



#WeAreLemington

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A LETTER TO THE PARENTS AND CARERS OF LEMINGTON RIVERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL, FROM MARGARET SHIPLEY – OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS...

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are coming to the end of a school year which has seen great changes. The retirement of Mrs Susan Hall in December marked the end of a long period of service in which she worked very hard to care for your children, inspire them to work very hard and make great achievements while with us and also to encourage them to aspire to great things in the future. Mrs Eva Hall also retired. She was a long serving member of staff with responsibility for Early Years. I know you will join me in wishing both of them a long and happy retirement.

Mr Heeley joined us in January as our new Head Teacher. He has great energy and enthusiasm and his achievements over only 2 terms have been amazing as those of you who follow the school on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and on our school website will know.

He managed to get sponsors for the school sports kit and the blue and white colours make our children very easily identifiable in the matches and competitions they enter. I know Mr Heeley and the children very much appreciate the support you give them at all the sporting activities you attend. Three Year 5 pupils have had trials for the Newcastle Schools Football Team, we came 3rd in the OWL Trust cycling competition, we competed in the Newcastle cross country championships for the first time and Year 5/6 boys came 3rd in the Duffy League of schools from the west of Newcastle, only 1 point off second place which is very impressive as it was our first season with a football team and we are one of the smallest schools in the league. Rugby has also been developed with a lunchtime rugby club and membership of the Newcastle Thunder Rugby League Club.

The new school logo, which many of you saw unveiled at the Lemington Festival at the end of June, is very refreshing and our image is very important in reflecting our place in the Lemington community – 'We Are Lemington' is an important



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message and we are very impressed by the work of all the children who submitted ideas for the logo and particularly Jack and Daniel whose design was chosen.

Attendance continues to be a problem. We do ask you to try to ensure that your children attend school as regularly and punctually as possible if they are to make the best of their talents and achieve well both now and in the future. Your cooperation is vital in this and the happiness and wellbeing of your children depends on good achievements. The vast majority of you do understand this and we appreciate the encouragement you give your children and the support you give school in our effort to do our best for them.

The school offers our children great opportunities both in the classroom, where a new and very exciting curriculum is being developed for September, and outside the classroom where a great number of visits have been arranged to widen their experience for example to Kingswood for Key Stage 2 children to participate in a wide range of outdoor activities over 3 days, to Edinburgh, to Beamish where Year 3/4 investigated coal mining as part of the work they were doing in school and to the River Tyne where Year 4/5 had a very exciting cruise which they really enjoyed.

School continues to gain great benefit from membership of the OWL Trust. Mr Heeley has had great support from senior staff in the OWL Trust as he settles in to Lemington Riverside Primary School. Similarly staff and governors have benefited from meetings to update them on curriculum, safeguarding, good teaching practices and moderation and children have benefited from the many sporting contacts mentioned above. We were very appreciative of Knoplaw's kind invitation to us to use their playing fields for our sports day.

Now the school year draws to a close. I hope you will enjoy the holiday period with your children and look forward to seeing most of you in September. To the parents of Year 6 children, I recognise that you are about to embark into the new world of secondary school. I wish you all the very best and hope the transition is successful.

With best wishes,

Margaret Shipley, Chair of Governors.



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