Kingsland CE Primary School

EYFS Vocabulary Progression

This vocabulary spine sets out intentional, deliberate, progressive vocabulary for EYFS across six half terms, organised by the 7 Areas of Learning, using a three-tier model:

- Tier 1: Everyday language (access)
- Tier 2: High-utility language (development)
- Tier 3: Subject-specific language (depth)

Vocabulary is taught explicitly and revisited through stories, continuous and enhanced provision, and adult–child interaction, supporting progression towards the EYFS ELGs. Specific mathematical vocabulary linked to the NCETM Mastering Number progression is also covered systematically.

Term 1: Amazing Me							
	Communication and Language	**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**	**Physical Development**	**Literacy**	**Mathematics**	**Understanding the World**	**Expressive Arts and Design**
Tier 1	talk, listen, name	kind, share, friend	ride, glide	name, book, picture, page	age, number, more	family, home	draw, colour, sing
Tier 2	describe, explain, question, answer	feelings, choices, respect, same, different, special	balance, healthy, strong, safely	character, word, sentence	compare, same, count, altogether	community, culture	create, design, model
Tier 3	identity, personality, emotions, rules	individuality, belonging, confidence	coordination, hygiene, direction	description, illustrator, author, blurb	pattern, measure, repeat, sort, group	diversity, similarities, autumn, season	self-portrait, expression
Key questions	• How am I feeling today? • What makes our classroom special? • Who is in my family? • How have I changed since I was a baby? • How am I special and unique?			**Generic questions & sentence stems**	• I wonder how / why / what / if / whether / where … • What is the same? What is different? • How would you describe … • Why might … • Why do you think … • What word might you use to …		

Term 2: Starry Night							
	Communication and Language	**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**	**Physical Development**	**Literacy**	**Mathematics**	**Understanding the World**	**Expressive Arts and Design**
Tier 1	party, talk	happy, together, safe	play, move, travel	card, sign, news	number, more, less, fewer	birthday, holiday	paint, decorate, mix
Tier 2	celebrate, remember, retell	sharing, caring, polite, manners	control, energy	invitation, message, sense	order, sequence	religion, culture, Bible, Christmas	pattern, music, print, bake
Tier 3	festival, tradition, conversation	include, community, celebrate	coordination, stamina, tripod	instructions, recount	calendar, time, equal, whole, part	customs, beliefs, decorate, temple, Diwali, Harvest	rhythm, perform, blend, lyrics
Key questions	• How is light important? • Is everyone the same? • Is it good to be different? • Why do people celebrate festivals?			**Generic questions & sentence stems**	• I wonder how / why / what / if / whether / where … • What is the same? What is different? • How would you describe … • Why might … • Why do you think … • What word might you use to …		

Term 3: Travel through time							
	Communication and Language	**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**	**Physical Development**	**Literacy**	**Mathematics**	**Understanding the World**	**Expressive Arts and Design**
Tier 1	talk, listen	feel, home	move, act, dance	book, character	number, size	old, past, present	draw, act,
Tier 2	take turns,	favourite, special, respect	sequence, control	beginning, middle, end	order, compare	long ago, before, after	role play, design, puppet
Tier 3	travel, time, lives, similarities, differences	memory, survey, interview	coordination, balance	traditional tale, setting, plot, story map	tally, data, number sentence, add	tradition, history, timeline, memory	drama, storytelling
Key questions	• What memories are special to me? • How have toys / houses / vehicles changed over time? • What is a timeline? • Can I describe events using ‘before’ and ‘after’?			**Generic questions & sentence stems**	• I wonder how / why / what / if / whether / where … • What is the same? What is different? • How would you describe … • Why might … • Why do you think … • What word might you use to …		

Term 4: Travel around the world							
	Communication and Language	**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**	**Physical Development**	**Literacy**	**Mathematics**	**Understanding the World**	**Expressive Arts and Design**
Tier 1	rules, fair	try, give-it-a-go, team	leap, jump, hop, climb, catch	label, list, postcard, mark	tall, short	hot, cold, map, sea, ship	paint, build, sing
Tier 2	rhyme, sound, explain, follow, instructions	responsibility, relationship, cooperate	strength, control, over, under	describe, story sequencing, caption	measure, compare, repeated pattern	weather, celebrate, travel, journey, city	texture, colour, construct, high, low
Tier 3	map, country, directions, clues	feelings, emotions, leadership	coordination, balance, letter formation, agility	fiction, blurb, lower case, capital letter	subitise, double, odd, even, distance	world, globe, atlas, geography, climate, season, explore, navigate	sculpture, pitch, junk model, perform
Key questions	• What is important to me? • What do I believe? • How are different countries / people / cultures the same / different? • Where do I live?			**Generic questions & sentence stems**	• I wonder how / why / what / if / whether / where … • What is the same? What is different? • How would you describe … • Why might … • Why do you think … • What word might you use to …		

