



### History Knowledge organiser

## Great Fire of London

This unit will allow Year 2 to explore what an important and bustling capital city London is nowadays. They will discover how in 1666, the Great Fire began and the effect that this had, including wiping out the plague. Children will identify the key landmarks in the city, knowing why they are important and understanding how the capital city has changed over the many years. They will be introduced to the key roles certain characters played when the fire began to rage too.

#### Key landmarks in the capital city:

- **Buckingham Palace** – the queen's residence
- **Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament** – The clock and tower and the meeting place for parliament gatherings
- **The River Thames** – the longest river in England that runs straight through London
- **St Pauls Cathedral** – designed by Christopher Wren with the second largest dome in the world
- **Tower Bridge** – a suspension bridge which crosses the River Thames
- **Tower of London** – the queen's crown is kept in this castle
- **Pudding Lane** – the fire began in the bakery on Pudding Lane
- **The Monument** – a tall landmark with 311 steps, built to celebrate the rebuilding of the city.
- **Beefeaters** – royal guards, who look after the crown jewels at the Tower of London
- **Ravens** – large black coloured birds, thought to protect the Tower of London

**Plague** – also known as the Black Death, was one of the most devastating illnesses in human history.



#### Timeline

1665 – The Plague began in London

1665 – King Charles II spoke to the Lord Mayor about concerns over houses being too close together in the capital city

2<sup>nd</sup> Sep 1666 – A fire began in the bakery in Pudding Lane

4<sup>th</sup> Sep 1666 – St Pauls Cathedral catches fire

6<sup>th</sup> Sep 1666 – The fire is eventually extinguished

1671 – Building of The Great Fire of London Monument begins

#### Vocabulary



**London** – the largest city of England and the United Kingdom. Also, the capital city.

#### Key Figures

**Samuel Pepys** (23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1633 – 26<sup>th</sup> May 1703) worked in the navy and was also a member of Parliament. He was famous for writing a series of diaries, one of which was the diary extract written whilst Samuel watched the Great Fire spreading on the other side of the River Thames.



**Christopher Wren** (30th Oct 1632 – 8<sup>th</sup> March 1723) was an extremely talented individual who was exceptionally good at maths, astronomy and architecture. He designed over 50 churches in London, including St Pauls Cathedral.