

Gout Gout breaks a new record; Fat Bear Week gets underway; King Charles in fake video scam; and runaway bears raid the honey jar.

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 June 26 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Gout Gout breaks a new record; Fat Bear Week gets underway; King Charles in fake video scam; and runaway bears raid the honey jar.

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

THE LOWDOWN

The school holidays are fast approaching. Woo-hoo!

What have you got planned for your school holidays? Maybe a road trip with the family? Maybe hanging at home?

Or maybe, like Australian teen athletics sensation, Gout Gout you're going to use your school holidays to pop over to Europe and break a new record in the 200 metre sprint.

The kid from Ipswich, who's in Year 12 and doing his final exams when he's not breaking national running records, set the athletics world alight yesterday when he ran 200 metres in 20.02 seconds at a meet in the Czech Republic.

It was a run that shaved two-hundredths of a second off his personal best of 20.04s - a new national record that he set in December.

"I feel good. New personal best, new national record in my first European race." - he said afterwards.

And just to give you some perspective: the current mens' world record over 200 metres is 19.19s - set by Usain Bolt 16 years ago ... so Gout Gout is only 83-hundredths of a seconds away from beating the world record ... and he's only 17.

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 the United Kingdom, where two brown bears are in a honey coma after escaping their enclosure in a wildlife park and raiding the food shed.

Mish and Lucy are a couple of European brown bears, who were rescued from a snow drift in Albania when they were only cubs - and sent to live in a wildlife sanctuary in the English countryside.

But on Monday afternoon, they somehow escaped their enclosure and made a bee-line for the shed that stores the honey ... bee-line, honey. See what I did there? (DAD JOKE ALARM) ... oh dear, the dad joke alarm ..

Visitors to the park had to be briefly evacuated as keepers rounded Mish and Lucy up and lured them back into their enclosure. But not before they had stuffed their snouts with a week's worth of honey.

Holy food coma!

ANIMAL KINGDOM

Speaking of bears ... I can't tell you how excited I am to report, that Bear Cam season has officially begun!

Every year, park rangers at the Katmai National Park in Alaska set up a web-cam at a series of waterfalls in the park. The cameras are set up on streams that thousands and thousands of salmon swim up every year - making their epic journey from the sea to breeding grounds up-river.

The bears of Katmai are all coming out of hibernation - all skinny and bony. And via the webcam, over the next few months, the world can tune in and watch them hunt salmon on the waterfalls and gorge themselves on salmon and from boney maroneys to big ol' fatties. And the best bit? You can get involved online and vote for your favourite during

Fat Bear Week at the end of the northern hemisphere summer - where we see which bear has had the most successful season salmon gorging.

My favourite so far is Bear 164 - also known as Shower Bear ... because he sits at the bottom of the falls and waits for salmon to fall into his lap. I like his style ..

I've stuck a link to both the live web cam and the Fat Bear Week instagram in today's episode notes. Get involved!

NEWSHOUNDS

Every Thursday 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 today he's nose is all a-twitch with so many fake videos about the Iran-Israel conflict doing the rounds of social media.

You know we've talked briefly in the podcast all week about how the countries of Israel and Iran have been at war with one another. Well - it's a well-known fact that at times of war, disinformation flourishes – also known as propaganda. It's a big word - but it basically means, governments or armies or people telling lies to influence how people think.

And the deep fake video that has caught Squiz-E's attention this week features none other than King Charles - the King of England. In the video, it looks as if the King is making a speech about the Israel-Iran conflict. Except he never made any such speech. The whole thing is AI-generated. And it's disturbing: because when you watch it, it looks real - that's how good the AI technology is getting.

Which is why Squiz-E has popped into Squiz Kids HQ to remind us how important it is to Stop, Think and Check whenever we see ANYTHING online ... even videos that look like they've been made by the King.

Thanks Squiz-E! You've done it again!

And if you're a teacher and you're keen to teach your kids how to tell online fact from fiction, join the more than 4,500 Aussie classrooms who have already signed up to Newshounds: our free media literacy program for primary school kids. Curriculum-aligned, approved by ACARA and ready to jump into at squizkids.com.au

You're welcome.

GG PROMO

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Speaking of King Charles ... earlier this week I sat down with Australia's Governor-General, Sam Mostyn - as she bravely took the Squiz Kids Q+A hotseat to answer some of the excellent questions you had sent in.

Like: does the King get to make laws in Australia? Why should kids care about politics? Who's her favourite AFL team? And can she ban homework?

All those questions and more will be answered in full when this very special Squiz Kids Q+A drops next Tuesday on this very podcast feed. Mark your calendars!

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. The Katmai National Park is in which state of the USA ... starting with A.
2. What specific species of bear broke out of their enclosure in a wildlife sanctuary in England this week?
3. How fast did Gout Gout run 200metres in a European race meet yesterday to set a new Australian record?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday June 26 ... Tillies to play Slovenia in Perth tonight 1st of a 4 match series against both Slovenia and Panama. Go Tillies!

Plus it's a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Harper from Upper Coomera, Hugh from Yass, Chase from Albury, Elliot from Mount Waverley and Cooper from Canberra.

A very special belated shoutout goes to ... Luke from Fig Tree Pocket who was accidentally missed in yesterday's shoutouts! Apologies Luke!

Classroom shoutouts go to ... class 6B with Mrs Morgan at Hume Anglican Grammar Freir Campus in Mount Ridley, Boorooma class with Mrs Kennis at Aspect Riverina

School in Wagga Wagga and class 4A and 4B with Mr Ed and Miss Sib at the Australian International School in Dubai.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Alaska
2. European Brown Bear
3. 20.02s

Otherwise ... don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you want a shout out - or, if you're after 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

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