

12th May 2021



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Dear Parent/Carer

P5 Cognitive Ability Testing

I am writing to provide you with information about a series of 3 tests that your son/daughter will be taking this month. In order to gain more information about pupils' reasoning and manipulation skills in relation to language, numbers, and symbols, all P5 pupils will be involved in 'CAT', which stands for Cognitive Abilities Testing. This comprises 3 tests similar in nature to popular 'Brain Training' computer games, covering 4 areas as indicated below with each test being completed on-line by pupils and lasting 50 minutes.

- Verbal Reasoning - Tests abilities to think with words
- Quantative Reasoning – Tests abilities to think with numbers
- Non-Verbal Reasoning – Tests abilities to think with shapes and space
- Spatial Awareness

The results of these tests will feed into our school tracking mechanisms which staff use to help determine whether pupils are achieving to potential. This will also provide additional information to teachers about the differing learning strengths of each of their pupils so that they can adapt their teaching where appropriate. It is not our intention to share the results of the tests with pupils or parents as we view this as an information gathering exercise rather than an assessment. However, any parent who wishes information about the tests may contact me at the school once the tests have been completed.

Pupils should not feel anxious about undertaking these tests. It is hoped that pupils view them as a fun challenge with the results informing future teachers to help enable pupils reach their full potential.

These tests will begin in the week beginning 17th May and pupils are asked to bring with them a set of personal headphones if they have some, although for those who do not, headphones will be provided. Due to covid mitigations it would be appreciated if pupils could bring in the headphones the week before so that we can quarantine them. The headphones will need to stay in school until the tests are completed.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Vicky Marshall
DHT Primary

