

## **ARK Atwood Primary Academy 'Professionals Week'**

ARK Atwood Primary Academy hosted a 'Professionals Week' in June 2013 because the school believes that even in the early years of primary school it is good to talk to children about their aspirations and what they would like to do later in life.

Atwood Primary is unique because as a newly established academy it only currently has Reception and Year 1 pupils. However, it wants to show children the link between early learning and their future. Atwood put out a call for parent volunteers to talk about their job in assembly through its school newsletter disseminated in bookbags, by email to parents and on the website.

'Professionals Week' was open up to any parents keen to talk about their job, no matter what it was. Parents were encouraged to bring photos of people doing their job and give a practical demonstration of what they do. They were also asked to outline the skills needed to do the role.

There was a huge response, so over two weeks of morning assemblies parents talked about their jobs including; a heart surgeon, tug driver at Heathrow Airport, barrister, shoe designer, electronic sound engineer, chef and a bookbinder. The children has a chance to ask questions which they really enjoyed.

Next, the school plans to take the children to a university to start sowing the seeds of 'possibility' in their young minds.

**Daniel Upfield, Headteacher at ARK Atwood Primary Academy, says:** "Professionals Week' was an excellent introduction to the world of work. Our parent speakers were engaging and enthusiastic and enabled our pupils to begin to make links between their current education and the skills required to perform a range of different jobs. We believe that with high aspirations all of our pupils can go to university and pursue a career of their choice."