

Year 2 History: Significant Events

The Great Fire of London

Key Events timeline

Early Sunday Morning

The fire starts at Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane.



Sunday Morning

Samuel Pepys starts to record the unfolding events in his diary.



Early Monday Morning

People carry their possessions to safety using boats on the River Thames.



Tuesday

St. Paul's Cathedral is destroyed by the fire.



Thursday

The fire is finally under control and put out.



1666

2 September

Mid Sunday Morning

As news of the fire spreads, people run to escape from its path.



Sunday Evening

Houses are pulled down in an attempt to stop the fire spreading.



3 September

Monday Evening

The fire spreads very close to the Tower of London.



4 September 5 September 6 September

Wednesday

The fire starts to burn more slowly as the wind dies down.



Key Knowledge

When did the Fire start?	It started on Sunday, 2 nd September 1666, at 1 a.m.
Where did the fire start?	In Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane.
Why did the fire spread so quickly?	In 1666, the buildings were made of wood and straw and were very close together. 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?	There was no fire brigade so ordinary people used leather buckets and water squirts to try and put out the fire. Later, King Charles II ordered buildings to be pulled down to stop the flames spreading.
When was the Fire put out?	By Thursday, 6 th September, the wind had died down so people were able to put out the flames.

Samuel Pepys



Why is Samuel Pepys an important person in history?

He lived in London at the time of the Great Fire and wrote all about it in his diary. His eyewitness account is the source of our knowledge about the Great Fire and other key events in English History such as the Plague.

Vocabulary

bakery	A place that makes bread, cakes etc.
firebreak	A gap between buildings so that fire cannot spread to the next building.
fire hooks	Giant hooks used to pull down buildings.
eyewitness	A person who saw an event and can describe what happened.
leather bucket	The material leather was used to make buckets before plastic was invented.
diary	A book that people write about their lives in.
St Paul's cathedral	A very large church in London. It was destroyed in the Fire and rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren.
water squirt	A water pump that was used to help put out the fire.
Samuel Pepys	An important person in history who was an eyewitness to the Great Fire and wrote about it in his diary.
Thomas Farriner	The King's baker who lived in Pudding Lane.
King Charles II	The King of England at the time of the Great Fire in 1666.