

The princess and the photo fail; Paris' space invaders; whirlpools from Mars; and the village covered in bird poo.

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

THE LOWDOWN

It's the photo fail the entire world has been talking about ... the royal photo scandal that has this week seen all sorts of crazy theories spin around the globe about the health of a future monarch and seen a real life princess apologise for being too heavy handed with the ol' Photoshop.

And it's enough of a reason to welcome Squiz-E the Newshound to this end of today's podcast - because it's a perfect example of how important it is to always be on the lookout for fake news and misinformation.

(SQUIZ-E WOOF)

You've probably seen or heard on the news this week that Catherine, the Duchess of Wales - who is married to Prince William and is the mum of the heir to the English throne - shared a photo of herself with her kids this week to social media.

Very quickly respected news agencies put out an alert that the photo had been manipulated - which is a fancy word for changed. Which is to say, if you looked really closely, you could see that photo editing software had been used to change certain aspects of the photo. Nothing dramatic - but enough to ring alarm bells.

Because - the news agencies wondered aloud - if the photo had been altered, how could we trust the source?

After a couple of days of silence, with all sorts of crazy theories doing the rounds about what the fake photo meant, the Princess was forced to put her hand up and admit she had altered the pic before sending it out. Another reason to always do, as Squiz-E constantly tells us: and that's to STOP, THINK and CHECK whenever we come across a photo or video online that maybe looks a bit suspicious - to make sure we are not being tricked.

Because even a Princess can be tempted by a bit of Photoshop.

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And teachers + parents: a reminder that Squiz Kids' very own, free media literacy resource, Newshounds, is ready for your kids to jump into - teaching them to become critical consumers of media - a skill that quite clearly is only going to become more important as they get older. Check it out via our website: squizkids.com.au. You're welcome. And a big

shout out to all the kids at John Palmer Public School in The Ponds in Sydney with their excellent teacher Ms Whiteside .. I cannot wait to see you all next week with Minister Michelle Rowland to do a bit of Newshounds together ..

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 Paris ... where a space invader has landed that's so big it can be seen from outer space.

For the last twenty odd years a mystery street artist has been roaming the streets of the French capital - usually under the cover of night - installing mosaics of space invaders on public walls.

A mosaic is a design made with small square tiles. And a space invader is an alien character from a really old video game .. so old that I used to go down to the corner shop or gaming arcade with a pile of 20 cents and play it there. Because that's how we played video games back in the day. If you've seen Stranger Things, you'll feel me.

The French street artist has installed more than 4,000 mosaics in Paris and in cities around the world - and has become so famous that an exhibition of his art has popped up in the City of Light in a multi-storey building - on the roof of which is a Space Invader mosaic so big it can be seen via satellite on Google Maps.

A space invader on earth seen from space ... cool.

SPACED OUT

You've heard of whirlpools right? When the water in a part of the ocean all starts to spin in a certain direction, creating a gravitational pull inwards and downwards? Maybe you've made the odd whirlpool in your backyard pool .. I used to love doing that in our old circular Clark Rubber above-ground beauty ...

Well now there's evidence that throughout the history of the Earth there have been times when the gravitational pull of Mars - the red planet in our solar system some 320 million kilometres away - has caused massive whirlpools down here in Earth's oceans.

What the what?

In a report published this week, Aussie scientists say they have discovered evidence that every 2.4 million years, the Earth and Mars line up in the galaxy and have a push-pull effect on one another - and that that's what causes enormous whirlpools to form in our oceans.

Hear that? That's the sound of my mind being blown ...

ANIMAL KINGDOM

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Hands up if you've ever heard of a starling? It's a little bird that flies around in flocks. Now keep your hand up if you've ever heard of a murmuration of starlings ... that's the name given to the spectacular displays flocks of starlings put on when they fly in formation in twisting, turning synchronicity across the skies. I've stuck a link to video of the phenomenon in today's episode notes.

They happen in places like England - and one village in particular in England is getting a heap of tourists coming to watch the starlings perform their remarkable mid-air aerobatics.

The only problem: when you get thousands of starlings flying together in flocks in the sky above your village: you get a whole lot of bird poo down on the ground in your village. Bird poo on your house, on your car, on your footpath, your shops, your postbox, your footpaths, and any humans and pets who dare to go outside. Proof that every cloud of birds has a stinky lining .. (DAD JOKE ALARM) ... ahh, it's my old friend the dad joke alarm ... haven't heard you for a couple of weeks. Must be off my game.