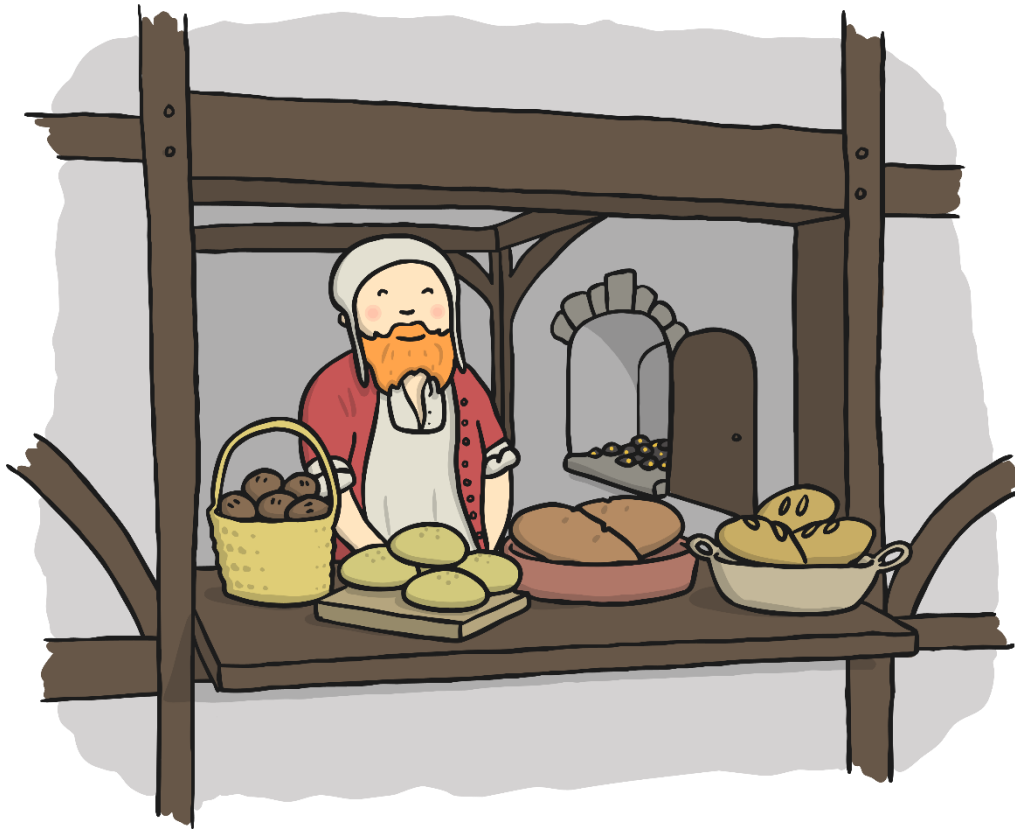


# The Great Fire of London



The famous 'Great Fire of London' started on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 1666 in a baker's shop on Pudding Lane. The baker was called Thomas Farynor/Farriner.



Some people think he left the oven burning and some people think a small spark flew out from the fire and started spreading.

In 1666, most of London's buildings were made from wood.

They were also packed tightly together in narrow rows and had thatched roofs. These were roofs made from straw.



This meant that houses burnt very easily and quickly. The wind also helped the fire to spread from house to house. People started running to escape the terrible fire!





