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Dear parents and friends of Thorntree,

Education the way we know it has changed forever, I have highlighted part of an article which explains how exciting this is for all. Support us as we gather all our tools to ensure our students at Thorntree are at the forefront of this educational change.

*'Not since World War II have so many countries around the world seen schools and educational institutions go into lockdown at around the same time and for the same reason. While we know that the impact of this virus will be far-reaching, what might it mean in the longer term for education?*

*For a while now, educators around the world have been talking about the need to rethink how we educate future generations. This might just be the disruption that the sector needed to get us all to rethink how we educate, and question what we need to teach and what we are preparing our students for. So, as we educators grapple with the new ways of communicating with our students away from our classrooms and lecture theatres, it is a good time to reflect on how this disruptive crisis can help us define what learning should look like for **Generations Z, Alpha and beyond.**' to read more please follow the link.*

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/4-ways-covid-19-education-future-generations/>

Phasing in students, we have received a formal letter from ISASA (Independent Schools of Southern Africa) which states that Private schools will be allowed to operate during level 4 lockdown, a date has not been finalised but we are getting ready. Our admin staff are working on administrative portals and cleaning staff are getting the school ready for the start of school, we will be ready by this week. We will wait for the go ahead from ISASA to give us a more direct and fair plan for our school. A plan for classroom layout, sanitising as doctors do before going into theatre and strict rules of keeping your distance at school has been implemented. You will receive the policy in due course.

Survey, I sent out a survey to parents this week to get an idea of how you are feeling with this massive change in all our lives. Overall I received 76 responses from 120 families. Most parents

gave me a sense that you are happy, you are grateful to our fantastic teachers and appreciate their efforts, thank you.

A summary of the responses; most parents want live interaction with students, 29% of the responses would like their children to return to school as soon as possible, 9% will not send their children back but will continue with online schooling. 89% of the responses say they have continued to pay school fees, 7% have lost their income. The personal responses mostly were positive a lot of parents are concerned about the price of data and the amount they need to continue learning online. We have spoken to a few stakeholders on your thoughts and have decided to get more information on data and packages telecoms businesses are offering. We have found a great package, should you be interested please contact me so that I can put you in contact with the correct people. Again, my phone is always on, phone me should you need clarity, information or help with anything during this time.

Training, our online training for GOOGLE SUITE started last week, we as a staffing board are absolutely blown away by how amazing this platform is. We have a domain called Thorntree Preparatory School, this allows for all our information and students communication to be secure. All teachers have received new email addresses (please go to [thorntreeprep.co.za](http://thorntreeprep.co.za) to find these) and all your students including grade RR will receive email addresses. Our grade 4-7 will start using these emails from next week, please help them set them up as soon as possible. We are really excited to take our education to a new level, as mentioned before education the way we knew it has changed forever. We are so proud to be the change, should you need help please contact Mariam at [admin@thorntreeprep.co.za](mailto:admin@thorntreeprep.co.za).

Science fair - Unfortunately we have had to postpone our Science Fair, please continue working on your experiments to perfect them as soon as we have secured a date with the ESKOM SCIENCE FAIR BOARD I will give you more information.

Coding Club at TPS, we will start an online club for coding on our school domain. Should your child be interested in this let me know as soon as possible. I will be hosting a few lessons over the next few weeks! You will need your new email address setup for this as soon as possible. Foundation phase parents please be aware of this. Contact Mariam at [admin@thorntreeprep.co.za](mailto:admin@thorntreeprep.co.za) for email information.

Contact Nikola should you need to speak to her with regards to your school fee payment [finance@thorntreeprep.co.za](mailto:finance@thorntreeprep.co.za)

Over the last three weeks I have been teaching the Grade 7's about slavery, this has been eye opening for both parties involved. An unbelievable woman named Harriet Tubman has been the subject in most conversations, she saved 750 slaves during her life. I would like to end this week's newsletter with her words. ' Every great dream begins with a dreamer; Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the World.

Have a lovely week, big kisses to our beautiful children at home.

Take care, ALL MY LOVE,  
Helyn Pope