



2nd December 2025

Dear Staff, Parents, and Governors of Ham Dingle Primary School,

It is with great pleasure that I extend our warmest congratulations to you all on achieving the OPAL Platinum Award with a brilliant score of 90%. This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication, creativity, and care you have invested in transforming play at Ham Dingle Primary.

Your OPAL journey now reflects a school-wide culture that values children's autonomy, wellbeing, and imaginative possibilities. Investments such as the shipping container, wheeled play equipment, increased staff capacity within the play team, and the concrete path leading to the messy café demonstrate thoughtful planning for high-value play spaces. These additions are far more than infrastructure, they are statements of intent: that children should be free to explore, experiment, and create, regardless of weather or season.

Children take on important roles as Play Leaders and contribute meaningfully to the development of their play spaces. They understand how to make play "safe enough." When asked, they confidently demonstrated their approach to safe building and making: *"If something is longer than you, it takes two,"* ensuring everyone can participate and enjoy the experience. This is a wonderful example of the practical life skills and social understanding nurtured by your play environment every day.

What stands out is that this is an important whole-school initiative, driven by the leadership of Mr Tilley, the inventiveness and skill of Mr Taylor, and the organisation and passion of Miss Bashford and the Play Team. Governors have further supported this vision with trust and long-term thinking, recognising that play is not merely a break from learning but an integral part of it. Parents and the wider community have also contributed through fundraising efforts and donations, showing the strength of your school community.

A Platinum Award at 90% is evidence of a school that nurtures its community, listens to its pupils, and honours play as a fundamental right. You have created an environment where children flourish socially, emotionally, and physically, and where childhood is treated with the respect it deserves.

On behalf of the OPAL team, thank you for your dedication and belief in the power of play. Please take a moment to celebrate this outstanding milestone, you have truly earned it.

Warmest congratulations,

Amy Campbell

OPAL Mentor **OPAL West Midlands**