



Whitstable Junior School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you regarding the Houses we have at WJS. We have been wondering for quite some time whether it is time to renew these. Currently the four houses are Marlowe, Caxton, Wolfe and Becket. These are all famous men from Kent and have been part of the school since it was an all-boys school. Whilst we love the fact that these Houses are part of the WJS history, we are mindful that they reflect a very different period to the one that your children are now growing up in.

At WJS we want to ensure that your children's learning experiences are relevant, reflect equality of opportunity and an understanding of the wider community ...'Learning today, for life tomorrow'. Our curriculum drivers are adventure, resilience, community, independence, challenge and curiosity and we portray these through a variety of animals living on our curriculum tree. We talk about giving children the "roots to grow and the wings to fly".

Considering all this, we have thought that maybe it is time for a change and we would like to ask your opinion. Our thinking has been drawn to having Houses that not only reflect our curriculum tree but that also embrace the school's desire to acknowledge how important our natural environment is. We know how valuable trees are to our environment and believe that our Houses could each be named after a species of tree e.g. Oak House, Ash House, Cedar House etc.

This idea has also been shared with the children and they will have a chance this week to complete a survey regarding this in school. We really want this to be a decision made by everyone. If the decision is to change to names of tree species then we will ask the children to vote for the four they like best later on in the term.

I hope you will be able to spare a few minutes to complete the survey regarding this suggestion as we value your thoughts. The link is below and can be accessed through the school website if you have received this letter as a paper version.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/F8NLZWY> (Survey will close on Friday 6th March 2020)

The House colours of Red, Blue, Green and Yellow will remain the same and children would stay in the same colour House that they already belong in. We understand that families have belonged to the same House over a number of years and there is a certain amount of nostalgia around this.

However, we feel certain that a change would bring about a new lease of life for our community and the process would enable every child to be involved in making important decisions about their school. We will involve the children in the whole process including designing new images for each house, which we think, will be very exciting for them.

We look forward to reading your responses.

Kind regards,

AMKnoupe

Annie Knoupe
Headteacher

