Year job. In one hand was a pot of red paint, in the other, a paint brush. "You know red is our lucky colour? Well, I've got to paint the front door red so good luck will be welcomed into our house. Do you want to help?"