

# Bodyke N.S

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Digital School Of Distinction, Active School, Creative School!



**Nuachtlitir an Nollaig: 2016**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STAFF AND PUPILS OF BODYKE NATIONAL SCHOOL**



**Beannachtaí na Nollag,**

As we come to the end of another busy, productive year, we are delighted to share our news and photographs with the whole school community. It has been an action packed first term in Bodyke NS. There has been a special emphasis on Physical Education as we prepare to renew our Active Flag. We pride ourselves on providing many different learning opportunities to the children in our care. We are committed to ensuring that each pupil is given the chance to discover and develop their individual talents. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents and local community for their continued support. As a small, rural school this support is absolutely invaluable in helping us to continue the great work we do in the school. We hope to see you all at our Christmas Concert!

Wishing you a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas,

**An Foireann**



Science week is always a popular week in Bodyke NS and this year was no exception. The pupils in the Junior room explored the energy created by airflow. They made their very own Balloon Rockets and Tabletop Hovercrafts. They experimented with a Makey Makey kit, which allowed them to turn everyday objects into keyboards and introduced the concept of electrical circuits. They also had the theme of Space in their Aistear roleplay area and built rockets in construction. In the Senior room the children were challenged to design and make a ramp. A car had to jump a gap of 10cm when it came off the ramp. After a lot of planning, designing, testing and tweaking, the pupils successfully completed the challenge. They then presented their projects in the Junior Room. We carried out lots of investigations involving paper copters. We worked using the scientific method; observing, questioning, predicting, investigating, measuring, analysing and recording! Well done to all.



## Christmas Concert



We would like to invite the local and wider community to our Christmas Concert on Monday the **19th of December @ 7pm** in Bodyke Church. The pupils are busy perfecting their songs, dance routines and acting skills in preparation for a fun filled evening of entertainment. What better way to get into the Christmas spirit than to come along and enjoy an evening of song, dance and festive cheer?!!



More photos and news at: [www.bodykens.scoilnet.ie](http://www.bodykens.scoilnet.ie) and on Twitter: @bodykens

## Maths Week



**Maths Week** was a busy, successful week and to top it all off Bodyke National School went on to win a set of PDST Maths Manuals!! The week was packed with lots of activities in Ms. Ryan's and Ms Neylon's room. The Junior Room got stuck into solving a different problem every-day. The problems involved making 2D shapes from lollipop sticks, completing patterns, using geoboards to explore basic fractions and 2D shapes, and comparing and ordering Cuisenaire rods. They also went on a Maths Trail around the school grounds and up the village on the hunt for numbers, 2D shapes and 3D shapes. In the Senior room the pupils com-

pleted a branching database based on 2D shapes, played some maths games on the new dart board in the playground, solved some tricky problems, cracked a Mayan number code and created geometric works of art! 5th and 6th also did some online 'shopping' within a budget of course!!



## Promoting Literacy: Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader!



### Meeting an Author:

The pupils in the Senior Room have been reading the Arthur Quinn Trilogy books and they got the opportunity to meet the author Alan Early in Scariff Library! Alan did a creative writing work-

shop with the children and really helped them to unleash their imaginations. Alan also spoke about the process of getting a book published.

**Accelerated Reader** The school continues to provide the Accelerated Reader (AR) Programme. With AR you get a comprehensive set of reports to reveal how much a student has been reading, at what level of complexity, and how well they have understood what they have read. It also inspires and encourages pupils to read more in order to reach the reading targets set for them by their teachers.



**Literacy Lift Off** has really taken off in the Junior Room! It is an intervention that gives children lots of opportunities to read books at their own level of competency and gradually lift the complexity of what they can do in both reading and writing.

The school took part in the **MS Readathon**. The children loved the challenge of reading as many books as possible while getting sponsorship for their work. The amount raised was €192 which is donated to the MS Foundation.

