



### Dates for the diary

**17th - 21st Feb:  
Half term break**

**26th Feb:** Reception measuring programme with school nurse

**26th Feb:** PTA meeting - 2pm

**27th Feb:** Parent-Teacher Meetings 3.50 - 6pm

**3rd March:** Reception trip to Horniman Museum

**4th March:** Parent-Teacher Meetings 3.50 - 7.30pm

**5th March:** Y2 '24' Maths tournament heats

**6th March:** World Book Day - Pat Hutchins and Jeremy Strong author visits

**7th March:** PTA Quiz Night 7pm

**14th March:** 9.15 - Y2 class assembly

**18th March:** 9am Handwriting workshop - Y1J

**18th March:** Y3 'Ancient Civilisations' show and workshop

**19th March:** 9 am Handwriting workshop - Y2

**20th March:** 9 am Handwriting workshop - Y1L

**28th March:** Y1L class assembly

**2nd - 4th April:** Y4 school journey to Wrotham, Kent

**7th - 21st April (inc)  
Easter break**

**22nd April:** Children back to school

**12th - 16th May:** KS2 (Y6) SATs week. School open from 8am for Y6 all week for free SATs breakfasts!

**22nd May:** Polling Station/INSET day - school closed to children

## Happy half term everyone

After the half-term we are going to be trying a more consistent approach to how adults who work here are addressed by the children.

At present we have a rather odd situation where support staff and some teachers are addressed by children by their first names and other teachers are addressed more formally, e.g. our senior midday meals supervisor Helen Markey is known by the children as "Helen" but our Year Six teacher Andy McPartland is called "Mr McPartland".

This has worried me for a while as I think there is a danger that this inconsistent approach may inadvertently give the message to children that some adults are more deserving of respect than others due to their position in the school.

Of course, one way to solve this problem would be to insist that all staff were addressed as "Mr", "Miss", "Mrs" or "Ms"; however, this brings its own complications. My previous experience makes me feel very confident that the use of first names for all staff will work really well here. Every other school I have worked in has used first names for all adults and in my experience this does not in any way lessen children's respect for adults. I have very high expectations of behaviour and I know that excellent behaviour and respect is rooted in strong relationships, high expectations and an engaging curriculum. I am very confident that the use of first names will only improve the already strong relationships that exist here between adults and children.

We will try this more consistent approach for the rest of the academic year and will review how it has gone in July.

I hope everyone has a lovely half term holiday.

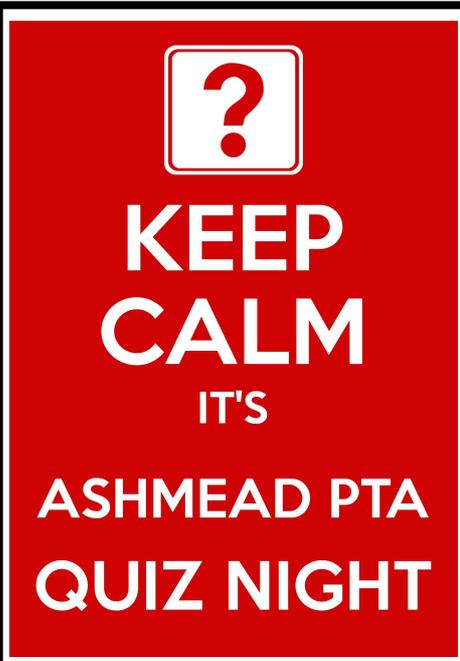
Sean

## Imagine Festival



If you're stuck for something to do this half term, why not take the children up to Southbank for the Imagine Children's Festival on all next week. This year's Festival is all about the kids taking over!

Southbank Centre is being transformed BY children FOR children, as well as hosting the top names in children's literature, dance, theatre and art. Enjoy free activities throughout the festival or just take in the atmosphere as children run the show!



**KEEP CALM  
IT'S  
ASHMEAD PTA  
QUIZ NIGHT**

### PTA Quiz Night

Believe it or not, Spring is just around the corner so let's drag ourselves out of hibernation and give our brains a workout!

Ashmead PTA quiz night will be held in the school hall on Friday 7th March 2014. Doors will open at 7.00 for a 7.30 start. Tickets will go on sale after half term at the cost of £5 each (ticket price includes one free drink!)

Food and refreshments will be available to buy on the night. Put a team together (up to 8 people per team) or come along and join a team on the night!

All proceeds will go to the school to fund equipment, school events and activities.

We look forward to seeing you there - and seeing who has a secret competitive streak!

Louise Hill, Chair, Ashmead PTA

**Dinner money for next half term**



The dinner money total for next half term is £54.00 (6 weeks at £9 per week). Thanks as always to parents who pay in advance. Don't forget you can also pay online through Pay+ on Parentmail.

**Handwriting workshops**



Following the success of our recent Maths workshops, we will be running more parent and children workshops next half term. We will be starting with handwriting workshops for parents and carers of children in Y1 and Y2. These will follow a similar format to the maths workshops (short time with adults only and then work with your own child) so it would be great to see all of you here. We will be sending out letters nearer the time but the dates are in the 'Dates for the diary' section overleaf.

As we said in the last newsletter, we are pleased to welcome four new governors to our governing body. Today we are introducing two of them to you here, Rehana Rahman and Dean Johnstone.



Hi, I'm Rehana. I am a member of the support staff here at Ashmead and have had the pleasure of working here since September 2011. My role is shared between working within the classroom as a Teaching Assistant and delivering 1:1 and small group numeracy interventions, namely "Closing the Gap with Numicon" outside the class. I am also a member of the lunchtime supervisors. I have had a keen interest in gaining a better understanding of how the school is run so am delighted to be appointed Support Staff Governor. So far I have attended the 'Governor Skills & Training Audit' as well as the Full Governors meeting. The meetings have given me a brief insight but I am looking forward to learning more in order to fulfill my role.

A message from Dean Johnstone, Associate Director, Leadership Development at Teach First, Community Governor.

My interest in governorship was formed whilst I was a previous governor and chair of Governors at a primary school in Leeds. My motivation is aimed at ensuring all children succeed, especially those who face additional barriers to learning. This is why I have offered to be the link governor for those children who are eligible for the "Pupil Premium", additional money from central government for children from families with the least financially. So far I have attended a full governing body meeting and the Governors' Review Evening where we looked at the skills and ambitions of the governors. I have also been shown around the school. I see that Ashmead has a very talented and able governing body with governors having a wide range of experiences which is proving very useful in meetings.

