

Launch



The children will take part in an afternoon of activities where they will learn about The Great Fire of London from a variety of sources. During the afternoon, they will begin to formulate answers to the question of who was responsible for the fire

What happened to London during the fire of 1666?



Key date



On Wednesday 12th February you are invited in to take part in a quiz designed by the children.

Topic Overview

As historians, the children will learn about a significant historical event beyond living memory: The Great Fire of London, and a key historical figure, Samuel Pepys. They will use dates and terms such as 1666, centuries, and 'a long time ago.' The children will explore the different stages of the fire and investigate why it spread so quickly. They will begin to understand why people acted as they did in response to the events and consider how it changed fire safety and the way we live today. The children will ask questions about the past, such as: What was Tudor London like? Could anyone have stopped the Great Fire from happening? What was left of London after the fire? They will find answers to these questions and deepen their understanding by looking at pictures, online sources, and first-hand accounts, such as Samuel Pepys' diary. They will also discuss how this event has been represented in different ways and why this might be.

Key Vocabulary

firefighter
bakery
extinguish
burning
cart
leather bucket
embers
furnace

Learning Conversations

Fire Safety: Talk to your child about fire safety in your home. Where is your escape route? What should they do if they discover a fire? Discuss actions like calling emergency services, staying low to avoid smoke, and never re-entering a burning building.

Diary Writing: Samuel Pepys famously wrote a diary about the Great Fire of London. Have you ever written a diary before? Why not try writing one every day for a week? Include what you did, saw, and how you felt.

Exploring Bakeries: Thomas Farriner owned the bakery where the Great Fire started. Have you ever visited a bakery? What kinds of things can you buy there? See if you can find a bakery on Wimborne Road. What can you spot in the window displays?

Drivers

ENQUIRY

The children will explore and discuss what life was like before, during, and after the Great Fire of London. They will ask and answer questions to deepen their understanding of the events and circumstances surrounding the fire.



COMMUNITY

The children will find out about fire safety from local firefighters and then share their knowledge with younger children by creating fire safety posters.



Home Learning Topic Challenge



In our DT lessons, we will be exploring architecture. For this challenge, create your own building using materials you have at home, such as Lego, Play-Doh, or craft supplies. Your building can serve any purpose you choose—let your imagination run wild! Once your creation is complete, take a photo to share with the class.

Due date: Monday, 10th February 2025

Did You Know?

- * The Great Fire of London lasted just under five days.
- * Around 70,000 people lost their homes, and sadly, six people died.
- * At the time, London was experiencing a heatwave and hadn't seen rain for ten months!
- * Most houses in London were built from wood and straw, making them highly flammable, especially in dry conditions.
- * The fire started in Pudding Lane, which still exists today.
- * The Navy blew up houses to create firebreaks and stop the fire from spreading!



Landing

Using their knowledge from history lessons, the children will engage in a debate about who was responsible for the Great Fire of London. Following this, they will invite their parents to a special session where they can quiz the children on what they have learned.

