



St. Edmund's

Church of England Primary School

LOVE | RESPECT | COURAGE | TRUST

"Let your light shine."
(Matthew 5)

30th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 5 Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs)

As children move through Year 5, we know that many families begin thinking about secondary school choices and, in particular, whether their child may be suited to sitting the Kent Test or other selective school entrance tests. To support families with this decision, we are offering Year 5 pupils the opportunity to complete Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs).

CATs are designed to assess a child's reasoning abilities rather than simply measuring what they have been taught in school. The assessments include verbal and non-verbal reasoning and can provide useful additional information about a child's strengths and potential.

Verbal reasoning looks at how pupils use and understand language to solve problems and identify patterns. This includes areas such as vocabulary, logical reasoning and relationships between words.

Non-verbal reasoning uses shapes, patterns and visual information and involves very little reading or mathematical knowledge. This can provide a useful insight into the reasoning abilities of children who may think more readily through images than words.

Taking part in the CATs is entirely optional. Your child does not have to complete the assessments and the decision rests with you as their parent/carer.

The cost of the assessment is £15 per child, which includes the tests and a comprehensive report outlining your child's results. If you would like your child to take part, please provide consent and make payment through Arbor by **Friday 9th October 2026**.

The assessments will be completed in school and we will share your child's results with you once they have been received. These results can provide another useful piece of information when considering your child's strengths and thinking ahead to secondary school choices.

If you have any questions about the assessments, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Johnson
Headteacher



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