## Artist in Schools Initiative

Our application for the 2016 Artist in Schools scheme has been successful!!! We will be welcoming the artist & storyteller Ruth Marshall into the Junior Room for an Arts Space residency totalling 30 hours! The programme is sponsored by the Clare County Council with the support of the Arts Council of Ireland and we are really excited to get started! The title of our project is *"From Socks to Strings: A creative exploration of where our imagination will take us through the world of storytelling, puppetry, and oral language."*

## SCHOOL PICK-UP SERVICE

**Leapfrog Crèche School Pick-Up Service** Leapfrog Crèche Tuamgraney continue to provide an afterschool pick-up service from Bodyke N.S. Children availing of this service have their dinner at the crèche and then have the opportunity to take part in the wide range of after school activities on offer. For more information please call 061 640 644.





## Active Schools

Bodyke N.S are in the process of applying to renew the Active School Flag. In September as part of the Be Active Schools Campaign the school took part in the European Week of Sport. Each day of the week there were different activities such as Move IT Monday which consisted of 10 mins of active movement. We did a yoga class for Try IT Tuesday. On Walk IT Wednesday all pupils walked from the church to the school. Then on Thursday all skipping ropes were out to complete the Climb the Heights skipping challenge. Finally on Friday which was National Fitness Day both teachers and pupils took on relay races, lift the bucket challenge, active maths trail and the plank challenge. A very enjoyable and fit week had by all!



### Yoga

There was such a positive reaction to the Yoga session on Try it Tuesday, that we decided to organise a block of 8 sessions for the children with Yoga teacher Zara Kent. Thanks to the P.A. for subsidising the cost so our pupils could avail of this wonderful opportunity. The children learned some relaxation techniques, sun salutations and lots of yoga poses. Learning to focus mind and body is a skill which will be helpful to them now and in the future. Namasté!



Peter Casey and his colleagues at Clare Sports Partnership completed a block of 6 weeks Hurling Coaching with the children during the first term.

Next term the children will avail of Orienteering sessions with Roddy Kennedy. This will allow the children to engage with a different aspect of the PE curriculum and also link in their Geography skills.

There was great excitement when **badminton** was introduced as one of our Active Flag activities.



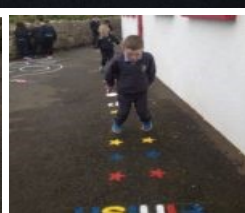
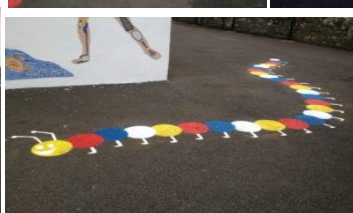
### Parents Association

We are lucky in Bodyke NS to have a such an active, dedicated Parents Association. We would like to thank the Parents Association and the community for supporting the annual cake sale which took place recently. The money raised will be put to various uses such as projects, outings and activities enjoyed by the children throughout the year. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Our sincere thanks also to the Parents Association, who do tremendous work promoting and supporting our school. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir!

*A note of gratitude to Mr. Daniel Patrick Coughlan R.I.P. (deceased April 2013) Mr. Coughlan was a native of the Bodyke area and previous to his passing instructed that the schools in the East Clare Cluster would receive a 'gift' for the immense work done in the Local Community. We were very grateful to receive the sum of €511 in November. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam.*

### New Playground Markings

The school playground was given a makeover recently! The new playground markings make the school yard an interesting and fun play space for the pupils. The markings are both fun and educational and they were put to great use during Maths Week! Thank you to the parents and Ms Ryan in the organising and painting of these markings.



The Aistear Programme continues to play a strong role in the methodologies in the Junior Room. This term the children have been focusing on the themes All About Me, People in Our Community, Space, Halloween and The Elves Workshop. Aistear promotes learning through play and helps in the development of oral language skills.



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Photo Gallery

Visit to Scariff Library



Remembrance Service

