

Caroline Haslett Primary School – History

Topic: Great fire of London

Year 1

Events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally




Knowledge

The Great Fire of London started on Sunday 2nd September 1666 and lasted for 5 days. A baker (Thomas Farriner) who lived on Pudding Lane was baking some bread in his oven and it caught alight. The fire spread very quickly because people's houses were made of wood which is very flammable. The fire brigade did not exist so people had to work together to stop the fire. They used siphons and leather buckets filled with water. People escaped in boats on the River Thames. Over 13,000 houses were destroyed and 6 people died from the fire. Samuel Pepys wrote about the fire in his diary. King Charles made new rules about how houses were built after the great fire had happened.

Vocabulary

- **Bakery** – a place that makes bread / cakes etc.
 - **Diary** – a book that people write about their lives in.
 - **Firebreak** – a gap that stops a fire spreading to nearby buildings.
 - **Flammable** – describes something that burns easily
- London** – the capital city of England where the fire happened.
River Thames – a large river that flows through London.
Siphon – a pistol shaped container to spray water out of.
- **St Paul's Cathedral** – an important church in London that burnt down during the fire.

Useful Images

Key People				
	<p>Thomas Farriner</p> <p>An ember from one of Thomas' bakery ovens ignited some nearby firewood. The fire quickly spread around the room and to nearby buildings.</p>			
	<p>Samuel Pepys</p> <p>One of the ways we know about the fire is because people wrote about it in their own personal diary.</p>			
	<p>King Charles II</p> <p>Charles II was the King of England in 1666. After the fire, he made a decree that houses must be built further apart and built from stone not timber.</p>			
Timeline				
<p>Sunday 2nd September 1666</p> <p>A fire starts in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. As news of the fire spreads, people run to escape its path.</p>	<p>Monday 3rd September 1666</p> <p>Fire-fighters try to tackle the fire but it spreads quickly. People carry their possessions to safety using a horse and cart or boats on the River Thames.</p>	<p>Tuesday 4th September 1666</p> <p>Houses are pulled down in an attempt to stop the fire spreading. St. Paul's Cathedral is destroyed.</p>	<p>Wednesday 5th September 1666</p> <p>The fire starts to burn more slowly as the wind dies down.</p>	<p>Thursday 6th September 1666</p> <p>The fire is finally under control and put out. People are left homeless.</p>