

New hope for kids with peanut allergies; Cleaning up poop in Paris; Orangutans playing doctor; and it's meteor shower time!

Hello and welcome to Squiz Kids Today ... your fresh take on what's happening in the world around you.

I'm Bryce Corbett

It's Monday May 6

In Squiz Kids Today ... New hope for kids with peanut allergies; Cleaning up poop in Paris; Orangutans playing doctor; and it's meteor shower time!

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

THE LOWDOWN

How good are peanut butter sandwiches? Or peanut butter on toast? Or the yummy peanuts you get in Snickers bars? Unless of course you have an allergy .. and then they're not so good.

Luckily though, scientists are making great leaps forward in the treatment of peanut allergies - with a report in the New Scientist magazine this week showing that some treatments are hinting that we may one day soon find a cure.

Did you know there are more than four million Aussies living with an allergy. Not all of them are peanut allergies - lots of people are allergic to pollen, dust, pet hair and even other foods like eggs and seafood.

The New Scientist magazine reports that in a test involving 177 children with peanut allergy, some were given a dose of a new drug - and two thirds of those kids experience a six-fold increase in their tolerance to peanuts. Meaning they were six times less likely to have a bad allergic reaction.

Now - it's not a magic bullet. And more tests need to be done to see how it can be improved - but it's great news for kids with a peanut allergy - and their mums and dads. And for anyone who'd like to take a peanut butter sandwich to school.

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, France ... the city of love ... where they're about to dive into the river that flows through it to prove its pure and not pooppy.

You probably know that the Olympics are about to be held in Paris. What you maybe don't know is that they're planning to hold the swimming leg of the triathlon event in Th e Seine - the river that runs through it.

And the river Seine - like many rivers that run through the centre of big cities has a reputation for being ... well, how can I put this, a bit dirty. Like, health-threatening dirty. Like, what's that strange rash that's come up and why do i have a raging ear ache dirty.

But the Paris mayor is so determined to prove that the work she's been doing to clean up the Seine has been working she's going to personally dive into it - along with a bunch of other brave souls - in what she's calling a Seine pool party.

BYO ear plugs. And nose plugs. And full body protective wet suit ... euuggh.

Oh, and there goes the CCC, telling us that today's classroom companion worksheets are linked to this story. How well did you listen? The focus of today's worksheets is comprehension. Do you need to go back and listen again or were you paying attention? And teachers did you know that the worksheets now contain fillable fields so your kids can type their answers directly onto the worksheets? So whether you're using PDFs or Google Slides we've got you covered. And if you're super keen, parents you can access these at home. Just go to the Squiz Kids website, sign up to Squiz Kids Classroom and voila. And the best bit, they're absolutely free!

ANIMAL KINGDOM

One of the many things that separate humans from the rest of the animal kingdom is our ability to practice what is called 'self care'. Put simply, it means our ability to work out what is wrong with our bodies and develop treatments for them. I'm talking about how we're the only species in the world that has developed medicines and ointments and pills and perform complicated surgeries on one another ..

Which is why scientists have this week been super excited about an orangutan in Indonesia which has been dabbing a scrunched up leaf onto a nasty wound on its face.

The plant it was using has known healing properties - which is to say there's stuff inside the plant that takes the germs out of wounds and helps the skin to heal - and it's believed to be the first documented case

of an animal other than human practising self-care to make itself better. Just amazing ..

SPACED OUT

We talk a lot in the podcast about the space race that's currently on between nations of the world to set up a permanent human base on the Moon – I know, right, how cool? And today there's encouraging news from one of the Moon probes that was sent up in January to survey the far side of the Moon.

A Japanese spaceship which blasted off and landed on the Moon but unfortunately landed on its side is still sending back images from the dark side of the Moon. Which scientists are super excited about.

Especially since they didn't expect the spacecraft to survive this long on the side of the Moon that is dark and freezing and out of sight. What a plucky little spaceship.

And on the subject of marvelous things happening above our heads - if you've got some clear sky above you tonight - and lots of Australia won't because of this rainy weather on the east coast - you might just catch the end of the famous Eta Aquariid meteor shower.

It happens every year at this time, when our planet passes through the tail of Halley's comet - and our atmosphere comes into contact with a bunch of space rock and debris that Halley's comet has left in her wake as she streaks through space.

Best time to see the meteors? Between 2am and 5am .. so, maybe set your alarm? Or leave a time lapse camera pointed at the sky while you sleep. Yeah, that will be me.

CHALMERS Q+A

Alright kids - it's time to get your economics on.

Next week the Federal Treasurer - the man who decides what Australia spends its money on - will deliver something called the Federal Budget. But before he does that: he's agreed to take the hotseat and answer questions you sent in for a special Squiz Kids Q+A.

The podcast drops tomorrow – and it's a great listen. Not least because he reveals his glitter nail polish secret - and answers a cheeky question on whether he'd preferred to be Prime Minister ..

The pod drops first thing tomorrow morning in this podcast feed. Keep your ears peeled ...

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What's the name of the river that runs through Paris?
2. What's the name of the comet whose tail the Earth is passing through - creating a meteor shower spectacle?
3. In which country was the orangutan who applied home made medicine to its face?

SHOUT OUTS

It's May 6th ... a public holiday in Queensland and the Northern Territory .. lucky them .. and today in the United States it's National No Homework Day .. I wonder if that holiday would be popular here in Australia? Hmmm

It's also a special day for the following Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Dev and Jorah from Vermont South, Myra from Point Cook, Sophia from Baulkham Hills, Araylia from Avondale Heights, Amelia from Bruce, Leo from O'Conner, Ava from Cobbitty, Eva from Mount Colah, Shepard from Cremorne and Saif listening over in Abu Dhabi.

Belated shout outs go to... Mia from Perth and Harry from Leopold.

Classroom shoutouts today go to... class 6M and Mr Ayuso at Thomas Acres Public School in Campbelltown, class 3/4D and Ms Dahl at Shoal Bay Public School, class D8 with Mr Butcher at Marryatville Primary School in Adelaide, class 5/6B with Miss B at Wagga Wagga Public School, room 17 and Mr Bickley at Baldivis Primary School, class 4/5 with Ms Anderson at Magpie Primary School in Ballarat and lastly to all the students and teachers at Tyabb Primary School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Seine
2. Halleys
3. Indonesia

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you want a shout out - or if you want a classroom shout out - drop us a line at squizkids@thesquiz.com.au or fill out the form on our website. Teachers: there's a form there too for you to fill out the birthdays of every kid in your class.

Well - that's all we have time for. Thanks for listening to Squiz Kids Today - we'll be back again tomorrow with our special Squiz Kids Q+A with Federal Treasurer, Jim Chalmers as he prepares to present the Federal Budget.

In the meantime, get out there and have a most excellent day. Over and out.