



Year 2 History: The Great Fire of London

(event beyond living memory that is significant nationally)

Prior Learning

- We can find out about things that happened in the past by looking at pictures or objects from that time. (Y1)
- London is the capital city of England. (Y1)
- Queen Victoria lived a long time ago – over 100 years ago. (Y1)
- Queen Elizabeth I lived an even longer time ago – over 400 years ago. (Y1)
- Firefighters are people who help us in a fire emergency. (Rec)

Sticky Knowledge

- The fire started on Sunday 2nd September 1666 in Thomas Farriner’s bakery on Pudding Lane.
- 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.
- In those days, there was no real fire brigade so 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.
- By Thursday 6th September 1666, the wind had died down. This meant that people were able to put out the flames.
- We know so much about the Great Fire of London because a man named Samuel Pepys wrote about it in his diary.
- Only 6 people were recorded to have been killed by the huge fire.



Vocabulary

bakery	A place in which bread and cakes are made or sold .
diary	a book in which someone keeps a daily record of what has happened.
firebreak	A barrier of some kind use to stop the path of a fire.
fire brigade	A group of people trained to put out fires. Today, we call for their help by dialling 999.
monument	a statue, building, or other structure build to remember an important person or event.
River Thames	The River which runs through the centre of London.
Samuel Pepys	A man famous for writing newspaper articles and diaries, who lived near the Tower of London.
timber	Wood which has been prepared to be used in building.



Griffe Field Primary School history topics timeline

