# **CWLWM NEWSLETTER - SPRING TERM 2023**



Welcome to the Cwlwm Spring Term Newsletter where you will find useful information for the early years, childcare, and playwork sector.



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# 1. Introduction

# A million Welsh speakers by 2050

The Welsh language is one of the treasures of Wales. It is part of what defines us as a people and as a nation. Welsh Government's ambition is to see the number of people able to enjoy speaking and using Welsh reach a million by 2050. This is certainly a challenging ambition, but a challenge Welsh Government and Cwlwm partners believe is worthwhile and necessary to secure the vitality of the language for future generations.

Following the release of Census results relating to the Welsh language, Cwlwm partners reiterate their belief that the childcare, playwork and education system should enable every child to grow as a confident Welsh speaker. For this to happen more hard work is required – workforce planning, partnership working, investment, policy creation, promotion and legislation – to enable every child to become a confident Welsh speaker and to achieve the aim of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Thanks to continued support and additional funding from Welsh Government, Cwlwm partners are committed to:

- Attracting more Welsh speakers into the childcare and play workforce,
- Providing opportunities for Welsh learners and Welsh speakers within the existing workforce to improve their language skills,



- Ensuring a continuous programme of professional development for Welsh speakers within the workforce,
- Supporting existing settings to expand into Welsh medium provision,
- Investing in new, dedicated Welsh medium settings.

As part of this newsletter, Cwlwm partners will showcase and highlight the various opportunities available to those associated with childcare, playwork and Early Years to learn Welsh!

# 2. Joint learning opportunities offered by Cwlwm partners:

# 2.1 Camau Courses

Camau is a Welsh language course bespoke for the childcare, playwork and Early Years (CPEY) workforce sector. Cwlwm partners promote the Camau courses and encourage learners to embark on the Welsh language journey.

The Camau Mynediad 1 (Early Years /

Playworker) course is basic Welsh such as colours, numbers, pronunciations, and greetings. The course consists of 10 units and takes the learner approximately 20 hours to complete over a 10-week period. The 10<sup>th</sup> unit has a quiz which is a recap of the previous 9 units. After completing the quiz, the learner will receive a certificate at the end of the month.

The learner can progress onto Mynediad 2, which is more setting-based Welsh, with Mynediad 3 being more advanced.

The <u>Cwlwm website</u> includes lots of information, support and resources to assist you on your learning journey.

- Meet the Welsh Language <u>coordinators</u> who can support you all the way on your Welsh language journey.
- Cwlwm partners have developed <u>resources</u> to support the learner at each unit.
- You can read and hear our word of the week which is shared on our Cwlwm social media, and with Cwlwm partners.
- Read the <u>case studies</u> from the sector about their positive journey on the Camau course.

# 2.2 The Welsh Promise

The Welsh Promise, developed by Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs and adopted by Cwlwm partners, is a way for childcare and playwork settings to increase the use of Welsh and demonstrate how they are working towards the Active Offer, breaking the work down into manageable bite-sized sections. Providing the Active Offer and increasing the use of Welsh in a setting may seem like a daunting process for some, but the Welsh

Yr Addewid Cymraeg

Promise provides the setting with a step-by-step guide to work towards this, without getting overwhelmed.

In committing to the Welsh Promise, the setting will be able to develop its use of Welsh and create an environment where the language is a natural part of the setting's offer to children. Whether the setting is starting from scratch or is already using some Welsh, the progressive bronze, silver and gold levels allow settings to enhance the use Welsh in a way that is appropriate for them. Once settings have achieved one level, they can move to the next level of the Promise with plentiful help available from Cwlwm partners.

The resources also available through Cwlwm partners provide practical support, and wider assistance through the Camau Learn Welsh courses provided online through the National Centre for Learning Welsh further supports the Welsh Promise.

The Welsh Promise has been endorsed by the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office which described it as "a way for settings to set clear, ambitious and fun steps to share the Welsh language with their attendees, staff and wider family."



