

# The Great Fire of London

In the early hours of Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1666, a fire started in the bakery on Pudding Lane. Thomas Farriner, the baker, had forgotten to put out the fire he had made to bake the bread. The fire got out of control and before long, the bakery was alight. The fire then quickly spread to nearby buildings.

The buildings in London at that time were made of wood and were built very close together, which meant the fire could spread easily from one building to the next.



## Did You Know...?

Even after the Great Fire of London, a national fire service was not formed until 1866.

There were no firefighters in 1666, so the people in the city had to fight the fire themselves. They used leather buckets filled with water from the River Thames, but this didn't work very well. On Sunday evening, they started pulling down houses to stop the fire spreading as the wind was strong and it was helping to spread the fire. Soon, people were running from the fire, taking their belongings onto boats on the river.

On Tuesday, the fire destroyed St Paul's Cathedral.

Luckily, on Wednesday, the wind wasn't as strong and this helped to slow the fire down. The people were able to fight it with buckets of water to stop the flames spreading. Soon after, the fire was finally put out.

