



**THORNTREE**  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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31 May 2020

Dear Parents,

The prospects of tomorrow are high, they are filled with excitement. We will be welcoming our Grade 7 students with open arms and hopefully before the middle of the week we would have had clear documents to state that the rest of the students can join us at school. I am so hopeful.

They say everything happens for a reason, I believe being stopped in our tracks and allowing ourselves to breathe for the first two days with only 13 students would not be so bad in hindsight. It might also allow our parents to have a sense of calm when the rest of the school joins as we will be well prepared with our grade 7's.

This last week has been a whirlwind of emotions, so much adrenaline, excitement and anxiety to ensure our kids are safe. This week Friday our ISASA conversation was led by Jill Back, Jill is an educational Psychologist and keeps most Heads, in the Cape sane! Excuse my pun. One subject I would like to share with you is the 'Mirror Neuron' 'monkey see, monkey do' , usually it is used as 'dont mirror his anger.' **However if someone has excitement, mirror that!** All of the heads were ecstatic that they would be receiving most kids back tomorrow and as people spoke I saw how relevant this idea was.

Grade 7's, I don't think I have ever been so excited to see you tomorrow! All teachers will be at school and online learning will continue as we have stated. Our new normal is about to start and we are so excited!

I would like to bring attention to specific habits of mind to make sure we all understand that through these challenges we are equipped to make the right choices. **Find humour**, always find time to laugh, especially at how irritating or ridiculous some of the PPE is; **take responsible risks**, make sure you are always responsible when taking risks, tomorrow if your grade 7 child is coming to school, you and your child are taking that risk! Be responsible about it, talk to him or her about the risks so that they are calm. **Listen and understand with empathy**, if we all do a bit more of this the world would be a happier place. Your child might feel anxious or excited to come to school tomorrow, listen to him or her tonight with empathy. Just as we should all listen

to Angie tonight as she has to take on a huge task to keep everyone happy. **Respond with wonderment and awe**, children and adults thrive off this. Allow someone to completely blow you away with something they said, that someone might need it today.

Rest well, be reassured that we have a great team behind us supporting our drive to get back in the classroom. The time is near!

All my love,

Helyn Pope