

# **The Support Unit Makes a Handmade Clay Tile Mural with Mrs Cooke 2013**



**To make a handmade tile mural you will need an interesting design and...**



Assemble all your equipment.

White Clay  
Coloured underglazes  
Clear Glaze  
Brushes  
Non porous boards  
Clay Cutter  
Scalpel  
Tray  
A Kiln



Use the cutter to slice the clay. There is no need to use a rolling pin because each slice is even.







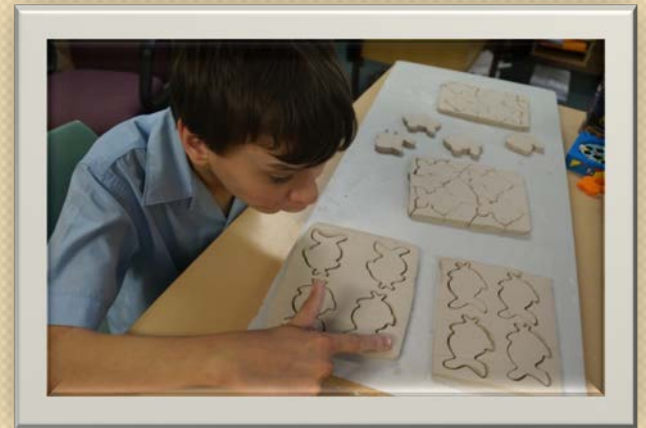
Use the scalpel to cut the tile edges. Keep the blade straight.



Use a paper template for the tile shape and cut around it using your scalpel and a rule.



Cookie cutters make good shapes. Take them out of the clay carefully.





Add detail to your tile. Make sure you scratch the surface of each piece before sticking them together with slurry. That way your added details won't come off after firing.

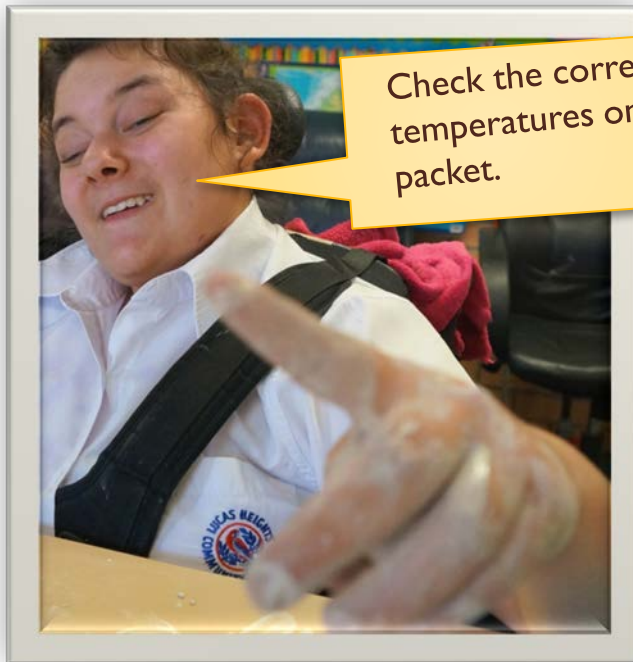


You can make slurry by adding water to a small amount of clay.





When your tiles are completely dry, put them in the kiln for a bisque fire.  
Set the temperature to 1000 degrees Celsius.



Check the correct firing temperatures on the clay packet.





You are now ready to paint on the underglaze. Three coats will make a nice solid colour. Clear glaze is next. It goes on pink and fires clear. It will make the tile shiny and the colours bright.







Opening the kiln after a glaze firing is so exciting. As long as no clear glaze touches the kiln surface, nothing should get stuck.



Check the glaze for firing temperature. We used 1000 degrees Celsius



Use Liquid Nails to fix the tiles into place. We chose a timber board to glue our mural onto.



Follow the directions on the tile grout to make a paste.  
Smooth this into the cracks then buff clean when dry.







**Our finished mural.  
Congratulations  
everyone!**