

たのしい にほんごこうざ よていひょう

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Sunday

AM10:00~AM11:45



Shiojiri Sogo Bunka center 2F No.204

「ようこそ」Newsletter No.12 (2025. 1)

Shioiiri City Civic and Regional Affairs Department.

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Shiojiri City Foreign Residents Consultation Desk Newsletter



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ようこそ means "welcome" in English

No.12



Happy New Year

We will continue to provide useful information in 2025 as well.

Wishing you all the best in the new year!

What is 干支 (the Japanese zodiac signs) ?

During the New Year holidays, you can see Japanese zodiac signs in various places, including on calendars and New Year's cards. The Japanese zodiac was introduced from China (as the Chinese zodiac) and is one of the cultural elements that has taken firm root in Japan. The twelve zodiac signs in Chinese astrology are represented by the 12 animals. It makes a circuit by 12 years.

2025 is the Year of the Snake.

Order of the Japanese zodiac



According to a folk tale, the order of the twelve zodiac signs was decided by which animal gave its new year's greetings to the God first.



A website for foreign nationals living in Japan,

Where they can learn

Japanese useful for daily life.



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Words often used for 年始 (New Year's)

New Year's refers to the period from January 1st to around January 7th, when the year begins.

Ha tsu mo u de 初詣

(First visit to a shrine or temple)

Going to visit a shrine or temple for the first time in the new year. We pray that the new year will be a good one. You can buy a new amulet or return the old one you bought a year ago to the shrine or temple. Many people go to visit the temple on the 3rd day (January 1st to 3rd) and Matsunouchi (January 1st to 7th).

。miku ji おみくじ(Fortune slip)

It is a "lottery" for fortune-telling wishes and the future. It says "good luck" or "bad luck". "Kichi" means good and "kyo" means bad. There are also shrines and temples where you can tie your fortune slip to a tree. You can also take the fortune slip home with you.

o to shi da ma お年玉(New Year's gift)

It is the giving of money or things to celebrate the New Year. In the past, New Year's gifts were rice cakes. When giving money, put it in a Pochibukuro (a small paper bag). It is common for fathers, mothers, grandparents, and other relatives to give New Year's gifts to children.