

Frogwell School Year 1 Knowledge Organiser Term 4
How did the Great Fire of London start?

We will be learning about The Great Fire of London that started on 2nd September 1666. This was in the 17th century.



Pudding Lane

The Great Fire of London happened between 2nd-6th September in 1666. The fire began in a bakery in Pudding Lane. Before the fire began, there had been a drought in London that lasted for 10 months, so the city was very dry. In 1666, lots of people had houses made from wood and straw which burned easily. With strong winds, the fire spread quickly down Pudding Lane, towards the River Thames and London Bridge.

We know what happened during the fire because people back then wrote about it in letters and newspapers – for instance, Samuel Pepys wrote about it in his diary.



Samuel Pepys



Artists who were alive in 1666 painted pictures of the fire afterwards, so we know what it would have looked like if we'd been there too.

People whose homes had burned down lived in tents in the fields around London while buildings were rebuilt. When houses were rebuilt, a lot of them were made in bricks instead of wood, and they weren't built so close together.



Christopher Wren designed a monument that is still there today to help remember the Great Fire of London.



King Charles II



The Great Fire of London

Timeline	
1666 2 nd September	On 2 nd September at 1.30am, a fire starts in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. It probably came from the oven.
1666 2 nd September	At 7am Samuel Pepys wakes up and finds out that the fire has already burnt down 300 houses!
1666 3 rd September	The firemen try to put out the fire by using leather buckets of water and pulling down houses nearby (with a fire hook) to stop the fire spreading. This doesn't work.
1666 4 th September	St Paul's Cathedral burns down.
1666 6 th September	The Fire of London finally stops but people are left homeless.

Key Vocabulary	
bakery	A shop that sells bread and cakes
oven	A place where food is cooked. Today we use gas or electric but in 1666, they burnt wood to heat the oven.
Leather bucket	A bucket made of leather (skin of a cow) before plastic was invented
Fire hook	A huge hook used to pull houses down
Fire break	When houses are pulled down to make a break so the fire can't spread to the next building
Flammable	When something burns easily
King Charles II	The King of England in 1666
Samuel Pepys	A famous man who wrote a diary about the fire
Eye witness	A person who saw the event and can tell you about what happened
St Paul's Cathedral	A Christian Church that was burnt down and then rebuilt



St Paul's Cathedral burnt down in the Great Fire

Sir Christopher Wren designed a monument to remember the Great Fire of London, which still stands today.