"

This is a great way to encourage and inspire settings across Wales to be increasing the use of Welsh. The Promise includes an achievable plan and points that agree on how to work together effectively and to inspire everyone involved with Cwlwm to use the Welsh language for the benefit of the children and the communities where they work.

Creating the Welsh speakers of the future is a very important part of the goal of reaching one million speakers, and without these opportunities it is impossible for the language to grow and thrive.

Efa Gruffudd Jones - Welsh Language Commissioner



Kevin Barker Head of Inspection – Childcare and Play Inspection, Care Inspectorate Wales also

welcomed this positive development to support the use of the Welsh language in childcare and playwork settings.



# 3. A selection of learning opportunities available through individual Cwlwm partners:

# 3.1 Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs

The Welsh Government aims to have a million
Welsh speakers by 2050. This is a long-term aim,
and the Out of School Childcare Sector has a key
role to play in achieving it. To achieve the aim,
changes will be needed in both the approaches and use of the Welsh Language
to encourage all staff, children and their families to develop their Welsh
Language skills for both social and work use going forward.

Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs recognises the importance of developing the Welsh language and is proud of taking an active role in contributing, through our projects, to the Welsh Government's target.

As part of Work Welsh Project, some

Case Studies have been developed with Camau learners showing how the course has supported them to increase the use of Welsh within their setting.

To support the work of Camau project, delivered in partnership with Cwlwm and the National Centre for Learning Welsh, Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs' has developed additional resources to support learners on their Welsh journey.

**#WelshWednesday** developed to share key vocabulary weekly on a Wednesday via social media, and is based around themes, seasons, awareness days and celebrations in a form of posters, settings can print and display in their setting, embedding the Welsh language consistently during and beyond the Camau course. Follow us on **Facebook**, **Instagram** and **Twitter**.

Camau Cymraeg Clybiau is a section on Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs' website to ensure settings have easy access to a range of Welsh resources. The range of resources available include key vocabulary that is used in a setting day-to-day; posters, activities and an Incidental Welsh pack, giving settings all the practical support they will need to start in their Welsh language journey.

To support the sector even further Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs also supports members with the Welsh Promise.

# **CYMell project**

We recongise that parents struggle to find good quality
Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) registered Afterschool and Holiday
Childcare provision, available through the medium of Welsh. We also
know the benefits of access to Welsh-medium settings where children
can play and socialise using Welsh – and its importance in supporting
children as they move through Welsh medium education.

Thanks to Welsh Government funding, received through the Cwlwm partnership, Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs and their **CYMell** project seeks to:

 motivate unregistered Welsh-medium and bilingual Out of School Childcare settings to become CIW registered, allowing them to support the Welsh language, also to offer more affordable childcare to support families, allowing parents and carers to return to work or training by enabling settings to deliver The Childcare Offer and Tax-Free Childcare,

- train Welsh-speaking individuals in Playwork, removing the qualification barrier to the clubs becoming registered with CIW,
- support settings with our dedicated Welsh Language Childcare Business Development Officer,
- provide a grant fund to support settings who show a commitment to registration, allowing them to cover the costs of staff attending training and the hours involved in working towards submitting an application to register.

Through the **CYMell** project, **a grant fund** is available to support with policy changes, marketing and sustainability to encourage CIW registered, bilingual, Out of School Childcare Clubs to change their operational language to Welsh.

Welsh Language Childcare Business Development Officers through the **CYMell** project are working with and supporting unregistered Welsh and bilingual Out of School Childcare settings to achieve CIW registration. A grant fund is available supporting settings with a commitment to become CIW registered, allowing them to cover staff costs and overcome barriers to achieving registration.

The **CYMell** project is also delivering Playwork qualifications through the medium of Welsh enhancing knowledge, skills and play experiences for children. A bursary is available supporting settings to cover the additional costs involved with staff members attending training. The training available is: Agored Level 2 Award in Playwork Practice, NCFE Level 3 Award in Transition to Playwork, NCFE Level 2 Diploma in Playwork and NCFE Level 3 Diploma in Playwork.

