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## END OF YEAR MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS – MARGARET SHIPLEY

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been a year that none of us could have predicted or imagined when the children came back to school last September. I know it has been a hard time for every one of you in a great variety of ways as you have had to get used to a very different way of life and I send my very best wishes to you all.

I am sure you will join me in thanking Mr Heeley and all the staff – teachers, teaching assistants, Mrs Casey, Mr Francis and his staff, Mrs Carver and her staff and the Lunch- Time supervisors for all they have done this year to keep your children safe and allow them to continue their education. The demands on them have been enormous and yet they have pulled together to do their very best for your children. During the pandemic the staff have worked on a rota basis in school to look after the children of key workers and vulnerable children initially and later the children in Year 6, Year 1 and Reception. Meanwhile the staff have were also working hard at home to provide children not in school with home-learning packs and videos. Mrs Carver and her staff continued to provide meals in school and free school meal packs for eligible children not in school. Mr Francis and his staff have worked very hard to ensure that the school is deep-cleaned and made safe for all those in school. All of this takes a huge amount of organisation and effort and thanks are due to Mr Heeley and the Senior Management Team for their hard work and dedication, always with the needs of your children at the core of what they are doing.

I have been very touched to hear reports from Mr Heeley and Mr Murphy of the very positive attitude of the children who have returned to school and their excitement about meeting their friends and the staff again. I was also very impressed by Mr Murphy's report of the first day back for Year 6 and their eagerness to get down to work! I have



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also been very heartened by the appreciation expressed by so many of our parents for the efforts made by staff to do their very best for your children. Thank you.

I was very proud to see the school feature on local television 3 times during the lock-down period when children attending school featured and Mr Heeley was interviewed – all giving a very good impression of the school.

Now staff are planning for the return of your children to school in September and the planning of the new curriculum which looks very exciting and which will do everything possible to develop recovery strategies to get over the time lost between March and July. In addition a considerable amount of work has been carried out on the school buildings with redecoration and a very refreshed atmosphere as well as changes with Year 1 and Year 2 moving into the main building.

For the children in Year 6 there is the important planning of transfer to the new world of secondary school. It is always a big step but I know a lot of work is being done to introduce them to their new schools. I hope the children will settle in very quickly, make lots of new friends and enjoy the opportunities given to them. I wish you all the very best and I hope the transition is successful and that you and they enjoy the new experiences.

After 14 years as Chair of Governors I have stepped down this week from the post though I will continue to be a member of the Governing Body. It has been an amazing experience for me and I have so much enjoyed getting to know the parents and carers, the staff and children of what I know is a wonderful school at the heart of the community in Lemington. Thank you all for the part you have played in this and I send you all my very best wishes for the future.

Best wishes,

Margaret Shipley

#### **ADDITIONAL MESSAGE FROM MR. HEELEY:**

On behalf of us all at Lemington Riverside I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs. Shipley for her many years of service to our school and community. Mrs. Shipley has been hugely supportive to me in my first year and a half as your Head Teacher and I am delighted that she will remain part of our Governing Body, despite standing down as Chair.



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