

17 November 2010  
Press release

## **Cardiff children learn through play at Chiquito's Mexican 'wow day'**

Chiquito Mexican restaurant at The Red Dragon Centre, Cardiff Bay welcomed pupils from a Mount Stuart Primary School as part of the restaurant's new education business linked programme supporting the curriculum's new goals to get children to learn through play.

Around 20 children aged between five and seven visited Chiquito to take part in a cookery lesson making burritos. Taking place during the week of the Mexican Revolution Day (20 November), staff at the Mexican restaurant also gave the children a talk about the country and culture.

The education programme supports the Welsh Assembly Government's Foundation Phase which promotes learning through play. Mount Stuart Primary School has fully embraced Foundation Phase pedagogy and aims to provide the children with experiences that are stimulating and exciting. Developing close links with the local community and business is an important aspect of this work.

Peter Morris, head teacher at Mount Stuart Primary School said: "The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit and it was clear to see that this experience added a completely new dimension to the school day. We strive to initiate the wow-factor through organising days when children are taught the curriculum through activities outside the classroom. Wow days like this enrich the learning experience and opens the door to different styles of learning. It creates a buzz and excitement to education and makes learning fun."

Geraint Cryer general manager at Chiquito, said: “The visit was a great success and we were pleased to invite a local school to help launch our new education initiative. We hope that the new curriculum will encourage more schools will take advantage of the scheme we’re offering to allow children to learn in a more relaxed and different environment outside the classroom.

Welsh Education Minister Leighton Andrews, commented recently: “The benefits of teaching and learning through the Foundation Phase are already being seen in schools and settings across Wales. But the pay-off of this radical new way of learning will be long term and its impact will be felt for many years to come.”

Emma Johnstone, marketing manager at The Red Dragon Centre, said: It is great to see Chiquito getting involved with the local community and offering their skills and facilities to help further the education of children in the south Wales area. I’m looking forward to seeing how this project progresses and hopefully we will see more children visiting The Red Dragon Centre on their ‘wow days’.

**Ends**

**For more information visit [www.thereddragoncentre.co.uk](http://www.thereddragoncentre.co.uk). Follow @RedDragonCentre on Twitter or become a fan of The Red Dragon Centre on Facebook.**

- ends-

<p><b>For further information please contact: Katie Brandon on 02920 76 4100 / <a href="mailto:katie@equinoxcommunications.co.uk">katie@equinoxcommunications.co.uk</a></b></p>
---

**Notes to Editor:**

**About The Red Dragon Centre**

Located in the heart of Cardiff Bay, the Red Dragon Centre offers a complete entertainment and leisure experience all under one roof. Cardiff Bay’s most popular entertainment venue, the Centre is open seven days a week, 364 days a year, 8am until late.

Businesses in the Red Dragon Centre are:

- The ODEON Cinema with 12 large screens, private Gallery bar and home to Wales' only IMAX
- Hollywood Bowl, which has 26 lanes, licensed bar and café and an arcade area
- Grosvenor Casino, the largest casino in Wales
- The Doctor Who Up Close Exhibition
- Chiquito Mexican restaurant
- Old Orleans, a Deep South American styled restaurant
- Bella Italia Italian restaurant
- Spice Route restaurant
- Oriental Garden restaurant serving Chinese, Thai and Malaysian cuisine
- Cadwalader's ice cream café
- Red Dragon FM