# 3.2 Early Years Wales

Thanks to additional funding received from Welsh Government, we have been able to work strategically to support Flying Start Expansion and further develop our Welsh language offer to members.

We recognise that language transmission
has an important part to play in Welsh
Government's role in achieving their
aim of a million Welsh speakers. Our
Cydwaith Cymraeg project supports Welsh
Government's National Policy on Welsh
Language Transmission and use in Families
and takes a collaborative approach to Welsh language acquisition, bringing
parents, practitioners, and children together to learn the language.

The Cydwaith Cymraeg project delivers 10 Welsh language modelling sessions (titled Criw Cymraeg), incorporating Welsh stories, songs and rhymes alongside interactive and engaging activities. The focus is very much on having fun with the Welsh language. Parents/carers are invited to the setting during Criw Cymraeg sessions, giving the opportunity to engage with language in a comfortable environment alongside their children. This project will be developed further to incorporate elements of the Mabinogion bringing Wales' rich folklore to life.

We recognise the inconsistent availability of early education and care through the medium of Welsh, with varying numbers of Welsh medium settings in all of Wales' local authorities. Early Years Wales' **Cynllun Cymraeg** aims to address this issue by moving settings along the language continuum, transitioning settings to first become bilingual, if not already, and then eventually Welsh. Working collaboratively with the settings leaders, we support them throughout the entire transition process, including helping with amending policy documents and preparing for inspections in their new operating language.

Bespoke Welsh in Education Strategic Plans support is being delivered through an exciting new project, working closely with setting leaders to ensure they meet the standards required and supporting the expansion of the number of Welsh settings throughout Wales.

Early Years Wales is busy developing their **Resource Hub**, a digital library of freely available webinars, videos and downloadable resources aimed at supporting language acquisition and sharing information pertinent to the sector.



We have embedded more Welsh activities and stories into the nursery than before. Our aim is to continue this for the future, organising play, stories and activities based around the Welsh language, including trips to better understand Welsh culture and Heritage.



# **Aberporth Bilingual Playgroup**

For further information on how we can support you with any aspect of developing bilingualism or the Welsh language please get in touch with Matt Anthony (MatthewA@earlyyears.wales).

Welsh Language Support | Early Years Wales

# 3.3 Mudiad Meithrin

Learning Welsh is an exciting journey, and Mudiad Meithrin wants to enable all members of the family to take part in that journey with their young child. Thanks to additional funding from Welsh Government, received



through the Cwlwm partnership, Mudiad Meithrin is very pleased to announce that it is creating a new department called 'Cynlluniau Dysgu Cymraeh' (Learn Welsh Schemes), as well as strengthening its Croesi'r Bont language immersion scheme (which helps Cylchoedd Meithrin to immerse children in Welsh successfully). The additional funding will also allow Mudiad Meithrin to regain momentum in qualifying the childcare workforce (within Cylchoedd Meithrin, nurseries and primary schools) to mandatory standards (Level 3 qualifications), and also introduce the Level 5 qualification through the medium of Welsh for the first time.

# **Learn Welsh Schemes:**

Recognising the various opportunities to learn Welsh, Mudiad Meithrin has appointed a new manager to run the 'Learn Welsh Schemes' department.

Mari Rowlands will lead the Clwb Cwtsh and Camau team, ensuring that both schemes continue to offer bespoke support to learners whilst also identifying opportunities to develop these important schemes further.

Clwb Cwtsh has been successfully established for

5 years and is funded by the National Centre for Learning Welsh. It provides fun-filled Welsh language learning opportunities for parents and family members in communities across Wales with everyday language contexts as the focus of learning. Learning takes place online and in person and provides useful vocabulary that can be used with the family's young children. As the name suggests, Clwb Cwtsh provides a safe and comfortable atmosphere to learn Welsh and young children are also welcome to join in the sessions as singing and playing activities are used as part of learning. Clwb Cwtsh has numerous resources and are available to support learners as they continue to learn in their own time.

