



# NEWS EXPLORER

January 2019

Edition 3

Last year we had a lot of fun and here's a quick recap...

**SESSIONS RUN** 125,444 ★

 **57,784 HOURS WORKED**

**16,314 SHIFTS** **176 EMPLOYEES**



**17**  
**YEARS**

SINCE WE OPENED OUR FIRST CLUB!

**15 CLUBS**

ALL OF OUR CLUBS ARE GRADED GOOD OR OUTSTANDING BY OFSTED

**8 OFSTED OUTSTANDING**

**1**

**ONE MISSION**

To create environments where children are treated as individuals, where they want to be, where they have fun, feel safe and their needs are met.

# Happy New Year!

We approach the start of every New Year with optimism and enthusiasm - brimming with new plans, and this year is more exciting than ever!

As specialists in the provision of Breakfast, After School and Holiday Clubs, we aim to make every part of our offering excellent. Ofsted's 2-4 yearly external inspections of our clubs provide us with a measure of excellence. It is without doubt the formal and informal feedback we receive from you and your children that is our main driver. Nevertheless, we value Ofsted's feedback because of its external nature and the fact it measures us against national standards.

One significant weakness of our Ofsted inspections is that, in order to accept reception children at our clubs, we have to be registered and inspected on the Early Years Register, meaning our results are mixed in with all nurseries, child minders, pre-schools and others. It has been a source of frustration (and an unfulfilled Freedom of Information request!) that Ofsted have not been able to provide us with details of just wraparound care providers.

Not to be deterred, we decided to do our own research. Using what can only be described by some as magic (and by others as advanced look up tables and filtering in Excel!), we have created a list that we believe to be completely accurate of wraparound care providers. This list has shown us something amazing! **We are number THREE in the overall number of outstanding inspections in wraparound care in all of England and Wales.**

And that is not all - **we have the highest percentage of outstanding inspections** of all providers in England and Wales operating from more than one site.

We have always said we wanted to provide the best service and this is proof that our fantastic team really are the best in the country. We could not be more proud of this achievement. Since Class Of Their Own was founded by Sam in 2001, the emphasis has been on providing high quality clubs. Over the years, everyone has worked extremely hard to deliver Sam's vision. Like many companies, we don't often take time to pat ourselves on the back. This time, we do feel extremely proud and will take a moment to call ourselves the best provider of wraparound care in the country!

We hope you enjoy the newsletter. Read on for exciting events coming up in the next few months, information about how we engage with the wider sector and an interview with Martina.

Happy reading!



*Sam & Tanya*



2019

# New Year News



ClassOfTheirOwnClubs



COTOClubs



ClassOfTheirOwn

# New Year News!

It is with great pleasure that we announce some exciting news! In the coming months we will be updating and relaunching three important elements of our business. We thought you might like a sneak preview of some of the changes we have planned.

## COMING SOON...

### Class Of Their Own Rebrand

#### New Logo

- New look and feel for all signage
- Updated values
- New photos
- Consistent communication formats

### Completely New Website

#### www

- Contemporary look and feel
- Easy to use
- Mobile friendly
- Relevant & easy to find content

### New Booking System



- Online booking for all of our clubs
- Parent/Carer accounts for ease of use
- Easy to use for Parent/Carers, Club and Office teams

### Recent Ofsted Inspections

- Outstanding at Connaught Road, Hove
- Good at Southover, Lewes
- Met at Holland Road, Hove (highest achievable at Junior-only club)





**Class Of Their Own  
in the  
Play Community**



ClassOfTheirOwnClubs



COTOClubs



ClassOfTheirOwn

# Class Of Their Own in the Play Community

As Class Of Their Own has developed and grown, we have become an increasingly strong and important voice in the play sector. It is a sector we have always engaged with. We host visits from other providers, network locally and with similar providers in different parts of the country. Over the years, we have grown our participation and in 2018 found ourselves leading the sector in two key areas.



Firstly, we are actively engaged as one of a handful of employers nationwide in a **Trail Blazer Group** to create new standards for an updated **Playwork Apprenticeship Level 2**. Trail Blazer Groups are comprised of employers to develop new apprenticeship standards. Breakfast, After School and Holiday Clubs do not have a representative body, hence, a small group of motivated employers have come together to define and deliver the new standards. Clair Faulkner, our in-house trainer, has been instrumental in helping to define the Apprenticeship standards and has very recently become the joint Chair of the Trail Blazer Group. She holds a Foundation Degree in Playwork and realised how much she has developed now she is a peer to one of her former course lecturers who is also part of the Group.

Secondly, Tanya has become a **Trustee of Play England**, the national charity supporting play in England. Funding has been cut and the charity does not currently have any employees. To try and overcome this, the Trustee Board increased from six members to 14 in 2018. They were actively seeking people with marketing and HR experience – which is what Tanya oversees at Class Of Their Own every day – so she knew she had to apply! After attending just two meetings, Tanya was asked to lead the strategy sub-committee and she is looking forward to helping the charity to develop both its campaigning and promotion of play activities in the coming year.



We are very pleased that Class Of Their Own can support the wider sector and will share future developments with you.



# The Team

Meet the  
Class Of Their Own team!

