



Year 1/2 History Knowledge Organiser: Why is the 1666 Fire of London called the “Great Fire”



Subject Specific Skills

- Events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally [for example, the Great Fire of London, the first aeroplane flight or events commemorated through festivals or anniversaries]

Prior Learning

- Have an understanding of where London is (Link to Eng/Geog)
- Have an understanding that London is the capital city and what it is like

Key Individuals:

Samuel Pepys



Thomas Farriner



King Charles II

King Charles II
1660 - 1685 AD



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

Fire hooks: Giant hooks used to pull houses down.

Leather bucket: Leather is a material and was used to make buckets before plastic was invented.

Fire break: When buildings are destroyed to make a gap so the fire can't spread to the next building.

Flammable: When something burns easily.

Eye witness: A person who saw an event and can therefore describe it.

Samuel Pepys: A famous man who wrote a diary about the fire.

Pudding Lane: Where the fire started.

Fire Engine: A vehicle that carries things used to put out fires. firefighter People who put out fires as their job

Rebuilt: Building something again after it has been broken or destroyed.

River Thames: The river that runs through the middle of London.

Timeline of Events

Monday 3rd September 1666

The fire gets very close to the Tower of London.

Tuesday 4th September 1666

St Paul's Cathedral is destroyed by the fire.

Sunday 2nd September 1666

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

Wednesday 5th September 1666

The wind dies down and the fire spreads more slowly.

Thursday 6th September 1666

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

Key Knowledge

When and where did the fire start? Sunday 2nd September 1666 in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane.

Why did the fire start? The fires used for baking were not put out properly.

Why did the fire spread so quickly? In 1666, the buildings in London were made of wood and straw and they were very close together, making it easy for the flames to spread. It had also been a dry summer, so the buildings were dry. Strong winds were blowing, which helped the flames to spread.

How did people try to put the fire out? People used leather buckets and water squirts to try to put the fire out, but these did not work. Later in the week, King Charles II ordered buildings to be pulled down to stop the flames from spreading.

How and when was the fire put out? By Thursday 6th September, the wind had died down. This meant that people were able to put out the flames.

Key Artefacts:

