

Whitstable Junior School

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2nd June 2020

WJS New House Names

Dear New Parents/Carers,

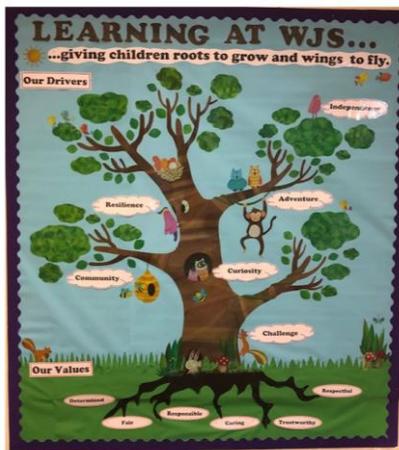
I am writing to you regarding the Houses we have at WJS. We had been wondering for quite some time whether it was time to renew these. Currently the four houses are Marlowe, Caxton, Wolfe and Becket. These are all famous men from Kent and have been part of the school since it was an all-boys school. Whilst we loved the fact that these Houses were part of the WJS history, we were mindful that they reflect a very different period to the one that our children are now growing up in. It was decided that we would ask everyone what they thought. During term 3 we held a survey and asked the children, parents and carers, Governors and all staff if they felt it was time for us to have a change. The survey came back as YES and it was decided that we would change our House names to trees.

I've been thinking that it would be lovely for the children joining us in September to be involved in the next steps. Below is a link to a very short survey for the children to complete. This survey will decide which 4 trees will become the new House names for WJS.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ZGG2P8V>



The survey will close on Friday 5th June and we will move to the next phase of allocating colours to the 4 trees chosen. The children will do this via another survey link. The House colours will be the same colours as now, red, blue, green and yellow.



We want our Houses to be meaningful and represent what we believe in as a school and so we will be linking them to our curriculum drivers; Adventure, Resilience, Community, Independence, Challenge and Curiosity. On our driver tree these are represented by creatures. Every House will have the drivers; "independence" represented by a bird about to fly and "community" represented by a bee hive. Then we want the children to choose one of the four drivers left to be assigned to each tree Adventure (monkey), Resilience (woodpecker), Challenge (squirrel) and Curiosity (owl). This driver will be the one that that House is responsible for leading through the school.

The new House names will start September 2020 and children will stay in the same colour House that they already belong in. New children joining the school will be allocated in the same way they always have been. We put brothers and sisters in the same House.

We are very excited about the change and we are looking forward to involving the children as much as is possible in the whole process. I hope your child would like to be involved too.

Warm wishes,
Annie Knoupe
Headteacher