



The Great Fire of London- Knowledge Organiser

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School – Year 2



Dates to Remember

Sunday 2nd September 1666

Monday 3rd September 1666

Tuesday 4th September 1666

Wednesday 5th September 1666

Thursday 6th September 1666

The fire starts at 1 a.m. Mid-morning: Samuel Pepys starts to write about the fire in his diary.

The fire gets very close to the Tower of London.

St Paul's Cathedral is destroyed by the fire.

The wind dies down and the fire spreads more slowly.

The fire is finally put out. Thousands of people are left homeless.

Key Vocabulary

bakery	A place that makes bread, cakes, etc.
St Paul's Cathedral	A very large church in London. A new St Paul's Cathedral was built after the fire.
diary	A book that people write about their lives in.
firebreak	A gap that stops a fire spreading to nearby buildings.
Tower of London	A historic castle on the River Thames in Central London
Pudding Lane	The street where the fire originally started.
Fire Squirt	were used to fight the Great Fire of London in 1666 and afterwards the new fire regulations ordered each parish to have two squirts
London	Capital city of the UK
Leather water bucket	People used these filled with water to try and put out the fire.

Historical Facts

How did the fire spread?

The fire of London started in a bakery in Pudding Lane on 2nd September 1666. It hadn't rained for months so the city was very dry. In 1666, lots of people had houses made from wood which burns easily. Houses were built too close together and there was no organised fire brigade.

How did they fight the fire?

They used leather buckets and squirts filled with water, axes, fire-hooks and gunpowder to make fire-breaks. The fire burned for 4 days. As the wind died down and changed direction the fire became under control and was finally put out.

What happened after the fire?

13,200 houses were destroyed by the fire and 70,000 people were left homeless. Many left London to live elsewhere and some slept in tents.

Key Figures

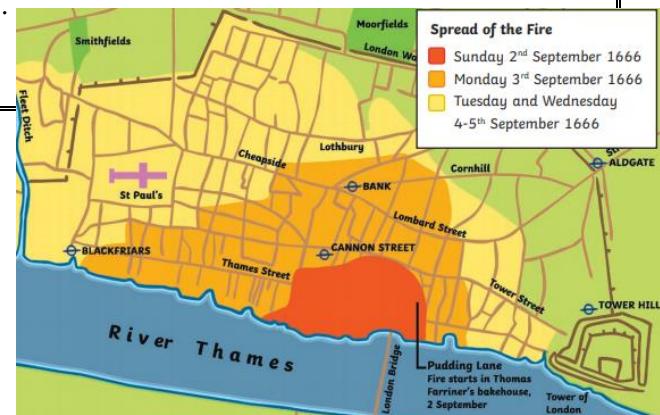
King Charles II - an account from the time said that King Charles in person worked manually, on Monday afternoon/evening, to help throw water on flames and to help demolish buildings to make a firebreak.

Samuel Pepys - was an administrator of the navy of England and Member of Parliament who is most famous for the diary he kept for a decade which included the events of the Great Fire of London.

Thomas Farriner - An ember from one of Thomas' bakery ovens ignited some nearby firewood. The fire quickly spread around the room and to nearby buildings.

Sir Christopher Wren

The architect who redesigned London after the fire.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

