

# Tips for a Successful Firing

## *A beginners guide to best practice*

### **Always use Shelf Cones**

Remember set up the shelf cone so you can see them through your spy hole. You need to check the placement of the cones with the door shut. Use a torch light, as once you shut that door it will be complete darkness. Remember pyrometers are a great guide to how fast you're a firing but are not always accurate measure of heat work. Cones are your friend

### **Review your programme**

Always review your programme before running the kiln. This is especially important with shared kilns as someone may have changed the programme without your knowledge.

### **Plan to be there**

Estimate your firing time and be there for the last hour. Machines aren't infallible! This way you can watch your cones as the kiln reaches temperature and override the controller if it doesn't shut off when the cone is down.

Fluctuations in electricity and anomalies can happen. Best practice is to leave a kiln to its own devices.

### **Check your Bungs**

Top Bungs out for Bisque (at least up to 500°)  
Bungs in for Glaze firing

### **Keep Notes**

Have a Journal for your firings. Note down things such as what the Cone looked like, If it was a light pack or dense pack and you were happy with results. This way you'll be able to replicate your success or tweak your process to avoid failures.