

St Mary Cray Primary School – Knowledge Organiser

History Focus	The Stuarts	Year 4	Spring 1
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When? (Key Knowledge)

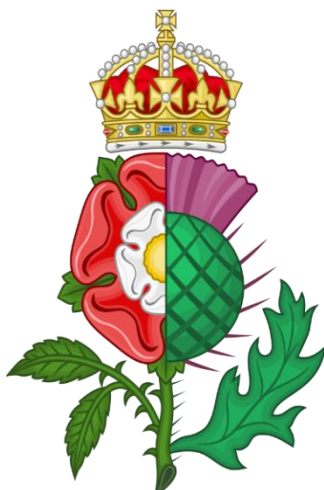
1603	Queen Elizabeth I dies and did not leave an heir to the throne and so James VI of Scotland became king James I of England.
1605	Gunpowder plot – a plot to blow up parliament and kill the king. Guy Fawkes was caught and so the plan failed.
1625	James I dies and his oldest son Charles I becomes king
1642	English Civil War begins
1665	The great plague of London

What? (Key vocab)

Spelling	Definition
Divine right of kings	Belief that God chose the person to be king and so no one could challenge him.
Union of crowns	When a king of one country becomes the king of another.
Puritans	A group of protestants that followed strict rules.
Treason	An act against the king

Diagrams and Symbols

James Badge to show the union of two crowns.



Background Information

When Elizabeth I never married or had children, so when she died in 1603 she did not leave an heir to the throne. This meant that the crown passed to James VI of Scotland who became James I of England also. This was called the 'union of the crowns'. James I believed in an idea called the 'divine right of kings', meaning that God had chosen him to be King, so no one could challenge his power. The gunpowder plotters were a group of angry Catholics, who did not like how King James was treating Catholics in England. Catholics thought King James would be nice to them, but the opposite happened. Catholics were fined, exiled and had their rights taken away. The plotters planned to attack the state opening of Parliament with gunpowder, when all of the most important people in Britain were there. They would then take control of the country. Charles I was the son of James I. He was a bad king and his decisions led to the civil war. Charles' bad decisions included: refusing to share power with parliament, behaving like a Catholic, and taxing the British people in order to fight a war with Spain. Charles was expected to rule with Parliament, but he wanted absolute power and did not call Parliament for 11 years.

Who?

James I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Became king because Queen Elizabeth did not have any heirs to the throne. He was very unkind to Catholics.
Charles I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The son of James I. He was also unkind to Catholics Wanted to absolute power so did not call parliament for years.
Guy Fawkes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He got caught in the cellar of parliament with barrels of gun powder. He was sentenced to death for treason.