



“...Let us remember that, as many hands build a house, so many hearts make a school.”

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

6th September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs)

We are offering a new service for Year 5 children this year to support preparation and choices around secondary schools.

The Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs) is a form of assessment that tests pupils' ability to *reason* via the medium of language as well as context-free visual information. There are two types of test: verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning.

The Verbal Reasoning test measures a pupil's ability to engage with the language in order to identify their wider reasoning ability and potential. Verbal Reasoning highlights pupils' skills in verbal-thinking above and beyond their formal literacy abilities and the assessment covers various types of questions, testing vocabulary, logical reasoning, numbers and words in sentences.

Non-Verbal Reasoning involves no reading, so can provide insight into the abilities of pupils who think more easily in images than words. The designs used within the tests involve very little mathematical knowledge, so that only reasoning skills are assessed.

These tests are **NOT COMPULSORY** and your child does not have to take part – it is for you as a Parent/Carer to decide. The cost of the assessment is **£11** which covers the test and the comprehensive report. If you would like your child to take part, please pay and give your consent via School Comms.

The Year 5 team will administer these assessments during the week beginning 23rd September and will subsequently send your child's scores home, in a sealed envelope.

You will then have an opportunity to meet with Mr Ledger and myself to discuss your child's standardised scores, scores related to age, as well as your secondary school preferences.

Yours sincerely

Mr Ben Hulme
Headteacher