Term 5: Secret garden							
	Communication and Language	**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**	**Physical Development**	**Literacy**	**Mathematics**	**Understanding the World**	**Expressive Arts and Design**
Tier 1	plant, insect	look after, food	dig, carry, swim	read, word, sentence	count	soil, water, garden, animal	music, dance
Tier 2	grow, change	magic, poor, afford, instruction	tools, scissors	capital letter, full stop	heavier, lighter, corners, sides	environment, month	detail, observe, instrument
Tier 3	lifecycle, habitat	anxious, excitement, distract	posture, thread, exercise	non-fiction, facts, diary	weigh, double, even, odd, length, 2D, 3D	growth, lifecycle, leaf, stalk, senses	collage, print, beat, rhythm, melody
Key questions	• How can I help to look after our world? • What do plants need to grow? • Where in the world do different animals come from? • How can I look after a pet?			**Generic questions & sentence stems**	• I wonder how / why / what / if / whether / where … • What is the same? What is different? • How would you describe … • Why might … • Why do you think … • What word might you use to …		

Term 6: Moving on and shining out							
	Communication and Language	**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**	**Physical Development**	**Literacy**	**Mathematics**	**Understanding the World**	**Expressive Arts and Design**
Tier 1	help	home, miss	high, low, fast, slow	order, voice	long, tall, short, full, empty	place, space, summer, change	learn
Tier 2	explain, decide	fairly, worries, persevere, like, dislike	travel, race	capital letter, full stop, finger space	sharing, group, balance	museum, church, library	rehearse, create,
Tier 3	interrupt	leadership, refugee, challenge	speed, agility, teamwork	story sequencing, expression	half, halving, capacity, subitise, unit of measurement	seasons, vision, values	performance, concert
Key questions	• How can I let my light shine? • How can I describe my feelings and emotions? • What memories do I have of Class 1? • Is everyone in the world equal?			**Generic questions & sentence stems**	• I wonder how / why / what / if / whether / where … • What is the same? What is different? • How would you describe … • Why might … • Why do you think … • What word might you use to …		

Subject-specific vocabulary in EYFS	
English	name, picture, book, page, character, word, sentence, describe, card, sign, invitation, message, label, recount, instructions, beginning, middle, end, traditional tale, setting, ploy, blurb, list, fiction, non-fiction, information, caption, tripod grip, retell, events, sequence, story map, illustrator, full stop, capital letter, question mark, curved, straight, phoneme, grapheme, phonics, sound, lower case, author
Maths	number, age, more, less, compare, same, different, size, count, pattern, measure, order, sequence, calendar, time, clock, tall, short, heavy, light, full, empty, repeat, distance, side, corner, 2D, 3D, triangle, circle, square, rectangle, number sentence, equal, same, add, take away, subtract, fewer, double, halve, number bond, even, odd, straight, curved
Science	plants, leaf, root, stalk, ground, sun, soil, leaf, stem, flower, root, blooming, healthy, tiny, gentle, tall, golden, bright, healthy, delicate, bloom, plant, wheat, bake, bread, crop, share, grind, busy, tired, helpful, golden, fresh, delicious, crisp, hard-working, important, respectful, animals, minibeasts, caterpillar, egg, food, hungry, grow, cocoon, butterfly, ground, slimy, shelter, scuttle, tasty, munch, rotten, clever, beautiful, wiggle, stretch, curl, twist, whirl, reach, droop, sway, materials, structure, straw, sticks, bricks, house, build, huff, puff, blow, strong, weak, sneaky, clever, safe, heavy, strong, tug, stubborn, juicy, hard-working, together, enormous, habitat, predator, prey, lifecycle
RE	glow, candle, flame, light, festival, celebration, community, hope, shy, shimmer, flicker, sparkle, crackle, whizz, bang, dazzle, glitter, burst, special, starry, shiny, bright, joyful, magical, celebrate, peaceful, journey, explore, discover, festival, delicious, traditional, famous, adventure, Bible, Christian, Diwali, Christmas, parable, Jesus, disciple, values, respect, love, peace, thankful, prayer, church, Harvest, religion, culture, customs, beliefs, Easter, family
Art & Design	paint, print, draw, colour, pattern, glitter, bright, dark, line, shape, observe, texture, model
Computing	computer, iPad, laptop, screen, Beebot, programme, control, app, headphones, picture, video
Design & Technology	bake, cook, hot, cold, food, plant, material, build, strong, weak, safe, cutlery, tool, weigh
Geography	home, school, journey, transport, travel, explore, world, globe, atlas, map, country, city, mountain, countryside, river, ocean, tradition, adventure, weather, village, near, far, place, seasons, hot, cold, museum, church, library
History	past, present, timeline, long ago, before, after, tradition, memory, years, months, days, date
Music	song, sing, listen, move, beat, rhythm, actions, rhyme, lyrics, pitch, instrument, loud, quiet, in time, together
PE	move, direction, speed, control, space, health, obstacle, balance, throw, catch, moving, jumping, travel, squat, tuck, straddle, straight, kick, dribbling, patting, overarm, underarm, catching, aim, control, coordination, target, symmetry, over, under, through, around, safely, exercise, partner, teamwork, rhythm, swim, race, fast, slow, balance, team
RSHE / PSED	instruction, strengths, qualities, talents, keeping calm, attention, distraction, respect, rules, perseverance, resilience, hygiene, feelings, independent, dreams, goals, challenges, taking turns, polite, manners, exercise, healthy, physical activity, sleep, clean, stranger danger, hygiene, hand washing, relationships, problems, cooperative, sensitive, bullying, cross, worried excited, fake, real, feelings, friends, group, class, kind, likes, together, friends