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Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**RE: Letter from the Principal, Mr Graham**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your family had both an enjoyable and restful Bank Holiday weekend! I would like to take this opportunity to update you on some developments at Gorse Hill School.

**A new House System:**

In order to support the children's pastoral development through promoting both collegiality, collective reward and healthy competition, in the not too distant future, we will be introducing a House System at Gorse Hill School. Each child in every year group will be allocated a House Team, for which they will remain in during their primary school career. Once established, the House System will involve a range of events, including sport and music, as well as assemblies – this is a fantastic way of enabling the children to feel a proud part of a community within our school community and build allegiance and loyalty to their House Team!

This week, I asked the children to vote on the theme for our House Team names and I am delighted to inform you that the most popular vote is **'the elements'**. As a result, once rolled out, our four House Teams will be:

- **Blue Water**
- **Red Fire**
- **Green Earth**
- **Yellow Air**

Further information about our House System will be shared in due course, and we will of course inform you when your child/ren have been assigned to their House Team so you know which House they belong to.

**Modern Foreign Languages:**

I am delighted to inform you that our Year 5 and 6 children have started to learn French as their primary modern foreign language. In the second half of the summer term, French lessons will be introduced to our Year 3 and 4 pupils. Modern foreign languages are an important part of our national primary curriculum and not only equip children with the fundamental language skills of a foreign language, but also allow them to learn about the history and culture of that country too. Merveilleux (Marvellous)!

### **Parent Survey:**

As parents and carers, your feedback on our school is most valuable. Therefore, I would like to invite you to complete a short survey to provide feedback to us. You can access the survey through a link which will be sent to you. The survey is open until Friday afternoon, and your responses are greatly appreciated.

### **Relationships, Health & Sex Education (RHSE)**

Our draft RHSE Policy and supporting resources are available for parents to read and provide feedback on between Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May. Our policy outlines the statutory and non-statutory areas covered under RHSE. Parents and carers can provide feedback on these resources through accessing:

<https://gorsehill.swindon.sch.uk/information-for-parents/rhse-intended-engagement-plan?>

This is available up to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May. The school will then provide parents with answers to the most popular questions. The password to access these resources is: GHRHSE21

### **Our school's CARE Values:**

At Gorse Hill School, we encourage our children to be **'the best versions of ourselves, all of the time'**. This ethos is underpinned by our CARE Values:

**C** – We show **courage** when faced with a challenge;

**A** – We show **appreciation** of the rights, faiths and beliefs of others;

**R** – We **respect** and take **responsibility** for ourselves, each other and our environment;

**E** – We aim for **excellence** through having high expectations.

If you do have any questions about the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to speak with myself or a member of staff.

As always, stay safe and stay well.

Yours sincerely,



Mr L Graham  
Principal