

**Year 1**

# The Great Fire of London

Just after midnight on the 2nd September 1666, a fire broke out in London. It started in a bakery on Pudding Lane near the centre of London. The bakery was owned by Thomas Farriner. He had forgotten to put the fire out in his oven before he went to bed and it grew out of control!



London was very different when the Great Fire happened. Houses were built from wood and straw which meant they burnt very easily. They were also built very close together which meant the fire could spread.

In 1666, they had a fire brigade but it wasn't like the fire brigade we have now. There were no hose pipes. People had to fill up leather buckets with water and then throw them over the fire. This took a lot of time and was not effective!



## Key Vocabulary

**Fire** - when something burns.

**Samuel Pepys** – wrote a diary giving an eyewitness account of the Great Fire of London.

**Fire Brigade** - a group of people who put out fires.

**King Charles II** - the king when the fire started.

**London** - the capital city of England.

The very last fire was put out in the morning on the 6th September 1666. The fire lasted for four days and burned down over 13,000 homes and 87 churches. 70,000 people lost their homes. It is recorded that only six people died in the fire, but this may not be true – the fire was so large and London was so busy that not all deaths may have been recorded.

