

The brighter side of Winter....

The days may be getting longer, with just a hint of spring in the air. But being August, we are still in the grip of winter and as the old saying goes 'As the days get longer the cold grows stronger!' So aren't we lucky to live in Canterbury, a wonderful, winter wonderland, just waiting to be explored. Frosty mornings, icy car windows and slippery paths mean a clear, bright, sunny day ahead... just the story for hitting the snow, taking to the ice or settling into a hot pool!



Activity

Warm choices

Trying to keep warm during winter can often feel like a full-time occupation. Frosts, morning and night, chilly southerly winds and the odd 'big snow' all add to the task. So what is the best, most environmentally friendly way to keep warm?

Below is a list of different ways that we can keep warm at home. Some are a lot better for the air, land, and water than others. See if you can number them from the least damaging to the environment (1) to the most damaging (8).

- Old woodburner
- Heater – electricity
- Close windows, doors
- Heater – Gas
- Hot drink
- Newer, low-emission woodburner
- Warm clothes – slippers, jersey, beanie
- Open fire

Slip sliding away

You don't have to be a skier or snowboarder to take to the slopes! Ever travelled to the West Coast via Porter's Pass in winter and seen the families tobogganing on the slopes right next to the road? If you have, you'll know it looks like excellent fun. You can hire toboggans from a ski hire shop, but a plastic rubbish sack will do the trick. So what are you waiting for... take to the snow!



Hot and steamy

In the foothills of North Canterbury is the steamy hot spring of Hanmer. You can relax and enjoy the hot pools, or for the more adventurous, take a ride or two on the hydro-slides!

Kaikoura ●

Culverden ●

Christchurch ●

Methven ●

Ashburton ●

Twizel ●

Timaru ●

Answers:
In order of list:
7, 4, 1, 5, 3, 6, 2, 8



Puddling

Ice crunching, it costs no money at all and is heaps of fun! Get on your gumboots, whip outside and find some frozen puddles. It's that easy! Remember, check how deep they are... otherwise you'll get very wet and cold feet!

Activity

Make your mark!

Canterbury has so many places to go and activities to try. But where are all these places? Take a look at the map of Canterbury - we have given you some clues! Your job is to find a map or atlas of Canterbury and locate the places listed below. Then write these names next to the correct pictures and places on the above map.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Tobogganing
Porter's Pass | Hot pools
Hanmer Springs |
| Ice skating
Lake Ida, Tekapo | Skiing & snowboarding
Mt Hutt, Mt Cheeseman,
Mt Lyford, Mt Dobson |

Taking to the slopes

The Southern Alps are part of Canterbury. In winter, when covered in snow, people flock to play like no other time of the year. Chair lifts, empty in summer, are packed with happy skiers and boarders. If you're not already a converted fan, maybe it's time you gave it a whirl.

Skating on thin ice?

Ice-skating! When you first start, it's a bit slippery and slidey, but once you get up and going it's all fun. You may have tried it at an indoor rink, but skating in the great outdoors...well you just can't beat it. Lakes Ida and Clearwater often freeze enough so that people can skate on them. However, it is always best to check that the thickness of the ice has been tested and is safe before you set off! At Staveley and Tekapo there are outdoor skating rinks.



Competition Spreading the word!

Let's tell everyone about how awesome it is to live in Canterbury during the winter months.

Be a poet and know it!
A quatrain poem is simple – it is a four line poem. All of it can rhyme or only some of it can rhyme – it doesn't even have to rhyme at all!

Here is an example...

Winter in Canterbury is cold
It bites my fingers and toes
But there is one place I feel bold
And that's on my board on snow

Send your poem to Environment Canterbury and be in to win! The winner of each category receives a \$20 book voucher. Be sure to get your entry to us by the closing date of September 9th. Winners will be notified by September 16th. Send your poem and entry form to: Poem Competition, Environmental Education, Freepost 1209, PO Box 345, CHRISTCHURCH.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Age group: 5-7 years 8-10 years 11-13 years

Conditions: Judges decision is final. Entries will not be returned and will become the property of Environment Canterbury.