MEDIA RELEASE

Launching ‘Clwb Cylch’ Open Welsh Playgroup Sessions

During the period of the Coronavirus pandemic, Mudiad Meithrin is contributing to Welsh language activity in the home by providing open sessions under the banner of ‘Clwb Cylch’ (#ClwbCylch) for children of nursery age and their parents via digital platforms.

Particular emphasis will be placed on children from families where Welsh is not spoken at home.

A live session will be held every morning at 10.00 based on the experience of a fun-filled session held at the usual Cylch Meithrin with an experienced Cylch Meithrin leader, using the content of Mudiad Meithrin’s language immersion scheme, ‘Croesi’r Bont’ and Mudiad Meithrin’s CPD training department, Academi. The daily sessions will be 20 minutes long, and each week will have a different theme.

The purpose of a ‘Clwb Cylch’ is to support families, and entertain children in an open and dynamic way. We’re responding to some concerns that children will not hear the usual language heard during the Cylch Meithrin sessions during the pandemic, and provide practical support to non-Welsh speaking parents.

Dr Gwenllian Lansdown Davies, Chief Executive of Mudiad Meithrin, said:

“The aim of ‘Clwb Cylch’ is to try and recreate some of the fun and excitement of the Cylch Meithrin for children who are either missing out on provision at the moment or who are preparing to attend the Cylch in due course. This will also enrich the existing ‘Welsh for Kids’ offer aimed at parents and carers as they introduce the Welsh language to their children.”

The first session of Clwb Cylch will be on the Mudiad Meithrin Facebook page on Monday 1 June at 10.00 am. All the sessions will be featured on Mudiad's digital platforms (Facebook / MudiadMeithrin, Twitter @MudiadMeithrin) as well as on a new section on the Mudiad website www.meithrin.cymru/welshhome/

Here is a list of the leaders who will be hosting the sessions on specific days:

Monday: Wendy Phillips – Cylch Meithrin Crymych
Tuesday: Ann Begley - Cylch Meithrin Y Llys
Wednesday: Emma Healy - Cylch Meithrin Llanllyfn
Thursday: Rachael Duddle - Cylch Meithrin Bae Cinmel
Friday: Emma Monroe - Cylch Meithrin Gwdihw, Brynithel

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General Information about Mudiad Meithrin

Mudiad Meithrin is a registered charity (charity number: 1022320). It aims to give every young child in Wales the opportunity to benefit from early years services and experiences through the medium of Welsh. When Mudiad Meithrin was established in 1971 the Census figures noted that year that the number of children aged 3-4 years old who could speak Welsh was 11.3%. We saw a gradual increase in this figure over the next decades and it’s pleasing to note that by the 2011 Census this figure had doubled to 23.3% of 3-4 year old being able to speak Welsh. Without a doubt, the hard work at the Cylchoedd Meithrin and Cylchoedd Ti a Fi has played a vital part in ensuring this increase in the number of young Welsh speakers in Wales.

Mudiad Meithrin has more than 1,000 early years settings throughout Wales which include:

Cymraeg for Kids – this scheme focuses on increasing the numbers of Welsh speakers among children of nursery age through Cymraeg for Kids groups for families of very young children and babies across Wales.

Cylchoedd Ti a Fi – these groups offer children from birth through to compulsory school age and their parents an excellent opportunity to meet once a week to socialise, share experiences and to play together in an informal Welsh atmosphere.

Cylchoedd Meithrin – (Welsh-medium playgroups) offering daily sessional care and education for children 2 – 5 years old. Over 12,000 children are given the opportunity to learn through play through the medium of Welsh at the Cylchoedd Meithrin.

Integrated Centres – the Mudiad’s Integrated Centres offer a wide range of services through the medium of Welsh for children and their families, which include sessional and full day care, before and after school provision, training and advice for parents.

Day Nurseries – the Mudiad’s nurseries provide quality full day care and early education for children from six weeks old to school age in an attractive, safe, friendly and Welsh atmosphere.

Referral Schemes – the Mudiad’s Referral Schemes offer special support to children with additional needs.

National Training Scheme, Cam wrth Gam Schools Scheme and Academi – these are departments within Mudiad Meithrin responsible for developing and delivering training in early years care and education through the medium of Welsh to secondary school pupils as well as upskilling staff and volunteers at the Cylchoedd Meithrin.

Dewin and Doti – Mudiad Meithrin’s unique characters who are friends to all the children of the cylchoedd (nursery groups) and helps them and encourages them so speak Welsh. Dewin and Doti unique Resources may be bought via the online shop – www.meithrin.cymru/shop/

Fundraising – as the organisation is a registered charity an emphasis is given on fundraising activities through the 100 Club, sponsorship packages, and a number of fundraising events locally and nationally.

Mudiad Meithrin employs over 220 staff nationally and over 1,500 members of staff work at the cylchoedd meithrin. Mudiad Meithrin’s Support Officers work at a local level in each county offering guidance and practical advice to the cylchoedd staff, volunteers and parents.

Mudiad Meithrin – Welsh early years specialists

www.meithrin.cymru