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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another school year I want to tell you how proud I am of your children. They are always most welcoming to me and to other visitors to the school, they enjoy being here and achieve very impressive results and this is in no small part due to the support and encouragement you give them.

As you know the staff track the progress of every child very carefully during the course of the year and set targets to help them to achieve their goals. This year's results show just how worthwhile all this effort is. Careful assessments have been made in Early Years and we are confident that the children have settled in well and made good progress (this was very clear when another governor and I visited Early Years for a morning earlier this year). The Year 1 phonics tests show that a large majority of the children are learning to read confidently and have a clear structure to help them to do this. We are delighted with the Key Stage 1 SATs results and the Key Stage 2 results are our best ever with every child making the progress expected of them and very many exceeding this. For the first time ever 2 children have achieved Level 6 in maths. This is outstanding and we congratulate them and all the other boys and girls and the staff who have done so much to support and encourage them. As Class 6 leave to go to their new schools in September we know that they have a very secure grounding and that they can aim high in the future with confidence. We wish them all every success.

But, we have to remember that actually being in school is a vital part of every child's success. We know that some absence is inevitable but attendance is an issue which continues to give us great cause for concern and I do ask you to take seriously all the efforts that are being made to try to improve attendance and ensure that children are able to achieve their very best and be a credit to you.

It is not all hard grind at Lemington Riverside, however. The children have been encouraged to develop a wide range of interests and we are particularly pleased with their work on the environment which has resulted in us achieving the Green Eco Flag which we fly very proudly on our flagpole. This year great efforts have been put into encouraging more children to cycle and scoot to school and I know many of you have been involved with these activities. We were very proud in March to come second in the City in the Pedal to School campaign. I was very impressed by the group of children who went to the Reading Conference at Newcastle City Library and talked in a very mature way about their favourite books and the display of our children's work which was on display and I know that this led to a number of inspiring assemblies by staff and children about their favourite books.

We do not have the financial support for out of school visits which we once had but we have had a number of fund raising events which enabled us to make a contribution to the costs of visits for every child and we thank you for your support in this. Children have visited Hall Hill Farm, Beamish, High Force and London and more locally St. James' Park, the Great North Museum, a Citizenship Ceremony at the Civic Centre, the Outer West swimming gala, the Puffing Billy celebrations and the wedding ceremony at the Methodist Church.

I am looking forward to the leavers' assembly on Friday and hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend. The children do enjoy you coming into school. It will also be an opportunity to say goodbye to Mrs Cockburn, whom many of you know from your own childhood in the school, as she leaves after 39 years for a well-earned retirement. It will also be a chance to thank all the staff for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the year.

I hope you have a very pleasant few weeks of holiday and that the children come back in September refreshed and ready for another exciting year in school.

Best wishes,

Margaret Shipley

Chair of Governors.