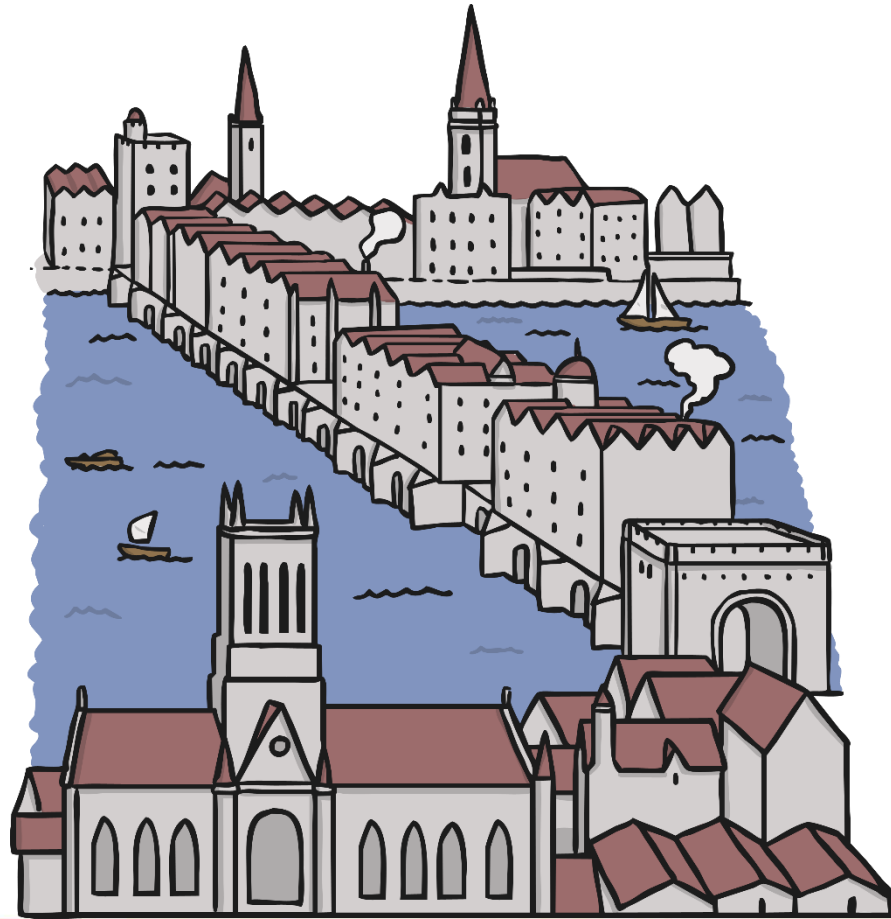


Fire services never used to exist so people in those days had to try and put the fire out! They used leather buckets filled with water and axes. They tried their best but the flames were too strong and hot.





The water used to try and put out the fire was taken from the River Thames. People also carried their belongings to boats on the River Thames to get away from the disaster.

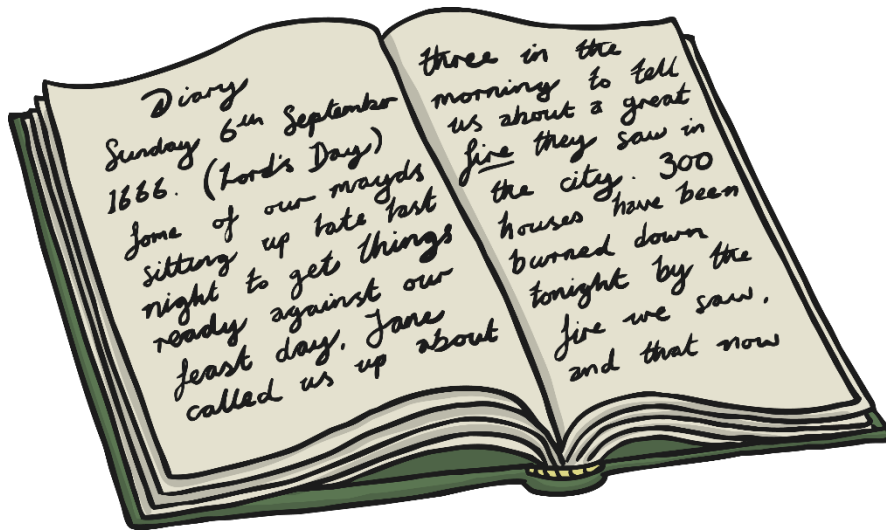


SCHOLASTIC



CHILD

Samuel Pepys kept a diary of The Great Fire, as he watched it from across the River Thames. He saw the fire spreading and told the King who was his brother, The Duke of York.

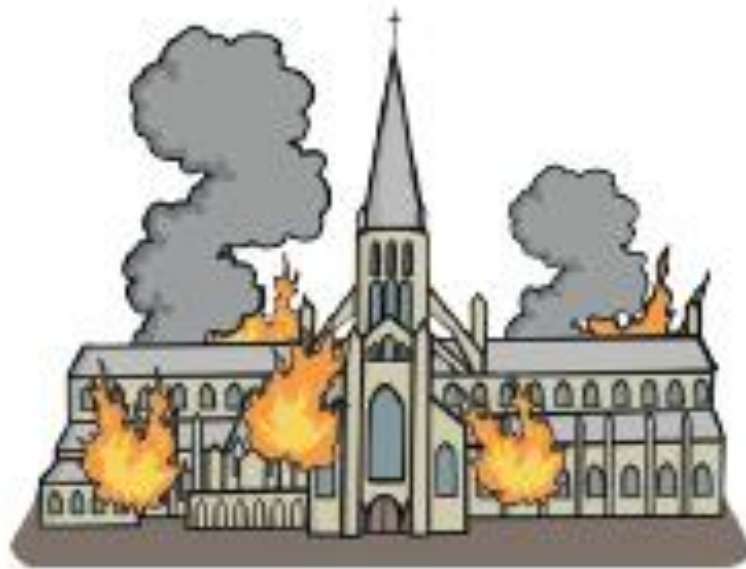




The Duke of York ordered that houses which were not on fire should be destroyed using gunpowder to stop the fire from spreading even more. This plan worked and by Thursday, the fire had been put out.



A famous building called St. Paul's Cathedral was burnt down from the fire.



The disaster made London a better and safer city.  
Streets were widened and buildings were made stronger, more fireproof and out of brick instead of wood.

Rats carrying a horrible disease called the black plague were killed off too.



A fire service was set up in London and The Monument to remember the Great Fire of London was built. The monument is still there today so that no one will ever forget what happened.

