**Terms and conditions and Joining Instructions for**

**Throwing Experiences at**

**Cheshire Clay Studio Ltd.**

**2023 (updated January 2023)**

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Throwing Experience Information:

Cheshire Clay Studio welcomes you to our lovely facility at Lowes Farm Shop’s premises. We hope that you will all have a great time working with clay.

What do I need to wear?

Wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty - you will be playing with wet mud after all!

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Do I have to bring my own apron?

If you have a wipe down apron that is great, otherwise you can use one of ours.

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What will I be able to make in my throwing experience?

Please put aside any ideas of making vases or anything other than a small pot! When you see potters they make it look \*so\* easy, but it's a quite a challenge to get the clay to behave. We hope that you will find it great fun and be proud of your little creation, but if you have real aspirations to learn to throw then do get yourself on our [five week throwing course](https://www.cheshireclay.com/about-5) .

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How many people are on each throwing experience?

We have a maximum of five places per throwing experience, so you won't be alone trying to master the wheel.  We find that having a few people on the wheels makes it even more fun, and lessens the pressure on any one individual, as sometimes the clay really does want to be naughty and not behave itself at all, so having a giggle with others is what it is all about. Equally, you can beam with pride when the clay suddenly turns into a pot in your hands.

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Can I take my pot home with me?

When you finish your experience the pot will still be damp clay, but shaped as a pot. We will carefully dry the clay which usually takes about a week. Then your pot will go into the kiln for its first firing which turns the clay into ceramic. After that, the pot has a glaze applied which will make it frost proof and food safe, (ideal for those peanuts or olives!), it is then fired for a second time. The whole process takes about 4-6 weeks and we'll contact you to let you know when your pot is ready for collection.

Terms and Conditions:

1. Sessions are offered in blocks of six weeks, largely conforming to school terms. Payment must be in full and in advance of each block of sessions. CCS operates on a bank transfer arrangement.
2. If a participant cannot attend one or more sessions in their six week term, there is no refund for non-attendance. However, CCS tries to be as flexible as possible for class members and where feasible, class members can attend other class sessions during the term to make up for any absences. Catch ups must take place within a term. They cannot be carried over to succeeding terms. There is a class whatsapp group where class members can organise swaps and visits. We ask that this flexibility is not abused, ie people swapping and changing to suit their social calendar as this can cause difficulties with other classes. People who do this may not be invited to re-join the class the following term.
3. There are no refunds once payment has been made. However, if there is a waiting list, and either the participant or CCS can re-fill the place then a refund can be given – but this is a gesture of goodwill and not a part of our terms and conditions.
4. The aim of the classes is to give participants a happy and enjoyable experience when they are at the studio. If a participant is rude, disruptive or generally unpleasant or difficult, they will be refused a further booking onto the next block of six week sessions, or further workshops.
5. The cost of classes includes all firing and glazing of class members’ work that can be fitted into one of the 43 litre kilns (30x30cm). This only applies to work made in the studio during class. Please see kiln firing service in appendix 1 for all work made at home. Items made in class that exceed either 30cm high or 30cm wide will be subject to a one off class firing fee of £20.00, which covers both the bisque and glaze firings.
6. Some class members may wish to work at home in addition to class. CCS encourages this enthusiasm. Class members can purchase extra clay from the studio to work at home. Please see costs of clay in appendix 1. Items made at home will be subject to the external firing fees laid down in Appendix 1.

Cheshire Clay Studio :

Lowes Farm Shop

Moss Lane

Byley

Middlewich

Cheshire

CW10 9NG

Parking:

The site is very busy during the day and clay class participants are asked to park in the furthest car park next to the café and shop. Turn right as soon as you come into the main entrance and you will see hardcore car parks. Park in the one next to the fields.

Evening classes are free to park anywhere on the main car park.

Ginger and Pickles is available for coffees, and food. We don’t allow food to be consumed in the studio, but class members can bring drinks into the studio, with lids.

If you have any queries at all then don’t hesitate to contact Lisa on 07931 351183.

**Appendix 1:**

**Kiln firing service**

**Making at Home service**

The Kiln firing service is available to those class members who want to make at home and bring their work to the studio. All clay has to be purchased from Cheshire Clay Studio so that we can avoid incidents in the firing process.

To keep things very simple there is a charge of £50.00 when class members purchase 6 kilos (half a bag) of clay. This purchase includes purchase of clay, 2 firings (bisque and glaze)of all work made from the 6kg of clay and all glazes etc that are used to finish the pieces. All pieces from this purchase can then be fired along with general class work.

The only restriction is that items must conform to the maximum sizes of 30cm high and/or wide. Items bigger than this will be subject to the one off firing charge.

**Class members one off firing charge**

For one off items taller or wider than 30cm that have been made in class there is an excess firing charge of £20.00

**Appendix 2:**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **Can I attend other classes if I have to miss one for any reason?**

Yes. We deliberately keep our classes to 8 people so that classmembers who need to catch up a class can attend another class without overcrowding the studio. We ask class members to check with the class leader via our Whatsapp group to make sure that nobody else is already ‘visiting’ that week. If there are already 8 people attending the class, then the person needing the catch up class can ask if one of the other members is able to swap with them.

1. **Can I take Clay away to make at home?**

Yes. We offer a one stop shop purchase of clay, glazing other decorating materials and two firings to class members for a fee of £50. We do not encourage class members to take home items that they are making in class.  This all inclusive fee covers bisque and glaze firing of everything made from the 6kg (half a bag) of clay.

1. **Can I make big items?**

Yes. Your class fee covers all clay, decoration and firings for items up to 30 cm high and 30 cm wide. If class members wish to make larger items then they will be subject to our one off kiln firing service charges of £20 per oversized item. (appendix 1)

1. **Can I bring my own clay?**

No. We insist that only clay purchased by the Studio is used as this ensures that there are no accidents in the kiln. For this reason we also do not accept requests from other potters outside of classes to fire in our kilns.

1. **If I can’t attend a term, can I pay a deposit to keep my place open?**

No. If you can’t attend a term then you need to pay the full amount to keep your place even if you won’t be coming to class. This is because the classes are in such demand any vacant places are immediately snapped up for the full amount.

1. **If personal circumstances mean that I can’t get to class can I have a refund?**

No. We have a commitment to you to run the classes, and you have a commitment to us to attend them. If we fail in our commitment to run the class only then will you be entitled to a refund.

1. **How long will it take for my items to be finished?**

There is a 3 stage process to ceramics. Making and drying, bisque (first) firing and Glaze firing. Making and drying is dependent upon the size, thickness and weather. Each firing takes 24 hours. Classes need to expect a 3 to 4 week delay before their items are completed as drying can take over a week and kilns need to be full before each firing takes place.