



2nd December 2025

Dear Children of Ham Dingle Primary School,

It's a joy to be able to congratulate you on becoming a Platinum OPAL School! This is the highest honour a school can receive for play, and you have earned it through your creativity, teamwork, brilliant ideas, and the joyful way you play together every day.

When I visited, I loved chatting with Lilly, Edith and Grace from 6P and hearing how much OPAL means to you and your ideas to make the Tepees comfier with cushions and blankets. It was great watching so many of you splash and experiment with puddles, using brushes to redirect water, was wonderful, your excitement was contagious, and it was clear you were *having the best time*.

I was especially impressed by how confidently you explained your **safe building** approach: if something is longer than you, it takes two people. You showed great teamwork, problem-solving skills, and a real understanding of what "safe enough" means so everyone can join in.

Your **Play Leaders** deserve a special celebration. You notice kindness, you spot great play, and you help others feel included. You're not just leaders – you are role models.

I also loved hearing about your **Play Assemblies**. You share ideas, think together about how to make playtimes even better, and help guide decisions that affect your whole school. Your voices matter, and you are shaping the future of play at Ham Dingle.

A quick reminder from me: **remember to bring in a pair of wellies** so you can enjoy all-weather play – mud, rain, puddles, and all the joyful surprises they bring. When you are prepared, nothing has to stop you exploring outside.

I know you are grateful to the adults who support you and make this amazing experience possible, make sure you give them all a high five when you see them!

You have shown the very best of what play can be when everyone is welcome, when children lead, and when imagination is given room to grow. You are everything a Platinum OPAL School should be. Keep exploring, keep being brave and kind, keep looking out for one another and most importantly, **keep playing**.

With huge congratulations,

Amy Campbell,

OPAL Mentor **OPAL West Midlands**