

Hottest day in history; France's scratch-and-sniff postcards; the fake Fortnite Disney park; and the tortoise who went for a train ride

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 Thursday, July 25...

In Squiz Kids Today ... Hottest day in history; France's scratch-and-sniff postcards; the fake Fortnite Disney park; and the tortoise who went for a train ride.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Is it cold enough where you are? Did it take you a moment to muster the courage to get out from under the doona this morning? Well, it might be hard to believe - as snow falls in great big flurries on the Snowy Mountains - but planet Earth just experienced its hottest day ever, with records showing the planet has never been hotter than what it was on the Sunday just gone.

The average global temperature was 17.09 degrees on Sunday. Now - that might not sound all that hot - but remember I said 'average' - and that's a mathematical term for the middle point between the coldest temperatures recorded on Earth at the weekend, and the warmest ones. And the warmest ones were so warm, and there were so many parts of the northern hemisphere experiencing these high temperatures that the global average has climbed higher than ever before.

Scientists say its a worrying trend heading in the wrong direction - with expectations that this year will in fact top last year as the hottest year on record - as climate change and the greenhouse effect continue to make things on planet Earth hot, sticky and uncomfortable.

But all this sunshine has an upside. At the same time, there are plans to get more Aussie houses to connect to batteries fed by solar panels which it is hoped will be one of the clever technologies to slow down

global warming - with more and more of the energy we consume coming from renewable sources like the sun and wind.

Because science is clever like that ..

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Are you ready to get your rugby league on? Because tonight sees the launch of the NRLW season as the Knights take on the Roosters.

I'm talking rugby league for women .. and as the 2024 season kicks off tonight, it's with the exciting prospect that this will be the biggest year yet for women's rugby league ... the recent State of Origin matches attracted a record number of viewers, the games regularly attract thousands of spectators, and next year the competition will expand to take in a girls' team from the Auckland Warriors and the Canterbury Bulldogs - meaning it's an excellent time for girls to be in the sport.

So strap your boots on girls and get involved!

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 France ... where else? As the country gets ready to host the Olympics ... WOOT!

And the reason we've landed there is because the French post office has released stamps that smell like fresh baguettes. A baguette is a long French bread stick. Whack a knob of salted butter on a freshly baked Parisian baguette and I am in heaven.

Well now, as a special Olympics promotion, you can send postcards or letters from France with a stamp that smells like a baguette. You just scratch the stamp, have a sniff and close your eyes, and you're transported to the inside of a French boulangerie - which is the French word for bakery - and is - other than being here on this podcast talking to all of you ever day - very definitely my happy place. I wonder if the stamps taste like bread when you lick them?

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Speaking of the Olympics ... don't forget, starting Monday, each day's podcast will start with the Squiz Kids Olympic Sprint - an early morning *wrap of all the Games action that's happened overnight. On your marks, get set ...*

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

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Commuters in England could hardly believe their ears this week when an announcement came over a train's PA system to say their journey would be delayed because there was a tortoise on the tracks.

Solomon the tortoise had apparently escaped the backyard he normally lived in and made a run for it along a nearby set of rail tracks.

Now - as escape plans go, it was possibly not the best thought through. He's a tortoise, afterall - and not the fastest animal on land. Luckily though, the train driver spotted him trying to cross the tracks, stopped the train and bundled him aboard to deliver him to a local vet.

Maybe he was just trying to get out of his shell and see the world. Get out of his shell .. geddit (DAD JOKE ALARM) ... ah, I crack myself up ...

NEWSHOUNDS

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Every Thursday, everyone's favourite internet detective dog, Squiz-E the Newshound sticks his snout into Squiz Kids HQ to report back on fishy things he's sniffed out on the internet ... and this week, his nose is twitching in excitement after coming across TikTok posts this week that claim Disney is building a Fortnite theme park in the United States.

Now - a Fortnite theme park would undoubtedly be super cool. Squiz-E loves playing a bit of Fortnite with his canine gamer friends - and always switches off the console when I tell him too - but after Stopping, Thinking and Checking .. Squiz-E was a little disappointed to learn that it wasn't true.

The TikTok account belongs to a website that writes satirical - or joke - news about all things Disney. Which is to say: it makes up stories as a joke - never intending for people to believe them.

But this is the thing with social media. Once one person shares it, then ten more, then one hundred, one thousand - and because most people don't check the source of the information - they think its true. Stop, THink and Check, people - it couldn't be more simple.

And a shout out to the more than 2,500 primary school teachers around Australia who have signed up to do Squiz Kids' very own, free media literacy course, Newshounds - teaching kids to spot misinformation and fake news when they come across it online. And a reminder: we're in renovation mode - and can't wait to soon share with you the new-look Newshounds website and resources. They look soooo cool ...

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Name one of the two NRL clubs putting together a women's rugby league team next year?
2. What is the French word for a bread stick?
3. What was the name of the tortoise who went for a train ride?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, July 25 ... and a very merry Christmas in July to you all today ...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today... Darryl from Point Cook, Boaz from Sydney, Alannah from Newborough, Minnie from Bentleigh, Skylar and Ruby from Burpengary and Joel listening over in Johor, Malaysia.

Today's classroom shoutouts go to... class 5/6 with Miss Hibbert and Mrs de Lore at Cardiff South Public School, class 3 Green with Miss Lumagbas and class 3 yellow with Miss Caroso at Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School in Greystanes, class 6 Blue with Miss Crozier at Mater Dei Primary School in Wagga Wagga, class 6W with Miss Wilson at Gulgong Public School, the Learning Center with Mrs McKinnon at Sacred Heart College in Hobart and class 6C with Graeme at St Francis Of The Field Primary School in Strathfieldsaye.

And a special shout out to Benji and Chelsea from Moana who wrote in to tell us Squiz Kids are their 'daily news fix' everyday on their way to school. Awww thank you!

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Bulldogs or Warriors
2. Baguette
3. Solomon

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.

Well - that's all we have time for. Thanks for listening to Squiz Kids Today -We'll be back again tomorrow with the Weekly Kids v Adults News S'Quiz ..

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