# Martina

## Assistant Club Co-ordinator at Holland Road



Martina has been working for Class Of Their Own for a year. She has already been awarded Bank Play Leader Of The Year Award and her hard work, passion and commitment have seen her gain a promotion to Assistant Club Co-ordinator at Holland Road, starting in January 2019.

### **Q Why did you start working for us?**

**A** I heard about the job from a friend, so decided to apply. I had some experience of working in summer camps in (her native) Italy and I have a brother who is 13 years younger than me! I had not worked with such a large range of ages so did not know what it would be like and decided to try it. I did not expect the role to become my new career.

### **Q Why did you come to Brighton?**

**A** I started a degree in Business and Economy in Italy, but after the first year I realised I did not like it and decided to come to England to study English. I did not want to go to London as lots of Italians live there and I wanted to come somewhere that I could only speak English. A friend recommended Brighton, and it appealed as it is on the coast, like my home of Pescara, and not too big. Coming here was the best decision ever!

### **Q What was great about working as a roaming Bank Play Leader?**

**A** I loved my role as a roaming Bank Play Leader as I got to visit all the clubs. I love meeting new people, and seeing how different clubs work. I love seeing how each club uses the same resources to deliver different outcomes, results and activities.

### **Q You are one of the few people who has worked in all our clubs – well done! What does the role involve?**

**A** I could be asked to work in any club on any day, so organisation of my own time was important, I had to work out logistics such as working out the best way to reach each school. I needed to be aligned with the club vision and their point of view. The role requires lots of commitment as I was not always in the same place, yet needed to help deliver an amazing session for the children and team.



**Q** You won our Bank Play Leader of the Year Award last year – what skills do you think you bring to the role that have helped to make you so successful at it?

**A** I am friendly and I think this is really important when working with different people and personalities. I enjoy observing and using my common sense. It helps me to work with the different approaches the clubs take. Going to a different club every day requires flexibility with children and the team, each has different habits and points of view, to make the session 100% successful.

**Q** What skills does a person need to be great at the roaming Bank Play Leader role?

**A** They need to be flexible, adaptable to different environments, have a positive personality and plenty of common sense, plus have initiative and be independent. It is not a role you can be shy in, you need to have lots of confidence.

**Q** It is very exciting that you have just been promoted to Assistant Co-ordinator at Holland Road, what are you looking forward to in your new job?

**A** I am looking forward to bringing my ideas and experience into the club. I hope I can improve the environment even more and connect really well with the children. I hope to develop good relationships with everyone and I am looking forward to learning to aid my personal growth. I am so happy, I started with Class Of Their Own because I liked working with children, I did not ever expect to have this opportunity.

**Q** What do you love about your new role?

**A** Lots! I like to be in charge, I am responsible, reliable and I love working with children, to challenge myself, to do my best and to work with other people. It is great to help children to develop and grow. I really like that at Class Of Their Own they have so many resources and a large range of things to do.

**Q** When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

**A** I wanted to be a teacher (am now working with children), a pilot (I still love to travel), and vet (I have two dogs in Italy!).

**Q** What are you most looking forward to in your work life in 2019?

**A** I wanted to apply for a new role which I have done, and I am looking forward to how my new role will aid my personal growth. I want to learn new skills and to do a Playwork Apprenticeship to improve my practice.

**Q** What do you do when you are not working?

**A** I enjoy seeing friends and reading, particularly psychology. I love to travel and discover different cultures, so I am also going to attend some courses to refresh my Spanish and I hope to visit Japan soon too.

# We're Recruiting!

I am Hilarious and  
#iamaplayleader



As a Senior Play Leader I like to use my humour to make the children laugh in club.

I am a Stage Performer  
and #iamaplayleader



I love that I can balance my childcare career, as a Club Co-ordinator, around my shows and live performances.

I am a Mother and  
#iamaplayleader



I am a mother and like to encourage and help children have fun everyday in club!

## Current Vacancies

- ★ Service Delivery Co-ordinator – Class Of Their Own Office, Hove
- ★ After School Club Play Leaders – Roaming Bank
- ★ After School Club Play Leader – Brackenbury Primary School, Portslade
- ★ After School Club Play Leader – Fairlight Primary School, Brighton
- ★ After School Club Play Leader – Hove Junior School, Holland Road, Hove
- ★ After School Club Play Leader – St Paul's CE Primary School, Brighton
- ★ After School Club Play Leader – West Hove Infant School, School Road, Hove

### What do we look for?

A Play Leader is responsible for supporting the day to day activities in the Club and ensuring the children are given opportunities to play freely or engage in organised activities. Time at our clubs is the children's free/leisure time and the activities that you set up for the children will be child-led and influenced by the children's likes and dislikes. Your aim for the day is to use your skills and experience to ensure the children enjoy their time with us.

Find out more at  
[www.getintoplay.co.uk](http://www.getintoplay.co.uk)

## February Holiday Club 2019

Monday 18th February - Friday 22nd February



### Clubs

- ★ Brunswick Infants
- ★ Brunswick Juniors
- ★ Connaught Road Infants
- ★ Fairlight
- ★ Peter Gladwin
- ★ Sompting
- ★ Southover
- ★ Stanford

**#ExploringThroughPlay**

 **ClassOfTheirOwnClubs**  **COTOClubs**  **ClassOfTheirOwn**

Book Online at [www.classoftheirown.com](http://www.classoftheirown.com)

