



#WeAreLemington

Headteacher: **Mr. C Heeley**

Rokeby Street,

Lemington,

Newcastle upon Tyne,

NE15 8RR.

T: 0191 267 4315

E: admin@lemingtonriverside.newcastle.sch.uk

W: lemingtonriverside.newcastle.sch.uk

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A LETTER TO THE CHILDREN OF LEMINGTON RIVERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL, FROM MRS. SHIPLEY – OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS...

Dear Girls and Boys,

This has been a very important year for Lemington Riverside Primary School. At the end of December Mrs Susan Hall retired having been Head Teacher here for many years. While she was here she built up a strong school and a caring and protective environment in which you were expected to work hard and achieve as well as you possibly could and at the same time develop a wide range of interests. We also said goodbye to Mrs Eva Hall, a long standing member of staff who did so much to settle you in to Early Years and launch you on a path to great achievements.

In January we welcomed Mr Heeley as our new head Teacher. He has got to know you all very quickly and puts an enormous amount of energy into all he does in school. He has given you many opportunities, developing a wide range of sporting activities – football, rugby, dodgeball, fencing, cycling, cross country running and dancing - which have led to some very impressive performances and competitions with schools in the OWL Trust and other schools in the city. Year 5/6 boys' football team came 4th in the Duffy League and were only 1 point off coming second. We have joined the Newcastle Thunder Rugby League Club and there is a rugby league club every Wednesday lunchtime and coaching for Year 2 and Year 3/4. We also had a visit from an international rugby star! The very smart blue and white sports kit which helps to develop the identity of the school has also been introduced by Mr Heeley.

A very exciting change has been Mr Heeley's idea to develop the new logo with the #WeAreLemington hashtag and the design made by Jack and Daniel in Year 6. I was very proud to see so many of you at the Lemington Festival at the end of June when the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Councillor David Cook, opened the Festival and the new logo was unveiled by Jack and Daniel supported by children from each class.

Congratulations to Neirin and Olivia who were given the Newcastle School Achievement Award at a ceremony at the Civic Centre for their attitude and effort in school. Well done! Your photograph taken at the ceremony made me very proud.



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Another change which has got you involved with the local community is the litter picking in your new kit which shows that you care for your local area. Meanwhile our established links have continued with Fish Club run by members of the local Methodist Church and regular visits to their church for reading and refreshments and to Sugley Church for our Christmas service and to look around the church with Father Neil who is a member of our Governing Body.

Your very impressive work on Lemington history was displayed at the Lemington Festival and I was pleased to hear that people were very keen to buy your pictures.

You have had the opportunity to make visits outside school to West Denton Fire Station, Gibside where Year 6 had the chance to meet Year 6 pupils from other OWL Trust schools many of whom they will get to know better when they change schools in September, Edinburgh and Kingswood where Key Stage 2 children had a 3 day residential outdoor activity visit. Year 3/4's visit to Beamish as part of their work on mining sounded very interesting and I was really pleased to hear how much Year 4/5 had enjoyed their cruise on the Tyne – the photos were lovely and I hear that you were very reluctant to get off the boat at the end!

Sadly, attendance continues to be a problem and just a few pupils pull our overall attendance rate down. Despite this, many of you have very good attendance and the half termly events, introduced by Mr Heeley, for those with high attendance, and the weekly draw for a book for those with 100% attendance and punctuality are very popular.

Congratulations to those of you who have served as House Captains and Deputy House Captains and have encouraged your members to earn house points for polite manners, kind acts, helpfulness and great work which lead to the award of the trophy to the House with the best overall results which I know brings great pride. Congratulations also to those of you who have served on the School Council and Eco Council and share a responsibility for protecting our environment.

Now we are coming to the end of a very busy year. You and all you teachers have deserved a well-earned rest! Enjoy your summer holidays and keep yourselves and others safe. Those of you who are coming back in September will find a number of changes. You will have newly painted classrooms and Reception and Nursery will move back into Early Years where a great deal of repair work has been done to the flooring and toilets. You have a new and exciting curriculum to look forward to which the staff have been working hard on.

Year 6 pupils will be moving on to secondary school in September and we wish them all the very best and hope they will settle in quickly, make lots of new friends as well as keeping up with their friends from Lemington Riverside. We look forward to hearing from you and hope you will keep in touch and make visits from time to time. We hope also that you will be happy and successful in all you do!

With best wishes,

Margaret Shipley, Chair of Governors.



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