Explanation of Common Kiln Language

Target temperature: the temperature you want your kiln to heat up to and reach (or cool down to) i.e. the temperature you need to fire your material at.

Digital controller: This is how you instruct your kiln what to do. With a modern digital controller you press buttons.

Ramp function: This function allows you to tell the kiln how fast, or slow it should heat up or cool down. This function is used in glass fusing and for some base metal clay firings. It is also used for other materials which need heating and cooling under more controlled conditions.

Ramp speed: Is the speed at which the kiln heats up, or cools down.

Hold time: This how long your kiln should hold the target temperature. Example: Fire at 650°C for 30 minutes. 30 minutes is the hold time.

Firing chamber: This the inside of your kiln and where you would place things to be fired.

Kiln shelf: Is a small shelf made of ceramic fibre or heat resistant material on which you place and fire pieces. Never fire pieces directly on the base or floor of the kiln.

Kiln Furniture: These are heat resistant pieces which are used to stack, support, separate or protect components during the firing process. Examples are kiln shelves and kiln posts.

Kiln Blanket: Is a lightweight, fire resistant ceramic blanket-like material that keeps heat in without catching on fire. The fibrous texture makes it great for filling in small draft holes and helping to slow down your kiln's cooling. It can also be used to support or prop up pieces during kiln firing.