## Croesi'r Bont:

The <u>Croesi'r Bont</u> scheme has been established as one of Mudiad Meithrin's main language immersion schemes and there are now over 140 Cylchoedd involved. It is a unique project that provides practitioners with thorough leadership and guidance on how to always speak Welsh with young children in the Cylch. This innovative scheme offers the Cylch the support of a dedicated language officer along with a package of songs and vocabulary / language patterns to be used throughout the day. Toddlers acquire language skills easily as they continue to learn and develop.



A strong feature of the provision is the way in which practitioners develop all the children's skills by singing songs in the group sessions as well as when they are playing in the learning areas. This reinforces vocabulary and language patterns quite naturally throughout the session and has a positive impact on the children's language skills.



Estyn



We need a resource that has a real impact and supports the immersion process. Croesi'r Bont fills this gap.



Ceri Emmanuel, former head teacher, Ysgol Gymraeg Pontardawe



Sofia, since starting, has improved amazingly with her Welsh. She is singing and saying so much more.



Rhiant

In addition to the main Croesi'r Bont scheme, the **Camfa** scheme has been developed which is an introduction to the immersive approach and is designed for bilingual settings who want to develop their use of Welsh. Similarly, the Clebran scheme has been developed specifically to help staff at English-medium day nurseries (who are not members of Mudiad Meithrin) who want to develop their use of Welsh. Day nurseries who are not members of Mudiad Meithrin can apply to purchase the Clebran service, which allows them to benefit from the expertise and knowledge of the Clebran team.



# Cam Wrth Gam:

Cam wrth Gam has years of experience in successfully delivering the Level 3 Childcare qualifications through the medium of Welsh. It is wonderful to now be able to offer the Level 5 Leadership and Management qualification to those who wish to develop their careers as leaders and deputies in the field of Childcare, Play, Learning and Development.

# 3.4 NDNA Cymru

NDNA Cymru supports their members on the Welsh Language journey, to ensure this is an enjoyable experience.

We have updated our Welsh Language pages on the <u>NDNA website</u>, for learners to find support at ease. The website consists of various tiles for the workforce to gain further information to support them with the language.

The tiles are:

### NDNA celebrating key dates

- hear NDNA staff celebrating key dates on our videos
- opportunity to hear the language

#### Resources – a host of resources

- factsheets, covering various topics from the weather to activities
- video factsheets, providing opportunity to hear the pronunciation
- Bilingual Policies and Procedures
- Bilingual Accident forms

#### Webinars

- free monthly Welsh Language webinars on various topics for practitioners and children
- webinars are recorded and placed on the NDNA website and facebook page
- dates of webinars and how to book

## Welsh Language videos

- many videos including general translations that will help staff to implement Welsh with children, parents, colleagues and other organisations
- · Welsh Language videos of songs
- Welsh Language videos of stories
- all the videos can be used with the children within your setting.

#### Welsh Promise

- information about how you can increase the use of Welsh in your setting
- demonstrate how you are working towards the Active Offer
- free factsheet on the Active Offer
- free factsheet on Welsh Promise

Mollie Jones, NDNA Welsh Language Development Manager, is on hand to support you all the way with embedding the Welsh Language and moving towards a bilingual setting.

Mollie has created a closed community private facebook page. This safe space, is a place where you can come and hear the Welsh Language and practice too. This page has sentence of the week, songs, stories, and celebrations of key dates. Along with Celebrating key dates through the Facebook page we also celebrate key Welsh dates through holding webinar's, our webinars are also held for group sessions such as story time.

Welsh Culture is an important part of the Welsh Language. Mollie is able to support your setting with ideas of how to implement this. For example, transform your home corner into a café. On the menu offer items such as Cawl, Welsh Cakes, Welsh rarebit, Bara brith, plus more. Use Welsh signage, and so on. For further support email Mollie <a href="mailto:cymraeqiaith@ndna.org.uk">cymraeqiaith@ndna.org.uk</a>.

Mollie can support you with embedding the Welsh Language into everyday practice; signpost to other useful websites and resources and support you with your bilingual policies.

