



Monday 27th March and Tuesday 28th March 2017
(Handed out at Parent Consultation)

Dear Parents/Carers

Each academic year, the pupils in Year 5 sit **Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs)**, a form of assessment that tests pupils' ability to *reason* via the medium of language and as well as context-free visual information. There are two types of tests: verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning.

The Verbal Reasoning test measures a pupil's ability to engage with the language medium 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, verbal analogies, logical reasoning, symbol manipulation using letters, 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.

The Year 5 team will additionally administer a Reading test and a set of Mathematics tests (one arithmetic paper and two reasoning papers) which will give a total score and more importantly, an age standardised score; these are similar to those used in the PESE and Shepway selection tests in September.

The Year 5 team will administer these assessments in the **week beginning Monday 15th May** and will subsequently send your child's scores home (in a sealed envelope) on **Friday 26th May**.

You will subsequently have an opportunity to meet with Miss Savage and Mr Green to discuss your child's standardised scores (scores relate to age) as well as your secondary school preferences and thoughts about the PESE/Shepway process in September.

There will be a PESE and Shepway Selection Test Parent Information Meeting at **7.00 p.m.** in the main school hall on **Wednesday 7th June 2017**.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Goldsmith & Mrs H Thompson
Year 5 Teachers

Miss C Thomas