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Health

Staying Fit and Healthy in the Winter Months BY Yvonne Wake, BSc, MSc, Wellbeing and Lifestyle Consultant



eason changes and darker colder winter nights just around the corner, it's very easy to think that we can replace that brisk morning jog for an extra 30 minutes in bed. But sadly, we can't. Physical activity is as important as dietary intake - and even more so in the winter months.

Here are some tips to stay motivated through the winter months: 1. Sign up to an indoor dance class (like Zumba) or an aerobics class which gets a good sweat up, or try a HIIT (High Intensity Interval training) session at a gym. Inside fitness can replace the great outdoors during the winter months. 2. I believe in buddying up

with someone on a weekly basis, as this means you are more likely to stay committed. Swim together and find a pool where there is a steam room. or a sauna: always a great winter warmer. 3. Get the right gear! Even if it's just buying a new fleece, it helps to keep out the chill in the air as you travel from home to gym.

4. Warming up to some upbeat music before going out into the cold air for a jog is a great motivator. Your muscles take longer to react in the cold, so perform a few stretches before you rush out into the cold.

change our habits and don't really enjoy going out in the cold to exercise: nor do we want to eat healthy

foods - preferring to comfort eat. Try to be proactive and not reactive. Think it through, be mindful, plan meals, plan shopping for food, and make effective use of your organisational skills as much as when planning a summer holiday.

6. There is nothing like having a winter vegetable stew waiting at home after returning from a fitness class after work. Cook a batch and freeze in single portions. Goodbye salads, welcome hot healthy stews and soups.

breakfast. Porridge is 5. In the winter, we low GI and will keep you full for longer preventing you from snacking throughout the morning, 8. See friends in the winter.

It is so easy to hide away. Friends are important for social stimulation and joy.

9. Plan a Sunday morning walk in the park with a friend. followed by a healthy brunch afterwards. Nothing better!

10. Sleep is vital, and not only boosts our immune system, but keeps our energy levels high and helps weight loss by regulating metabolism and appetite.

11. Set yourself a goal for Spring, like the London Marathon, or a charity walk, or entering a fitness competition - all great for keeping us active during the winter months. 12. Keep a diary of your food intake and your physical output. It's a great way to be honest about what you are doing.

Yvonne Wake

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