Julie Williams, NDNA Welsh Language administrator keeps in contact with our members, offering support and encouraging them with the Welsh Language. Julie is available to offer support with the Welsh language including offering one to one practice discussions; linking you to the facebook page; support with bookings on webinars. For further information email Julie cymraegiaith@ndna.org.uk.

Diane from Acorns Duffryn was grateful for the support she received from Mollie Jones, NDNA's Welsh Language Development Manager, and this is what she had to say:



I would just like to say thank you for all your support after signing up to complete the Camau Mynediad 1 Course with yourselves.

Not knowing what it involved at the start I wasn't really sure if it was for me. After getting stuck on a question early on in the course, I emailed you and you responded back to me straight away.



After that initial contact with yourself, you were so helpful and supportive and very patient with me because I was a complete novice, but you gave me the confidence to continue. Knowing that you were either a phone call away or knowing that I was able to email you anytime, gave me peace of mind to continue.

That in itself being able to make contact with someone either by telephone or email made all the difference to me rather than thinking that you're alone doing an online course, with no one to be able contact.

I am happy to say that I completed Camau Mynediad 1 Course, and once again thank you for all your support.

Read other <u>case studies</u> from practitioners talking about the benefits of learning Welsh and the support from NDNA Cymru

# 3.5 PACEY Cymru

PACEY Cymru, as a partner in the Cwlwm consortium, receives funding from Welsh Government to support the delivery of government commitments relating to expansion of Welsh medium childcare.

As part of this funding PACEY Cymru is able to provide a varied package of support to members. There is information on this on the <u>PACEY website</u>. This includes:

- Mentoring and after-care support for members undertaking Camau training to enable practitioners to gain confidence in their use of Welsh.
- Monthly webinars for those with little or no Welsh language skills as well for those who wish to build on their confidence to use the language.
- The Welsh Promise (in line with the details shared above)
- Access to member resources on a range of topics related to Welsh language and culture.

This also includes <u>additional support</u> for those who are specifically looking to register or expand their services to enable them to deliver bilingual or Welsh medium provision. For those who meet the eligibility requirements this includes access to funded pre-registration training and a policies and procedures translation service alongside ongoing support.



The offer of this service from PACEY Cymru means a lot to me as a childminding business. I now feel confident in being able to offer my policies and procedures to parents bilingually. This means I am now able to advertise my business as being fully bilingual and able to provide the active offer.



Kate, PACEY member

To support members with using stories to promote Welsh culture and history PACEY Cymru have teamed up with experienced early years teacher and storyteller, Cath Little to develop the following CEY smart courses available to PACEY members:

- Let's tell stories from Wales This course looks at using stories from Wales
  to introduce young children to the history and culture of Wales. With a
  storytelling video, top tips and practical inspiring follow on ideas, this course
  will help you to get started with sharing stories that promote Welsh culture.
- How to create a local story Local stories, places and people can support
  a connection with our communities and our understanding of the history
  and culture of Wales. Explore how to create a local story to introduce
  children to local history and culture in Wales.

Members can access these through the

PACEY website. If you are not yet a member you
are able to trial CEY smart for free with sample
courses that include a course on using songs and rhymes
to support Welsh language development.

For more information on any of the Welsh learning schemes get in touch with CWLWM partners:

www.clybiauplantcymru.org https://earlyyears.wales/ https://www.meithrin.cymru/

https://www.ndna.org.uk/ www.cwlwm.org.uk https://www.pacey.org.uk/

# 4. Childcare Offer for Wales: National Digital Service

As childcare providers will know, the new, fully bilingual national digital Childcare Offer for Wales service launched on 7 November 2022.

In addition, the national Childcare Offer for Wales helpline was rolled out to the public on 9 January 2023. So, to receive help and support in Welsh or English, parents and childcare providers can now call 03000 628628 and, after making some selections via an automated menu, be directed to the appropriate local authority team who will be able to assist you.

