

# Early Years and Childcare Development Team Flintshire Newsletter

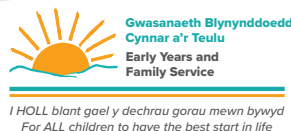
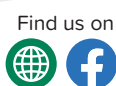
Spring Edition 2026

Welcome to your Spring 2026 update from the Early Years, Childcare, Capital and Partnerships team.

This year, we'll continue to share our training events, information regarding the Small Capital Grant and all other updates to support your setting.

This edition of our newsletter is dedicated to celebrating a Welsh theme, reflecting one of CIW's key priorities: strengthening the use of Welsh in childcare settings. Throughout the year, we are delighted to offer new Welsh training opportunities to help you build confidence and embed the language in your daily practice. The Clebran officer is also available to work directly with your setting, providing tailored support and guidance.

In addition, you'll find information on how to sign up to the Welsh Promise - a valuable step that not only demonstrates your commitment to Welsh culture and language but also contributes positively to inspection outcomes.



# Celebrating Welsh Language and Culture in your childcare setting

**The Welsh language and culture are integral to the identity of children growing up in Wales.**

As childcare professionals, we have a responsibility to ensure that Flintshire settings reflect and promote this heritage. Doing so not only supports national priorities for bilingualism but also enriches children's personal, social, and educational development.

## Why Welsh Language Matters

- Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 strategy sets out the vision of reaching one million Welsh speakers by 2050. Childcare settings play a crucial role in achieving this target by embedding Welsh naturally into daily routines.
- Exposure to Welsh language from a young age supports and enhances cognitive flexibility, problem-solving skills and communication.
- Using Welsh language helps children feel rooted in their community and strengthens cultural identity - fostering pride and confidence.

## Why Welsh Culture Matters

- Celebrating Welsh traditions, festivals, and folklore ensures children grow up with an understanding of their heritage.
- Welsh culture promotes values of community, respect, and togetherness. Embedding these values in practice supports inclusive and nurturing environments.
- Engage in training to build confidence in using Welsh and understanding cultural practices.

Embedding Welsh language and culture is **not** an optional extra - it is a professional responsibility that enriches children's learning and supports national priorities. By modelling positive attitudes and integrating Welsh meaningfully into everyday practice, practitioners help children develop bilingual skills, cultural awareness and a strong sense of identity.



## Does your service promote Welsh language and culture?

You **CAN** change the statement on your CIW inspection report:

**FROM** - 'The service provider is not meeting the Welsh language and culture needs of people and this requires improvement'.

**TO** - 'This is a service that is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and intends to become a bilingual service or demonstrates a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture'.



Click on the link below to find out more about the Active Offer: [Active Offer Information Pack](#)

Flintshire Childcare Development and your umbrella organisation are keen to support you through the process. Please contact us via email - [ccdtraining@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:ccdtraining@flintshire.gov.uk) if you require any further support or guidance.

### Clebran Officer



Helo, Amy ydw i.

My name is Amy and I have recently started my role as Clebran support officer in Flintshire. The aim of the Clebran scheme is to support English medium childcare settings to use the Welsh

language within their provision. We hope to raise practitioners' confidence and knowledge to bring the Welsh language into everyday use within our settings, as well as reflecting Welsh culture. There are

a few different strands to my role; I run half termly themed online workshops. These are open for any setting to join and they provide vocabulary, useful phrases and songs around a specific theme. I am also able to offer face to face support to settings that have expressed an interest and am looking forward to be travelling all over the county providing this support in the New Year.

Alongside this I am available to any setting for support via email. My email address is [amy.douthwaite@meithrin.cymru](mailto:amy.douthwaite@meithrin.cymru).

I look forward to meeting many of you and supporting your wonderful settings and working with your children and staff in the coming year!

"You can't make your child speak a language. However, you can set the stage so they will want to speak it"

## Bilingual Edge

Here are some useful links to support your setting's journey to embed the Welsh language -

[Camau](#)

[Cam wrth Gam](#)

[Welsh Promise](#)

[Clebran](#)

[Helo blod](#)

[Croesi'r Bont](#)

Welsh language courses and resources to help staff build confidence and use Welsh effectively in their daily work with children.

