

しょうがつ
お正月 New Year's holiday

もうすぐ soon

いえ＝うち

しめかざり door decoration

しめます to close

かざり decoration

かがみもち Rice cake decorated with pine/orange

おきます to put down/place

「 」 a quote or a 'name'

おてら Buddhist temple

かね bell

おと sound

きこえます able to hear/can hear

はじまります (something)starts

あけましておめでとうございます

じんじゃ Shinto Shrine

ひきます to pull on something

おせち料理 – Why do we eat this???



くろまめ： Black soy beans seasoned with sugar/soy sauce. まめ sounds like the word for ‘hard work & good health’ so eating these brings you good health for the coming year

かずのこ： Herring roe/eggs – this contains many tiny eggs and is eaten as a wish for an abundant harvest and also fertility.



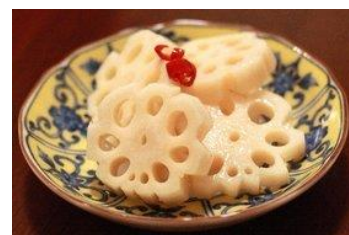
だてまき： Sweet omelet mixed with fish paste – looks like a scroll so eating this is a wish for good success in school

くりきんとん -Mashed Sweet Potato and Chestnuts - きんとん means ‘golden dumpling’ so this is about ‘wealth’ via gold & silver. You eat this for economic fortune.



えび – Shrimp - The shrimp’s long antennae and curved body (like the body of the elderly) are a symbol of long life.

すばす – Vinegar Lotus Root – It has holes which will give you a clear view of the future.



こんぶまき – Dried Herring Wrapped in Seaweed. こんぶ sounds like よろこぶ meaning ‘to be happy’

おたふくまめ – Large Broad Beans – the kanji for ‘many’ 多 and ‘fortune’ 福 are included in this name – so eating them is designed to bring you the good fortune for the year. お多福

