



MUMSZONE

Annie and Emily tap into their creative sides with pottery classes, predict autumn fashion of luxurious jackets for the day and pretty bra straps for evening glamour. Their new school year resolution is to have tidy houses and enlist the help of professionals. And Annie trials the latest beauty products.



The Potter

Annie: It is Monday morning. You have just dropped the kids off at school after a gruelling two-hour marathon of getting up, breakfast, school uniform panics etc, and you enter the quaint artist's studio in a quiet enclave of town. Francis, our tutor, greets us with a lump of clay, a cup of coffee and a healthy dose of laid-back. I have wanted to get back to a pottery workshop since I learnt it at school. It was the only artistic activity that I was in any way not rubbish at.

I am let loose on the wheel. It is just like Ghost, pressing the bowl between my knees as I centre my lump of clay and 'feel' my way to producing a pot of any obvious shape. It is a tremendous feeling. Emily and I learn three types of bowl-making. Much to Emily's chagrin, she has been instructed to make more and more long sausage-shaped pieces of clay to 'coil' a huge bowl. It is beautiful but she would much rather be on the wheel. Finally allowed to finish off on the wheel, her creation is more of a masterpiece than mine but for experience you can't beat the feel of the spinning wheel.

Kite Studios adult pottery classes run on Monday mornings from 13 September, 9.30am-12pm, £20 per class. Priory Mews, 2B Bassein Park Road, Bassein Park Road, London W12 ☎ 020 85766278 📧 kitestudios.org



Getting rid of the clutter

Annie: She says she comes like a hurricane into your house but not a bit of it. I was dreading having my domestic chaos scrutinised but Tania of Mess Goddess couldn't have been more gentle and less preachy. We got on straight away. What did I want to achieve? I said the hub of the house was the kitchen so, as an example of what order she can bring to a home, we tackled the dresser - otherwise known as general dumping ground. She started by completely clearing the surfaces and shelves and putting things in piles: stationery, hair clips and brushes, keys, money and 'things

to go upstairs'. We then found some suitable containers, labelled them and found a place for them. The labels can be removed once everyone in the house knows you mean business about keeping things in their correct place. She continued by using plastic ties to 'shorten' the lead on wires (ingenious) and the result is impressive.

She has some great family tips up her sleeve; my favourite is a timer on for 10 minutes and the kids have to find ten things in their room to give to charity. Other pearls of wisdom were 'never to have toys in your