Winter wonderland or woe

Winter weather forces school to close

On Monday February 2nd 2009 the South East of England was hit by snow. I know this is not unusual in many parts of the world, but it was interesting to watch the whole region grind to a virtual standstill. At the time of writing this article the major London airports of Heathrow, Gatwick and London City were all closed. Stansted airport had been closed but has just had one runway re-opened. Travel chaos has ensued, the M25 is closed in many places and many schools throughout the country have been closed.

School closures

The dramatic change in the weather has meant that a number of areas are experiencing transport problems. This means that many schools across the country have been closed.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *County* | *Closed* |
| South East |  |
| Essex | 250+ |
| Hertfordshire | 100+ |
| Middlesex | 80+ |
| Sussex | 50+ |
| North |  |
| Greater Manchester | 100 |
| Lancashire | 70 |
| Cumbria | 34 |
| Durham | 70 |
| Northumberland | 33 |
| Yorkshire | 1 |

This table shows the number of schools reported closed. It is interesting to note that although the snow is no heavier in the South East of England, one of the eastern Counties has reported more than 250 of its schools are closed.

This gave the children lots time to play in the snow, snowballing, making **snowmen** and **snow angels**. The snow gave an added dimension, producing some very picturesque scenes, many captured on camera.

Temperatures at one weather station in Ross-on-Wye during the week read:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Maximum | Minimum |
| 2nd Feb | 3 | -1 |
| 3rd Feb | 5 | -3 |
| 4th Feb | 5 | -3 |
| 5th Feb | 2 | -1 |
| 6th Feb | 2 | -1 |
| 7th Feb | 5 | -3 |
| 8th Feb | 4 | -2 |