Level 3 and Level 5 childcare qualifications for staff in Mudiad Meithrin settings, Welsh medium private Day Nurseries, and Welsh medium schools.

The Welsh Promise is a way for Childcare and Play settings to increase their use of Welsh and demonstrate their work towards The Active Offer.

Welsh language support for English-medium playgroups and nurseries who are not members of Mudiad Meithrin.

Helo Blod is a fast and friendly Welsh translation and advice service to help you use more Welsh in your business, charity or community group. And it's yours to use for free.

A Welsh language immersion method used to introduce the language to young children who attend Cylchoedd Meithrin

### Welsh language resources for early years and childcare - Social Care Wales -

Here you'll find links to resources that relate to the Welsh language

## Facebook Giveaway - Welsh Books

To celebrate the [Childcare Development Flintshire Facebook group](#) reaching over 300 members, we recently held a Welsh books giveaway.

Congratulations to Country House Childcare, the lucky winner who received a lovely selection of Welsh books to support language development and promote Welsh culture within their setting.

*"We were delighted when we won the Welsh books for the setting as this will help us work towards our goal of introducing more Welsh throughout nursery and achieving the active offer, a massive thank you".*

If you and your staff haven't already joined our Facebook group, we encourage you to do so. It is the best way to stay up to date with training opportunities, resources, events and all things childcare.



## Top Tip

### Making Welsh Part of Everyday Practice in your Setting

- Daily use of Welsh words and phrases during play, meals, and routines.
- Singing Welsh songs and reading storybooks.
- Celebrating Welsh festivals with crafts, food, and family involvement.
- Encouraging children to explore local history, music, and art.
- Support each other - share useful phrases, apps and resources with colleagues and encourage everyone to try one new Welsh word/phrase each week.

**Celebrate effort - not perfection.**

**Praise any attempt to use Welsh.**

**Building confidence is key to increasing use over time.**

## After-School Club Networking Event

Our recent After School Networking event, facilitated by the Childcare Development team, was a fantastic opportunity for practitioners to come together and share good practice.



Held in The Westwood Early Years Centre, Buckley, the session focused on Welsh language and culture—a key priority for all settings. Throughout the event, we explored practical ideas and shared a range of resources designed

to inspire and support practitioners in embedding Welsh naturally and confidently into their everyday provision.

Elliw from Clybiau Plant was also in attendance. She explained to practitioners that starting out on a journey of working towards the Active Offer can be a daunting prospect, therefore, Clybiau Plant have developed a Welsh Promise journey specifically for childcare and play settings.

The aim of this promise (with the hands-on support of Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs Childcare Business Development Officers) is to support settings from the first step (Bronze) through to the final step (Gold). Throughout this journey, you will be able to show that your setting is working towards the Active Offer.

Several settings expressed an interest by committing to the Promise. They will work towards elements and gathering evidence as they go along.

They will not only share the wonderful culture and identity of Wales with the children and families of their setting but also actively show Care Inspectorate Wales how they are working towards the Active Offer.

Settings were able to take away resources to support their Welsh language journey.



## A Festive Morning with Flintshire Childminders

### The Flintshire festive childminder gathering was held during December.

With over 10 dedicated childminders joining us, the room was filled with warmth, laughter and the joyful buzz that only comes from a group of people who truly care about the children and families they support.

Conversations flowed easily as childminders shared stories, ideas, and plenty of festive cheer. It was a lovely opportunity to connect with both familiar faces and new members of our growing community.



Our next Childminder Group session will take place on

**Thursday 12th March  
at 9:30am-11am.**

**The Aston Family Centre,  
Larch Avenue, Shotton,  
CH5 1NF**

The morning offered a chance not only to celebrate the season but also to recognise the incredible work each childminder does throughout the year. These moments of connection remind us how valuable it is to come together, recharge, and support one another.

We are delighted to be welcoming Amy, to our next childminder group the Clebran Officer. She will be sharing practical ideas and inspiration on how to embed Welsh language and culture within your setting.

