

## Class 3 – Summer 1

### The Great Plague of 1665

#### What will we be learning?

**Enquiry question:** Why did the plague spread so quickly?

**Substantive concept:** Society Throughout this unit of work children will:

- Explain what the plague was and why it was a problem.
- Explain how people tried to cure the plague and what a plague doctor was.
- Examine plague pits and why were they necessary.
- Consider how we know about the plague.
- Examine whether the plague spread outside of London?
- Research if the plague still exists today.

#### Key Facts

The Bubonic Plague also known as The Black Death, was a disease carried by infected fleas living on rats. The deadly disease began spreading in London, in the poor and overcrowded parish of St. Giles-in-the-Fields in February 1665. By July 1665, 17,036 Londoners had died from this disease. In August 1665, The Plague reached the Derbyshire village of Eyam. A flea-infested bundle of cloth arrived from London for the local tailor's assistant, George Viccars. Unfortunately, George Viccars was the first person to die from The Plague in Eyam. The Eyam Rector, William Mompesson met with Thomas Stanley to decide upon a plan to prevent the spread of the disease. They chose to quarantine the village. Despite this, the disease continued to spread throughout Eyam killing 260 villagers out of a population of 350.

#### Key vocabulary

- Bubonic- A disease which can cause sickness, fever and swelling.
- Contagious- Able to be passed on from one individual to another.
- Disease - A condition that impairs the proper function of the body or one of its parts.
- Outbreak- A sudden occurrence or increase of something.
- Pandemic- Occurring over a wide geographic area and affecting a high proportion of the population.
- Population- The whole number of people living in a country, city or area.
- Rector- The leader of a Church is known as a Rector.
- Remedy- A medicine or treatment that cures or relieves pain.
- Symptom- A noticeable change in the body or its functions that indicates the presence of a disease.
- Tailor- Someone who makes clothes.
- Quarantine- Where a group of people are separated from the general public and have to stay in one place, not having contact with anyone else.

## The Plague 1665-1666 Timeline of Events



### February 1665

The outbreak of the plague returned to London for the second time after the 1345 outbreak.

### July 1665

The plague was rampant. King Charles II of England and his family left London and fled to Salisbury.

### August 1665

The plague reached the Derbyshire village of Eyam.

### November 1665

Deaths in Eyam appeared to have slowed as it was believed that the fleas were killed by the cold weather.

### September 1666

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1666, a fire broke out in Pudding Lane near London Bridge, now known as The Great Fire of London. It destroyed 80% of the city, thereby stopping the spread of the plague.

### November 1666

On 1<sup>st</sup> November, Abraham Morten became the last of the 260 people to die from the plague in Eyam.



What did doctors originally believe caused the plague? \_\_\_\_\_

What were common symptoms of the plague? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened to people's homes if they were infected with the plague? \_\_\_\_\_

#### What I have learnt.