



#WeAreLemington

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**END OF YEAR MESSAGE TO THE CHILDREN OF LEMINGTON RIVERSIDE
FROM OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS, MRS. SHIPLEY**

Dear Girls and Boys,

This has been a very unusual year for you, your parents and carers and all the staff at Lemington Riverside as it has been for everyone outside school. The letter I sent to you at the end of last year in July 2019 promised you an exciting year ahead when you returned after the summer holidays and indeed it was for 6 months.

The year began last September and until March you had the usual wonderful range of activities to enjoy in addition to your lessons.

Sport featured very strongly with swimming lessons, the 'Super Splash Roadshow', football for boys and girls in Years 5 and 6 and the boys' success in reaching the English Schools' F.A. Cup Newcastle Finals with some fantastic wins and in January being runners-up in the Small Schools Tournament. Year 5/6 boys' football won the majority their games in the Duffy League and moved to the top of the league, eventually finishing in joint 2nd place. The dodgeball team finished 2nd in the OWL Trust Dodgeball Championships. Years 5 and 6 attended the Sports Hall Athletics Competition at Walker Dome and our basketball team came 4th in the OWL Trust Basketball Tournament.

There were local visits to the Methodist Church for reading and refreshments and the Harvest Festival and your generous donations to the Lemington Food Bank were very much appreciated

There were music events like the Rock Band project for Years 3-6 and Years 1 and 2 began music lessons in February.

Year 6 and Year 1 had weekly art workshops as part of the community art project.

Many of you had visits out of school. Year 6 visited Lindisfarne. Early Years went by train and ferry to North Shields and South Shields and later visited Leazes Park, the



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Discovery Museum and the Angel of the North. Class 3/4 visited the Castle Keep and Year4/5 visited St James' Park.

Before Christmas all of you went to see 'Cinderella' at North Shields Exchange Theatre and then you gave your own performances in school. Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 performed '5 Gold Rings', Years 1 and 2 did 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel' and Nursery and Reception performed a lovely Nativity play. They were all wonderful performances and we in the audience greatly enjoyed them and were very proud of your talents. Eve Porter from Year 5 created the winning entry for the Christmas card competition for Sugley Church.

The school choir performed at John Lewis, singing lovely Christmas songs for the customers and raising a large amount of money for our new school library.

The School Council organised a coffee morning which raised over £100 to sponsor a koala bear injured in the Australian bush fires.

World Book Day was a lovely day across the school. Teachers read their favourite stories and children wrote a whole school story which was shared in the Lemington Heroes assembly.

Then, after school on 20 March lockdown began because of the dangers of the Coronavirus and little did we know how different our lives would be and how much they would change. A few of you continued to come to school because your parents are key workers but it was a very different school from the one you are used to. You were divided in to bubbles and spent lessons separated from one another. In recent weeks many of Year 6, Year 1 and Reception children have returned to school but again it is very different with a one-way system around school, individual desks and lessons in bubbles of no more than 14 other children. For the rest of you it has been home learning with lesson packs and Facebook lessons made by your teachers – a very different way of learning from the way you are used to. I can only say well done to you all and how proud I was to see the school 3 times on local television with film of some of you going into school and Mr Heeley talking about how you were dealing with lockdown.

You have responded very well and we hope that in September you will all be able to return to school and life will get back to something like normal. Mr Heeley and the staff have prepared a very exciting curriculum for you and you will be able to meet your friends and teachers though you will have to keep to the social distancing rules.

Congratulations to the Head Girl and Head Boy and to their Deputies and to those of you who have served as House Captains and Deputy House Captains and to those of you on the Eco Council who share a responsibility for protecting our environment. Although most of you have only had 6 months in school you set a very good example and your work and enthusiasm is very much appreciated



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Year 6 pupils will be moving on to High School in September and we wish you all the very best and hope you will settle in quickly and make lots of new friends as well as keeping up with your 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 when that is allowed again. We hope also that you will be happy and successful in all you do both in your new schools and in the years to come! I am very sorry not to be able to come in to school to say goodbye but rest assured I will be thinking of you – you have been a great year group!

Now it is almost time for the school holidays to begin. Again, this will be a different experience from usual but remember to keep safe and take care of those around you.

With very best wishes,

Margaret Shipley, Chair of Governors.

AN EXTRA MESSAGE FROM MR. HEELEY:

Mrs. Shipley has been our Chair of Governors now for an incredible 14 years – before any of you guys were even born! Over the years she has worked very hard with me and our previous head teacher Mrs. Hall to make sure Lemington Riverside is the best school it can be. Mrs. Shipley is now having a well earned rest and stepping down as our chair of governors – but you will still see her around school as a governor in September.

Thank you Mrs. Shipley from all of the children at Lemington Riverside past and present!

