

October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing to inform you that this is my final year at Appleton Academy, as I have taken the decision to retire from teaching at the end of the academic year.

I became the Headteacher of High Fernley Primary School in September 2007 and within six months of my appointment, began working to create the school that would give the community of Wyke the wonderful education provision it deserved. Many of you will have experienced the poor quality of education at the previous secondary school and will remember just how badly needed the new school was. In the years since the new school opened, we have worked tirelessly to create the fantastic school community that is now Appleton Academy.

I have been incredibly proud to work with the children, young people and staff of Appleton and it has been a joy to have been a part of your children's lives. It has given me many happy memories, a lot of laughter and a few wrinkles and grey hairs!

Exceed Academies Trust will begin recruiting a new Executive Headteacher shortly and they know just how important it will be to find the right person to continue to take the school forward. Over the coming months, I will be working with the Trust and our Heads of School, Miss Clayton and Mrs Garlick, to ensure Appleton Academy continues to go from strength to strength. Once the new Executive Headteacher is appointed, I will also support them as they start their new post to ensure this change is as smooth as possible, so the quality of education continues to improve.

I want to reassure you that this year will be business as usual and we have many exciting developments to enhance your children's education further, including a focus on speaking, listening and communication, and the exciting news that Appleton will be starting an army cadets force in the New Year.

I'm sure the months will disappear too quickly between now and the summer when I move to Cornwall with my family. However, I will be leaving Appleton Academy in a strong position for my successor to take the school forward. I am proud that the community of Wyke, and South Bradford, has such a wonderful school. One thing is certain, and that is the wonderful memories I will take with me of my time working with the children, families, staff and community of Appleton Academy.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen Jones".

Ms H Jones
Executive Headteacher