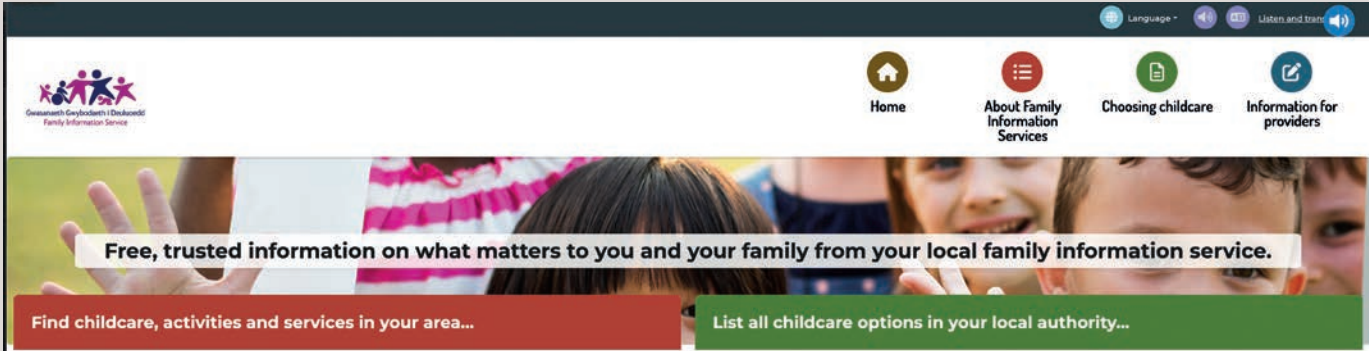
This is a fantastic opportunity to gain fresh insights and strengthen your practice. We'd love to see you there for this unmissable session.

*Hi , just want to  
say thank you to  
Fiona and Emma for this morning.  
what a lovely group, the children  
really enjoyed the toys and activities,  
and I enjoyed chatting to you both and  
the other childminders.  
We will definitely come again.  
I hope you all have a wonderful  
Christmas and festive season.  
Thank you.*



## Family Information Service Flintshire

Did you know that your information can be shared on [www.childcareinformation.wales](http://www.childcareinformation.wales) simply by activating your Dewis account?



This website has been newly updated to make it easier for parents to find suitable childcare to meet their needs. The information you provide on your Dewis account also feeds into this system - so 2 free ways of advertising your business.

For help and guidance on how to reactivate your account on Dewis please don't hesitate to contact the Family Information Team [FISF@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:FISF@flintshire.gov.uk)



## Flying Start

If you are not yet a Flying Start provider but are considering about becoming one please email [flyingstartproviders@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:flyingstartproviders@flintshire.gov.uk) to make enquiries.

Please visit [Flying Start Childcare Expansion](#) to see an up to date list of all areas currently covered by Flying Start 2-year-old expansion.

## Childcare Offer

### General information about applications

Applications for parents to apply for Childcare Offer Wales and Early Entitlement funding for April 2026 intake opened on 28 January 2026.

## Small Capital Grant - Monitoring Requirements

**The Small Capital Grant team would like to share a reminder for those settings who have received funding in 2025-2026.**

To keep your project fully compliant and ensure continued eligibility for future funding opportunities, it's essential that you submit the required monitoring information. This helps our team track progress, celebrate achievements, and demonstrate the impact of this grant across Flintshire.

If you have received Small Capital Grant funding, please make sure you provide:

- Your completed monitoring form
- All receipts related to your project spending
- Photographs of items, equipment and projects



These documents allow the team to verify spending, highlight success stories and support the ongoing delivery of the programme.

Please send all documents to: [smallgrants@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:smallgrants@flintshire.gov.uk)



## Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) Helpline - Support When You Need It

**Do you have concerns about a child's speech,  
language or communication?**

**The SALT Call Helpline is here to help.**



A qualified Speech and Language Therapist is available  
at the end of the phone to offer advice  
and guidance for any concerns.



### **Helpline Times:**

- **Tuesdays: 9:00-10:00am**
- **Thursdays: 3:30-4:30pm**



**Call: 03000 848 179**

The helpline is open every week, including during school  
holidays, so support is always available when you need it.

