Year 2 – Did the Great Fire make London a better or worse place?

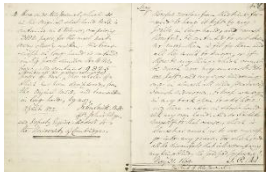
Key vocabulary	
blaze	A dramatic word for a fire which causes damage
River Thames	A river that flows through London
extinguish (a fire)	To stop a fire from burning.
fire brigade	The emergency service whose job is to put out fires
mayor	The chief official of a village, town, or city.
fire break	An area which is cleared of things that can burn to stop a fire from spreading
thatched	Straw, palm leaves, or other dried plant material used as a covering, esp. as roofing.
diary	A daily record, esp. of a person's experiences, reflections, and private thoughts.

Key People

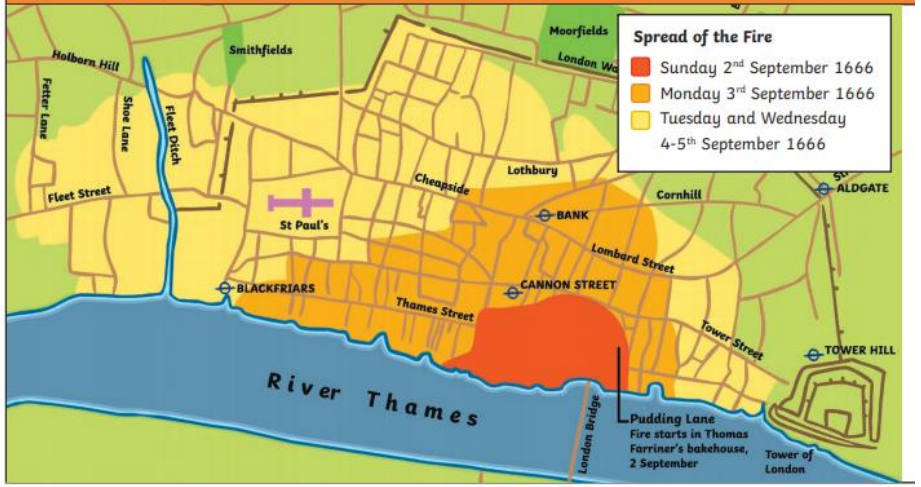
Thomas Farriner – An ember from one of Thomas' bakery ovens ignited some nearby firewood. The fire quickly spread around the room and to nearby buildings.

Samuel Pepys – One of they ways we know about the fire is because people wrote about it in their own personal diary.

King Charles II – Charles II was the King of England in 1666. After the fire, he made a decree that houses must be built further apart and built from stone not timber.



Key dates	
Sunday, 2 September 1666	The fire started in Thomas Farriner's bakery
Tuesday, 4th September 1666	St Paul's Cathedral catches fire
Wednesday, 5 September 1666.	The Navy blew up houses in the path of the fire to stop the fire spreading from house to house.
Thursday, 6th September 1666.	The fire officially ends.
Tuesday 11 September, 1666	Christopher Wren submits his new layout for the city to the king.

Key Questions and Facts	
When and where did the fire start?	The fire of London started in a bakery in Pudding Lane on 2nd September 1666.
Why did the fire spread?	It hadn't rained for months so the city was very dry. In 1666, lots of people had houses made from wood which burns easily. Houses were built too close together and there was no organised fire brigade.
How did they fight the fire?	They used leather buckets and squirts filled with water, axes, fire-hooks and gunpowder to make fire-breaks.
How did the fire stop?	The fire burned for 4 days. As the wind died down and changed direction the fire became under control and was finally put out.
How many people died?	6 people died as a result of the fire. Thomas Farriner's maid was the first person to die because she was too scared to jump from the burning building.
What happened after the fire?	13,200 houses were destroyed by the fire and 70,000 people were left homeless. Many left London to live elsewhere and some slept in tents.

Key Knowledge