

Wednesday, February 7

King Charles' cancer diagnosis; a deadly disease is on the way out; doggo at the dentist; and it's a Grammys wrap.

That's what's making news, kid's style...

THE LOWDOWN

Have you heard of a disease called cancer? Chances are you will have because it's really common and affects lots of people around the world. You might even have someone in your family who's experienced it, and yesterday, King Charles announced that he's having treatment for cancer.

So, you might be wondering, what exactly is cancer? Well, it's a disease where some of the body's cells go a bit haywire and grow uncontrollably and then spread to other parts of the body. It sounds a bit scary, but the good news is that doctors have lots of ways to spot it and to treat it.

King Charles found out about his cancer at a checkup he had recently, and he's already begun treatment to help him recover. And so he can focus on his recovery, he's taking a little break from his kingly duties, like cutting ribbons and waving from balconies, to focus on getting better.

The King decided to share this news with everyone because he's been involved with a bunch of charities that help people with cancer. He's showing us that it's important to talk about these things and support each other. So, let's send our best wishes to King Charles for a speedy recovery!

SPIN THE GLOBE

Each day, we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops, and today, we've landed in Cameroon, a country that is home to 27 million people in central Africa, where about 250,000 babies and children are lining up, not for ice cream, but to get vaccinated against a nasty disease called malaria.

Malaria is spread by mosquitoes, which makes mozzies, believe it or not, the world's deadliest animals. But don't worry, malaria is not a problem here in Australia. Many parts of the world, Australia included, have eradicated, or said "goodbye" to malaria, thanks to things like

insecticides, better housing, and drainage. However, it's still a big problem in Africa due to poverty and the tropical climate that mozzies love.

But here's the good news: a vaccine named Mosquirix has been developed and is rolling out to African babies over the next four years, with the World Health Organisation's thumbs up and Cameroon leading the charge. So, while mosquitoes might still be annoying, thanks to science and medicine, their reign as the deadliest of creatures could be almost over.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

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How do you feel about going to the dentist? If you're anything like me, it might make you a little nervous. But that's not a problem for patients at one dental surgery in the USA where patients can make a booking with Ollie the Labradoodle. No, he's not a doggy dentist. Fluffball, Ollie hangs out at a dentist's office, helping patients feel less nervous about their visits. Imagine getting your teeth checked while a doggo gives you cuddles and support. That sounds pretty pawesome.

And in other news, from dogs helping people, to people helping a dog; some brave firefighters, also in the US, donned their ice rescue suits last week, grabbed a sled and jumped into an icy pond to rescue a dog that had fallen in and was clinging to a chunk of floating ice.

I'm more of a cat gal myself, but I can see why dogs hold the title of man's best friend.

POP CULTURE CORNER

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Pop, rock, country and R+B – whatever your favourite type of music, it was celebrated in sparkling style on Monday in Los Angeles as the 2024 Grammy Awards were handed out. And girls ... you'll be as excited as I was to see the night belonged to the ladies. Australia's long-time pop princess, Kylie Minogue, took home her second golden gramophone for the best pop dance recording for her hit song *Padam Padam*.

Taylor Swift made history...again... being the first artist to take home the Album of the Year award four times with *Midnights*. Miley Cyrus won Record of the Year award for 'Flowers'. Victoria Monet was presented with the Best New Artist trophy and 22-year-old Billie Eilish couldn't quite believe it when her song "What was I made for?" from the Barbie movie soundtrack was named Best Song of the Year.

And your parents, or grandparents might like to know that the unparalleled Joni Mitchell performed at the Grammys for the very first time at age 80, before being awarded the Best Folk Album of the Year. Sheesh!

In the world of music, these women are hitting all the right notes!

SEARCHABLE DATABASE PROMO (WED)

Hey ... teachers ... I'm about to let you in on a secret that is going to make your lives so much easier ... you've heard about Classroom Companions, right? The free, differentiated activity sheets tied to the podcast that I create each Monday? Well they just got a whole lot more user-friendly - with the release this term of a searchable database. Now you can dive back into our extensive back catalogue of classroom worksheets - every single one of them curriculum-aligned - and find a worksheet that ties in with whatever you're teaching on any given day. Head to the Squiz Kids website - squizkids.com.au - or follow the link in today's episode notes. Did I mention they're free? You're very welcome.

THE S'QUIZ

This is the part of the podcast where you get to test how well you've been listening ...

1. Which annoying insects currently also hold the title of world's deadliest animal.
2. What breed of dog is Ollie, who is helping people overcome their anxiety about going to the dentist?
3. Here's a harder one to finish us off today. What old-fashioned music-playing device is the Grammy Award designed to resemble?

SHOUT OUTS

It's February 7thWorld Read Aloud Day. Even as an adult I love having stories read to me through audiobooks, so kids, why not treat your parents and maybe read them a story today?.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today

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Willow from Port Macquarie, Neave from Sydney, Leanna from Forest Lake, Edith from West Pymble, Tobias from Tempe, Misha from Waurin Ponds, Elton from Gladstone and Jeff from Chatswood.

Happy belated birthday to... Tasman and Olivia from Unanderra, Ria from Canberra, Sebastian and Zaelea from Mount Gravatt, Jacob from Baulkham Hills, Hamza from Jerilderie, Summer and Elkie from Yandina, Charlie from Mount Prichard and Poppy, Braxton, Charlie, Logan and Tatum all from Woongarra.

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 4 Red and Miss Kay at St Agnes School in Mount Gravatt, year 3 and Mrs Kay at St Pius X Catholic Primary School in Salisbury, room 14 and Miss Irvine at Anzac Terrace Primary School in Bassendean, class 5F and Mrs Van Aardt at Grand Avenue State School in Forest Lake and room 17 and Mrs Potter at Bellevue Heights Primary School in Adelaide.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Mosquitos
2. Labradoodle
3. Gramophone. If you don't know what they look like I've stuck a link in your episode notes.