The helpline is open:

Monday to Thursday 9am to 5pm

Friday 9am to 4:30pm

If you would like to provide Offer-funded childcare in your setting and haven't yet registered on the digital service, you can do so by visiting this page:

Register your childcare setting to get the Childcare Offer Wales | GOV.WALES

If you missed the series of virtual Live Events delivering training on the new service, you can view these here:

- How to register your setting
- how to confirm agreements with parents
- how to fill out timesheets and claim payments

For any providers who are not as confident using digital services, these prerecorded training sessions are available at <u>Essential Digital Skills for Childcare</u> <u>providers</u>

For more information on the digital service visit

Providers get help with the Childcare Offer for Wales | GOV.WALES

# 5. Choosing Childcare booklet

Have you seen the choosing childcare booklet? You can access the simple guide to help parents choose childcare in Wales <a href="here">here</a>.

There is also a useful poster that you may like to display in your setting.



# 6. 'Talk With Me' campaign

'Talk With Me' is the Welsh
Government's campaign
to encourage parents and
carers to play, listen and
talk with their children in the
early years (between 0-5 years
old). We want parents to talk with their
children every day to light up their minds,
help their brains grow, and give them the
best possible start in life.

'Talk With Me' offers a range of helpful, expert-led, accessible tools, tips, and resources to support parents on their child's language-learning journey, including the newly developed Parent and Carer Pack, which includes activities for parents, carers and family members to help little ones learn to talk.

The pack is full of guidance such as '10 tips to help me learn to talk', 'Learning to talk: ages and stages' and 'Games to help your little one's talking'.

Share our resources, including the Parent and Carer Pack, with parents and caregivers of children between 0-5 years old to help them on their language-learning journey. For more information, follow @Siarad gyda fi – Talk with me on Facebook and visit Talk with me:

parent and carer pack | GOV.WALES to download the Parent and Carer Pack and for fun tips and expert advice to help children with their talking.

# 7. WeCare Wales

WeCare Wales is supporting the next generation of our childcare workforce. By dispelling myths and showcasing career progression routes, we hope to attract more people with the right skills and values to work in care in Wales.

# Free training

We are offering an Introduction to childcare for people interested in working in the sector. The two-day online programme is available for anyone living in Wales. The training covers the essentials needed to start working with children such as communication, safeguarding and working practices:

WeCare.wales/training/

# Did you see our new TV advert?

https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=IEtOunuTWxo

Our recent recruitment campaign was seeking more childcare and play workers.

Why not create your own recruitment campaigns by using our assets? Access our adverts, case study videos and images by entering the following username and password:

WeCare.wales/stakeholder-toolkit/

Username: Stakeholders

Password: Toolkit\_WeCare!

Can't find what you're looking for? Contact us at contact@wecare.wales

# Supporting employers

Do you have vacancies to fill? If so, why not advertise them for free on the WeCare Wales jobs portal? We promote our jobs portal on TV, social media, through print and digital advertising!

If you would like your job vacancy to appear free of charge on the portal, please register and create a profile on our website:

#### WeCare.wales/submit-job

Have you thought about offering an apprenticeship programme in your setting?

The WeCare Wales website has information about the value of apprenticeships and the benefits of recruiting apprentices into your workforce:

### WeCare.wales/apprenticeships/

# Can you help us?

We are looking for people who can motivate and inspire people to make a difference by considering a career in care. **WeCare Ambassadors** can be at any career level but must be confident, committed, and good communicators. This role is voluntary and requires employer's support:

#### WeCare.wales/ambassadors



# www.cwlwm.org.uk

# The Cwlwm partnership consists of the following organisations:

#### **CLYBIAU PLANT CYMRU KIDS' CLUBS**

Bridge House, Station Road, Llanishen, Cardiff CF14 5UW Tel: 029 2074 1000 E-mail: info@clybiauplantcymru.org

#### **EARLY YEARS WALES**

Unit 1, Coopers Yard, Curran Road, Cardiff, CF10 5NB Tel: 029 2045 1242 E-mail: info@earlyyears.wales

#### **MUDIAD MEITHRIN**

#### **NDNA CYMRU**

#### **PACEY CYMRU**