



14th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Year 5 CAT tests

We have always carried out Cognitive Ability Tests with our Year 5 pupils. This was a county wide initiative. CAT tests give you an age standardised score for verbal and non-verbal reasoning and an overall CAT score.

As the years have gone by the price of the tests has gone up and, as teachers, we have used the information they give us less and less. We have very many other ways of assessing pupil progress and for us therefore the CAT tests are no longer good value for money.

However CAT test scores have traditionally been used as another indicator for whether grammar school is a viable option for your child as well as a being used productively in the appeal process if a parent needs to go to appeal for a grammar place. How much weight they have in these situations probably varies from one appeal to the next. Certainly a letter from myself or the class teacher as well as our own predictions will hold at least as much weight as CAT scores. However I am aware that parents looking for a grammar school place for their child may want to tick all available boxes.

In conclusion while I can longer justify either the cost to the school or the time it takes for all children to complete the test, I am open to administering a CAT test for a pupil if their parent would like me to do so. The tests take a morning and I would look to administer them in a group at the beginning of September. I would ask you simply to pay for the cost of the test paper itself - £13.92, via school comms.

If you have any further questions about the nature of the test or advice about whether your child should take one, please have a chat to your class teacher or myself.

Yours sincerely

N Moss

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Year 5 CAT tests

Please return by Thursday 16th July 2020

I would like my child.....

Class (in September) To please take the CAT test.

I enclose £13.92 towards the cost of administering the test.

Signed..... (Parent's name).....

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