Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) English Progression

Reading

Word Reading
• apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes, both to read aloud and to understand the meaning of new words they meet
• read further exception words, noting the unusual correspondences between spelling and sound, and where these occur in the word

Comprehension
• listening to and discussing a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks
• reading books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes
• increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books, including fairy stories, myths and legends, and retelling some of these orally
• identifying themes and conventions in a wide range of books
• preparing poems and play scripts to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone, volume and action
• recognising some different forms of poetry
• using dictionaries to check the meaning of words that they have read
• checking that the text makes sense to them, discussing their understanding and explaining the meaning of words in context
• asking questions to improve their understanding of a text
• identifying main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph and summarising these
• drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence
• predicting what might happen from details stated and implied
• discussing words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination
• identifying how language, structure, and presentation contribute to meaning
• retrieve and record information from non-fiction
• participate in discussion about both books that are read to them and those they can read for themselves, taking turns and listening to what others say

Writing

Composition
• discussing writing similar to that which they are planning to write in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar
• discussing and recording ideas
• composing and rehearsing sentences orally (including dialogue), progressively building a varied and rich vocabulary and an increasing range of sentence structures
• organising paragraphs around a theme
• in narratives, creating settings, characters and plot
• in non-narrative material, using simple organisational devices (headings & subheadings)
• assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing and suggesting improvements
• proposing changes to grammar and vocabulary to improve consistency, including the accurate use of pronouns in sentences
• proofread for spelling and punctuation errors
• read their own writing aloud, to a group or the whole class, using appropriate intonation and controlling the tone and volume so that the meaning is clear

Transcription
Spelling
• spell further homophones
• spell words that are often misspelt
• use further prefixes and suffixes and understand how to add them
• place the possessive apostrophe accurately in words with regular plurals and in words with irregular plurals
• use the first 2 or 3 letters of a word to check its spelling in a dictionary
• write from memory simple sentences, dictated by the teacher, that include words and punctuation taught so far

Handwriting
• use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined
• increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting

Vocabulary, Grammar and Punctuation
• extending the range of sentences with more than one clause by using a wider range of conjunctions, including when, if, because, although
• choosing nouns or pronouns appropriately for clarity and cohesion and to avoid repetition
• using conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to express time and cause (and place)
• using the present perfect form of verbs in contrast to the past tense
• use the correct form of 'a' or 'an'
• word families based on common words (solve, solution, dissolve, insoluble)
• using and punctuating direct speech (i.e. Inverted commas)

Grammatical Terminology:
adverb, preposition, conjunction, word family, prefix, clause, subordinate clause, direct speech, consonant, consonant letter, vowel letter, inverted commas (or 'speech marks')