

Rocket News and Information

Dear Parents,

We felt it necessary to outline a few important points in regards to the Sprockets programme as we go forward into the Autumn and Winter months, especially in regards to the weather.

Weather

Going forward, inevitably there will be Saturdays when it will be raining and or cold, so just to clarify for you, the sprockets programme will run even when its raining although the weather will be assessed on a weekly basis. If it is considered a complete washout or snowing/bad ice makes it too dangerous for our children then you will receive a text by 10am on the Saturday morning with a cancellation notice. On that note, please make sure you have given your mobile number on the registration sheet and are receiving texts during the programme. This is also important in the event of a change of venue, which will also be local but will give our children a bit of variety in their programme.

Clothing

Please ensure your child is wearing sufficient layers of clothing coming into the colder months. Full finger gloves are great for protecting their hands from the impending cold and dare I say it, a fall. Also , thermal underlayers with long sleeves/legs are great. A windproof, waterproof jacket is also essential if your child is too enjoy being outdoors in all weathers. We would recommend all of these types of clothing, Lidl, sports direct, and Mourne Cycles amongst other retailers and supermarkets are good places to get these items.

Drinks

Please can you provide your child with a drink for during the programme, a bike water bottle and holder are handy things to have to hand and eliminates the sharing of water bottles.

Medical Conditions

Please if you haven't already done so can you make us aware of any allergies your child has or asthma sufferers who would need to bring their inhaler along on rides.

Parking

To clarify the parking in Castlewellan/Tollymore parks, the only vehicles permitted on the grass areas/meeting point are only those of the Coaches who have to carry setting up equipment. All other vehicles have to park in the designated parking areas in the park. If you are just leaving your children off to the programme and leaving again then there is no parking charge however if you intend to stay in the park then you will incur a parking charge. A suggestion is to park in the top square in Castlewellan and cycle in to meet the group.

Events

Last but not least, we will be organising a funday for the children to enjoy towards the end of the programme in December. Further details of this will be sent out nearer the time and any suggestions and help in any way would be greatly appreciated in areas such as catering etc.

Last Note

Also , we would greatly appreciate any help given on a weekly basis to help run the programme, especially from females, to even out the numbers of male coaches/leaders. If you feel you could give an hour of your time on a Saturday please contact one of the team. For us to meet all the recommended guidelines , you would be required to complete an Access NI check which is free and can be done online through our link on the Shimna Wheelers website.

Many thanks,

Shimna Wheelers