



much more than just a school



13 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

**Decision: The future of Riders Infant and Junior Schools and Park Community School**

In June last year we wrote to inform you about a significant proposal regarding the future of our school community.

We explained to you that Hampshire County Council was looking at a plan to join Riders Infant and Junior Schools with Park Community School. This was because the governing bodies of Riders and of Park Community School had asked the County Council to consider merging the schools. We explained that this would involve formally closing the Riders schools and expanding Park Community School to include younger pupils, creating an all-through school for children aged 4 to 16.

Following this letter, the informal consultation was agreed and, as a result of that informal process, the matter proceeded to formal consultation at the end of last year.

We are writing now because a final decision has been made. After looking at all the feedback, Councillor Roz Chadd, the executive Lead Member for Children's Services, has decided that Riders will join with Park Community School from September 2026. This means there will be one school for children aged 4 to 16. You can read more in the official press release online [here](#).

Whilst there is, of course, some sadness that this means formally closing the Riders schools, which have a long and proud history at the heart of this community, we are excited for the way forward. We believe that the merger with Park is in the very best interests of our children and families, and that it will serve this community in the most impactful and positive ways into the future.

The new, larger Park Community School is expected to use both the Riders site and the current Park site, but we will keep you informed as we learn more. In the meantime, if you have any queries, please get in touch with the school office and we will do our best to help.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Barry Harwood  
Chair of Governors

Christopher Anders  
Headteacher

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Head of School

Success for All through Attainment, Resilience and Autonomy

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