This service is available to **ALL** childcare settings in  
Flintshire, as well as parents and carers.



## Updates from CWLWM Partners



### Early Years Wales

#### Welsh Promise Reflection Tool: Assess Your Practice

The Welsh Promise Reflection Tool is a simple, reflective tool designed to help early years settings assess their Welsh language practice. It provides a structured way to review how well Welsh is embedded in daily routines, play, interactions, and the environment, as well as how staff skills are developed.

By completing the tool, your setting can:

- Reflect honestly on current practice using a clear progression scale: Not Yet → Developing → Established → Fully Embedded.
- Identify areas for development and plan targeted actions to strengthen Welsh language provision.
- Support staff learning, from everyday interactions to formal training.
- Prepare for submitting evidence for the Welsh Promise, helping teams think about their practice before formally documenting it.
- Inform tailored online training and resources, based on common themes across settings.

The Reflection Tool is quick, easy to complete, and insightful, helping your team take the first step towards embedding high-quality Welsh language practice. It can also act as evidence for the Welsh Promise, supporting settings in meeting the “Assess Practice” criterion and turning reflection into action for continuous improvement.

[Access the Reflective Tool here.](#)

### Mudiad Meithrin



#### NEW! Academi Programme, January - March 2026

Take a look at Academi's new training programme. From new courses to useful resources, you'll find all the details in this issue.

The offer this time includes:

- How to work effectively with families and communities
- How creativity is introduced to young children
- Sharing the experiences of a Cylch Meithrin Manager - exploring fabrics!
- Short sessions to learn about the support to develop Welsh skills
- How to create a positive work environment where staff feel valued
- Guidance on how to manage stress effectively and promote wellbeing in the workplace
- Special conferences! ... and much more!

Download your [copy](#) and register soon - many of these courses will fill up very quickly!

## Clybiau Plant



### Flintshire Incidental Welsh Workshop

- Practical ways to overcome barriers to using Welsh within a childcare setting
- Information about the Active Offer
- An introduction to Welsh language play resources
- Practical ideas for using Welsh day-to-day
- Confidence-building strategies
- A range of ideas and resources to support practice
- Information about the free Welsh language Camau courses

**The Westwood Family Centre, Tabernacle Street, Buckley, Flintshire, CH7 2JT**  
**10/03/2026 18:30 - 19:30**

## Coram PACEY Cymru



### Welsh Culture Information Pack



Ariennir gan  
Lywodraeth Cymru  
Funded by  
Welsh Government

This pack has been developed to support childcare providers to grow children's knowledge and understanding of Welsh culture and help children develop a sense of belonging in their local community, a Welsh identity and global citizenship.



corampacey  
cymru

### [Coram PACEY Cymru's Welsh culture pack](#)

Is a resource to help settings extend opportunities to grow children's knowledge and understanding of their surroundings, to help them explore their identity and let the children gain a sense of belonging to the country they live in.

Settings can support children in terms of their understanding of Welsh culture which is important in relation to the wellbeing and development of children living in Wales.

This is a resource which links to the curriculum for Wales, the Active Offer and promotion of Welsh language development within Wales.

Read more here:

[Welsh language Development](#)

## Need Advice or Support?



**If you'd like guidance on strengthening the use of Welsh in your setting, our team is here to help.**

Whether you're looking for practical ideas, resources, or tailored support, you're welcome to get in touch.

Contact us anytime for advice, training opportunities, or a chat about how we can support your Welsh language journey.

[ccdtraining@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:ccdtraining@flintshire.gov.uk)

## Childcare Settings – Keep Your Eyes Peeled!

**We're excited to be launching our brand new 'The World Around Me' Resource Baskets!**

We have 7 themed baskets available for settings to borrow on a termly loan basis - packed full of engaging, high-quality resources to support children in exploring the world around them.

If you'd like the opportunity to host one in your setting, please keep an eye out for our Expression of Interest form, which will need to be completed to be considered.

**We can't wait to share these with you!**



**As we welcome the brightness and renewal that spring brings, we want to thank you for the dedication, creativity and care you show each day.**

Your energy and commitment ensures that every child is given the very best start.

