

I cannot believe that here we are at the end of another school year. It doesn't seem, like yesterday that I was talking to you at Christmas! To bring it home how quick the year has flown by, I said hello to the new Year R Parents here in church last week.

I hope everyone is going to have a good safe and happy holiday time. If you are able to get away, to the seaside, to warmer/consistently warm weather, to see relatives (or to get away from them) or get out of your daily routine by doing something different - you will all have a great time. A time to recharge your batteries ready for the new school year in September. Just to remind you --- holidays can go quick too.

I was in Humphries Shoe Shop in Redditch over the last weekend, buying some shoes for my holiday. The Manager told me that he had taken delivery of 140 crates of school shoes in the past week. No pressure then Mums/Dads - go on and get the kids' feet measured!

As I am in a household of girls - my wife Alison and three daughters, I do sometimes have to make the break some time and go on a Boy's Day out. Last Friday - I did just that, my two yearly pilgrimage to all things to do with aircraft and space - the Farnborough Air show. The weather was good, I got sunburnt and I had a Krispy Crème donut to myself

I saw the Red Arrows, sat in a Swedish fighter jet (and got out), had my picture taken flying a new Boeing airliner and

was shown around some of America's fast jets by an Airforce Colonel from Sacramento. My ear drums were nearly split by the noise of the new RAF supersonic jumpjet fighter and the worlds largest airliner - the A380. I also saw a person that we have been speaking about in school in the past half term.

Tim Peake - here's my photo of him! 6 foot away from him, I was.

The children and I used the life story of Tim Peake to illustrate the school value of the term – Aspiration. When we were speaking, he had just returned to Earth after the ride of his life in the International space Station and Soyuz capsule brought him bumping and shaking back to Earth.

You seem, Tim Peake always wanted to do his best - he went to an ordinary school but always strived to do the best he could. He didn't go to University until he was in his thirty's but before he did he joined the army, flew helicopters and then carried on bettering himself - he became a test pilot and eventually, as we all know, joined the European Space Agency and became an astronaut. Six months in space followed - giving a Brit award to Adele, carrying out all sorts of space experiments - and also taking with school children from high up in space.

Aspiration - is doing the best you can to be the best you can. Reaching for the stars (Didn't S Club Seven sing about that??)

It's not being the best at everything - but just doing the best you can. Helping people, being there, keep trying, never putting people down or making fun of them, learning and playing hard, understanding right from wrong. All very good values - Christian values - that we should all aspire to each and every day.

And aspiration is a good word to hold on to if you are leaving Feckenham First School this week

As you say good bye to Feckenham School - remember the good times you have had there, the teachers that taught you, the great trips to Blackwell Court, your time in Forest School, The open the book assemblies - the friends that you have made in your time there.

As you prepare for your next school move – the new shoes, uniforms and may be bus passes - hold on to the memories of a good time and look forward to what your new school will offer you, the new friendships that you will make – the new opportunities and things to learn. Remember that God will be with you on this journey

If you know of someone going to join the school in September, or you are going up a year - think of all those good times and experiences to come.

I too have another journey - when I come back in September - I will be a full time vicar - so expect to see me around a bit more - and up at the school gate for you lot too!

My prayer and hope for you all is that you will all reach for YOUR star, but before then - have a great summer - come back well, rested and safe and full of hope and dreams.

AMEN

May God give us light to guide us, courage to support us, and love to mould us; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.