



St. Edmund's Church of England Primary School
Fawkham Road, West Kingsdown, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6JP
Tel: 01474 853484, **e-mail:** office@st-edmunds.kent.sch.uk
www.st-edmunds.kent.sch.uk

Dear Parents / Carers (Year 5 Emerald Class),

18th September 2025

Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs)

Each year, we offer a service for Year 5 children to support preparation and choices around secondary schools.

The Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs) is a form of assessment that tests pupils 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 pupil's 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 £12 which covers the test and comprehensive report. **If you would like your child to take part, please pay and give your consent via SchoolComms, under the payment CATs Tests. The payment will be available to pay until Sunday 21st September.**

The Emerald team will administer these assessments during the week beginning Monday 22nd September and will subsequently send your child's scores home, in a sealed envelope.

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

Yours faithfully,

Ruth Stoneham
Head of School

St. Edmund's is a welcoming and nurturing environment, where each individual is supported to develop morally, spiritually, socially, culturally and academically. Our extended community, through our Christian values of Love, Courage, Trust and Respect encourage each other in faith to 'Let your light shine.' (Matthew 5).