Otters Class Spring Term Round Up

In English we have been learning about Emily Gravett and comparing two of her most popular stories: 'Tidy' and 'Meerkat Mail'. To start off this learning journey we became detectives and used inferences from the front cover of the book Meerkat Mail to make predictions about what we think will happen. We enjoyed reading the story, discussing the meaning of new vocabulary and deciding on our favourite words and phrases from the book. We have worked hard on planning our sentences and rehearsing them out loud before we start writing them. This has made us think about the structure of our sentences to ensure they make sense. Our outcome of this unit was planning and writing a postcard as if we were Sunny the meerkat. Year 2s were also using this writing as an opportunity to use commas in a list and to use subordinating and coordinating conjunctions.

We have been developing our mathematical skills this half term and have enjoyed getting outside to take our learning into real situations. Year 1s have been busy working on their number bonds to 10 and 20. They have used different manipulatives and strategies to show these in practical, pictorial and abstract form. They are now able to confidently answer addition and subtraction answers using counters, tens frames, part/whole models and number lines. Year 1 also worked on their reasoning skills and answering problems using known facts; well done Year 1! Year 2 have also had a number and place value focus and they have been working on how to derive, recognise the inverse and use number lines to solve one step problems. They then moved on to learning about tally charts and how to interpret these, where they created their own tally chart gathering data based on favourite colours. Good work year 2!

In our geography lessons on the topic *Around the World and Back*, we made predictions about different environments and compared their temperatures, gaining insight into how geography affects climate and living conditions. This included conducting an experiment with ice cubes around the school, which we all enjoyed! Additionally, we have explored the seven continents and learned about the different climates across the globe, including the hot and cold regions such as Antarctica. We also created maps of our school, helping us understand how to represent places visually. It has been an exciting and engaging topic, and we've had lots of fun discovering more about the world around us!

In our topic on *Seasons*, we have enjoyed learning about the four seasons and how they change throughout the year. We compared the different aspects of each season, such as weather, temperature, and how nature transforms over time. It was interesting to see how these changes affect our environment, from blooming flowers in spring to falling leaves in autumn. Understanding the seasons has helped us appreciate the world around us even more!

In music, we have been learning how to create different sounds depending on the environment and situation. We focused on sounds you would hear by the sea, which has been really exciting and creative. In DT, we explored different food groups and used our knowledge to design and make a healthy wrap for lunch – and they were absolutely delicious! Meanwhile, in PE, we have loved getting outside more and taking part in team games, helping us build teamwork skills while staying active and having fun.